

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

August 16, 2007

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 16, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Department of Education, located at 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, Maryland. The following were present:

Diane B. Mikulis, Chairman
Frank J. Aquino, Vice Chairman
Lawrence H. Cohen
Sandra H. French
Ellen Flynn Giles
Patricia S. Gordon
Andrew Gavelek, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., and Heather Ailinger (Fulton ES) and Ben Ailinger (Lime Kiln MS) led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Mikulis welcomed the new Student Member, Andrew Gavelek, and noted that some changes in procedure will occur due to the student member having voting rights on particular issues.

Public Forum

Mr. David Thalheimer proposed that redistricting take place in 2008 to avoid future overutilization at River Hill HS.

Ms. Sondra Ailinger shared ideas on how classroom teachers can reduce students' backpack weight.

Mr. Brian Bartels expressed his appreciation to HCPSS and staff members who helped his daughters "obtain outstanding educations."

Ms. Kim Kutchins spoke of her challenges as the parent of a child with dyslexia.

Approval of Agenda

The following change was made to the agenda:

- Pull for Discussion: Restricted Consent Agenda – Item VIII.B. Administrative Promotions.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin reported that the Board toured school construction projects, including Veterans ES, the replacement for Bushy Park ES, and many kindergarten additions. He thanked the Facilities Department for the work they do, especially over the summer. Dr. Cousin also recognized staff and students who participated in curriculum writing over the summer. He shared that Forbes magazine has named Howard County as 7th in the nation for providing the best education for the lowest cost. Dr. Cousin also mentioned that he, with the able assistance of two students from the ARL's culinary arts program, won the Iron Chef Competition at the Howard County Fair last week. Lastly, Dr. Cousin noted that nearly 500 new teachers attended New Teacher Orientation this week.

Mrs. Erickson, Deputy Superintendent, announced that High School Assessment (HSA) results would be released August 28, 2007. She shared materials that have been developed to inform parents of the supports in place to help their child pass the assessments and meet the graduation requirement.

Board Members' Reports

Mrs. Giles reported on the Board's presence at the Howard County Fair and thanked everyone who helped in the effort. She also announced that the State Board of Education would hold regional hearings on the High School Assessments (HSAs). Howard County is included in the Washington, DC, district. Those who wish to testify may do so at the Charles Huber Flower High School in Prince George's County on Monday, September 10, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. Speakers must sign up at 6:15 p.m.

Appointment – Community Advisory Council (CAC)

Ms. Rose Dennison, CAC Chairman, reported on activities of the CAC and noted that new member handbooks would be provided to the Board as soon as possible. The first general meeting of the CAC is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Howard County Department of Education

Paperless Board Meetings

Mrs. Mikulis reminded the public that Board meeting documents are now available online at www.hcpss.org. Click on Board of Education, then the BoardDocs tree icon. Documents will be posted the Tuesday before each Thursday regular meeting.

Consent Agenda – General

Financial Reports/School Construction Reports – Accepted by the Board.

Minutes of June 28 (Regular Meeting) and July 12, 2007 (Regular Meeting) – Approved by the Board.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the General Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (6/0), with Mr. Gavelek abstaining.

Consent Agenda – Restricted

Staff Personnel; Bids and Contracts; Approval of STEM Initiative Grant – MSDE; Donations; Official and Confidential Minutes of Closed Meetings of June 26, July 26, and August 8, 2007.

Mrs. French asked that the Bids and Contracts item for Centennial Lane ES be pulled for discussion.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved approval of the Restricted Consent Agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board.

Resignations-Violation of Contract:

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
McDonnell, Mindy	RHS	English	Education	1.0	06/14/07
Swanjian, Karen	CHS	Science	Other Employment	1.0	06/14/07

Resignations:

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Al-Meshri, Dana	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	7.0	06/30/07
Anoff, Louis	GMS	Math	Other Employment	5.0	06/14/07
Brown, Lillian	MHHS	Science	Relocation	7.0	06/14/07
Campbell, Judith	GHS	Foreign Lang.	Other Employment	3.0	06/14/07
Cassell, Cara	Fr. Leave	GT	Relocation	15.0	06/30/07

Approved – September 6, 2007

Conrad, Dana	BSES	Elem. Ed.	Other Employment	5.0	06/14/07
DeMennato, Gretta Lynn	HAHS	Soc. Studies	Family Obligations	8.0	06/14/07
Flyr, Kimberly	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Pursue Other Career	17.0	06/30/07
Doolan, Jeffrey	MHHS	Phys. Ed.	Other Employment	12.0	06/14/07
Greer, Amy	SJES	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	7.0	06/14/07
Hawkins, Jennifer	GHS	Spec. Ed.	Relocation	3.0	06/14/07
Heinz, John	PVMS	Tech. Ed.	Other Employment	10.0	06/14/07
Herbert, Annie	BBMS	Reading Spec.	Other Employment	8.0	06/14/07
Howland, John	MHHS	Art	Relocation	15.0	06/14/07
Hunter, Cherise	GHS	Spec. Ed.	Other Employment	5.0	06/14/07
Irish, Bradley	Fr. Leave	Business Ed.	Family Obligations	5.0	06/14/07
Kim, John	LRHS	Math	Return to School	6.0	06/14/07
Krage, Rebecca	LES	Elem. Ed.	Other Employment	8.0	06/14/07
Lake, Mary	LWES	Elem. Ed.	Other Employment	7.0	06/14/07
Lang, Robin	LWES	Elem. Ed.	Other Employment	8.0	06/14/07
Mach, Jessica	THES	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	4.0	06/14/07
Matuskey, Alison	BWES	Music	Relocation	13.0	06/14/07
McCann, Yvonne	MHMS	Health	Other Employment	11.0	06/14/07
McGuigan, Andrea	FES	Elem. Ed.	Personal	3.0	06/14/07
McKenna, Stacey	RHHS	Art	Other Employment	8.0	06/14/07
Miller, Joanne	RBES	Elem. Ed.	Personal	16.0	06/14/07
Morris, Kim	WFES	Phys. Ed.	Other Employment	15.0	06/14/07
Murdock, Stephanie	OMMS	Soc. Studies	Relocation	1.0	06/14/07
Muto, Shelley	LWES	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	1.0	06/14/07
Peeples, Leslie	WES	Spec. Ed.	Other Employment	6.0	06/14/07
Rajagopalan, Malathi	GCES	Spec. Ed.	Personal	5.0	06/14/07
Sclar, Jacob	MHHS	Spec. Ed.	Other Employment	5.0	06/14/07
Simons, Heather	ReHS	Science	Other Employment	3.0	06/14/07
Strohmeier, Jana	DOES	Elem. Ed.	Other Employment	10.0	06/14/07
Tittsworth, Laura	GMS	Health	Personal	5.0	06/14/07
Toombs, Kimberly	MVMS	Foreign Lang.	Other Employment	16.0	06/14/07
Wilson, Regina	OMHS	Science	Relocation	5.0	06/14/07
Zafrani, Deborah	HAHS	Spec. Ed.	Relocation	3.0	06/14/07

Contracts:

Name	School	Grade of Subject	Place of Last Teaching Assignment	Grade/ Step	Effective Date
Adams, Stephanie	OMMS	SST	--	A-01	08/21/07
Allen, Lori	LWES	ELE	Prince George's Co.	C-100	8/21/07
Anduze, Christi	HHS	SPE	Private School	A-07	08/21/07
Ashby, Andrew	TS/LWES	PE	Prince George's Co.	A-04	08/21/07
Bae, Sarah	PLES	ECE	Carroll County	A-08	08/21/07
Balderama, Nikki	GCES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Bell, Melissa	WLHS	SCI	--	A-01	08/21/07
Bilmanis, Daniels	LRHS	MAT	--	A-01	08/21/07

Brady, Rebecca	LRHS	ENG	--	C-01	08/21/07
Brogan, Tanya	PLES	ELE	Prince George's Co.	A-04	08/21/07
Brown, Cherilyn	HaHS	SCI	Baltimore City	A-09	08/21/07
Brown-Ali, Heather	BBES	ELE	Baltimore City	D-10	08/21/07
Byrne, Christen	SJL/CLES	MUS	--	A-01	08/21/07
Castro, Dale	RHHS	GUI	Prince George's Co.	C-140	08/21/07
Castro, Maureen	BPES	ELE	Private School	C-05	08/21/07
Chiarella, David	WAV/TRES	PE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Ciborowski, Laura	TSES	SPE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Clink, Lea	VES	ELE	Baltimore County	C-06	08/21/07
Cook, Maya	FQMS	SPE	New Orleans, LA	C-06	08/21/07
Cunningham, Melissa	CRS-L	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Davis, Marcia	HES	MED	Washington Co.	A-03	08/21/07
Depola, Reagan	GMS	SST	--	C-01	08/21/07
Dieckman, Erin	LRHS	SCI	--	A-01	08/21/07
Dixit, Rajinie	THES	SLP	Montgomery Co.	C-10	08/21/07
Dobbs, Margaret	CRS	ELE	HCPSS	C-05	08/21/07
Eckley, Kathy	SES	PE	Dept. of Defense	C-09	08/21/07
Edwards, Kelly	HES	ELE	Strafford, VA	A-10	08/21/07
Elstins, Diana	FES	ELE	--	C-01	08/21/07
Everhart, Heather	CES	ELE	Loudoun Co., VA	A-05	08/21/07
Fabinski, Victoria	BSES	MUS	Anne Arundel Co.	C-04	08/21/07
Faulkner, Lindsey	PLES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Flynn, Matthew	TRES	MUS	--	A-01	08/21/07
Flyr, Kimberly	CRS-L	GUI	HCPSS	C-11	08/21/07
Fraker, Jennifer	WLHS	SST	--	A-01	08/21/07
Frank, Hillary	GMS	ENG	--	A-01	08/21/07
French, Kodi	OMMS	ART	--	A-01	08/21/07
Friedheim, Jessica	TSES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Frost, Heather	HCMS	SPE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Fusco, Kristen	ELMS	GUI	--	C-01	08/21/07
Gallant, Juli	OMHS	WLA(German)	Trenton, NC	A-07	08/21/07
Glaves, Gillian	RBES	ELE	Yorktown, PA	C-06	08/21/07
Gouthro, Robert	RHS	ESOL	--	C-01	08/21/07
Grabill, Melissa	GCES/FES	MED	--	C-01	08/21/07
Gurvich, Zinaida	RHHS	SCI	Baltimore County	C-18	08/21/07
Hagler, Amy	BBES	ECE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Hereth, Katherine	GHS	SPE	HCPSS – IA	A-02	08/21/07
Howarth, Daniel	FRES	ELE	Private School	A-09	08/21/07
Hughes, Justine	HaHS	WLA(FRE/SPA)	Private School	C-16	08/21/07
Hynes, Ann	LES	ELE	Prince George's Co.	D-07	08/21/07
Johnson, Kellie	GCES	SLP	HCPSS	C-13	07/02/07
Jones, Lisa	LWES	ELE	Prince George's Co.	A-08	08/21/07
Jones, Pamela	VES	SPE	HCPSS – IA	A-10	08/21/07
Jones, Willie	WLMS	MAT	Baltimore City	B-15	08/21/07
Kachadorian, Nancy	LES	ELE	--	C-01	08/21/07

Kamen, Michelle	HES	ECE	Private School	A-02	08/21/07
Karbassi, Jessica	PLES	ECE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Kaur, Achint	HoHS	FCS	HCPSS – IA	C-04	08/21/07
Katkow, Andrea	OMHS	SCI	Private Industry	D-06	08/21/07
Kellaheer, Michael	HoHS	SPE	Private School	D-15	08/21/07
Kieta, Mary Julie	CMS	SLP	HCPSS – Sub	C-04	08/21/07
Knecht, Stephanie	JHES	ECE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Knowles, Molly	CMS	RDG	Berwyn, IL	C-04	08/21/07
Knysak, Megan	TSES	MUS	--	A-01	08/21/07
Kraig, Robin	RHS	GUI	--	C-01	08/21/07
Lauren, Robin	VES/GCES	MED	HCPSS – IA	B-05	08/21/07
Leffelman, Christianne	CRS-L	MUS	--	A-01	08/21/07
Leonard, Becky	FRES	ELE	Prince George's Co.	A-05	08/21/07
Levin, Megan	DOES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Long, Seth	BS/DRES	MUS	--	C-01	08/21/07
Mancini, Tegan	DMS	RDG	--	C-01	08/21/07
Manzone, Karen	FES	SLP	HCPSS	C-15	08/21/07
McElveen, Desma	HMS	SPE	Charlottesville, VA	E-08	08/21/07
McCarrick, Kathleen	SFES	ELE	Loudoun County	A-04	08/21/07
McIntyre, Elizabeth	APL	CNAT	Private Industry	C-11	08/21/07
Menegay, Tsui-Hsia	LR/OMHS	WLA(Chinese)	HCPSS	C-11	08/21/07
Merson, Ashley	TRES	SPE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Miles, Anna	MHHS	GUI	--	C-01	07/02/07
Miner, Jennifer	GCES	ELE	Baltimore County	C-02	08/21/07
Minga, Genoa	BWES	MUS	Sanford, FL	C-15	08/21/07
Moore, Brett	LRHS	GUI	HCPSS	C-05	07/02/07
Murphy, Katherine	BPES	ELE	Baltimore County	C-09	08/21/07
Nardi, Lisa	CRS-L	ART	Private Industry	D-02	08/21/07
Pandolfo, Darcey	DRES	ELE	Baltimore City	C-06	08/21/07
Pfeifer, Lynda	CRS-L	ECE	Private School	A-12	08/21/07
Plotkin, Lisa	PRES	ELE	Pittsburgh, PA	B-09	08/21/07
Pohl, Sarah	OMMS/TSES	MUS	--	C-01	08/21/07
Polan, Dana	FRES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Prascus, Andrea	LRHS	WLA(Spanish)	Carroll County	A-07	08/21/07
Quinn, Leo	OMHS	GUI	Private School	C-08	07/02/07
Raley, Kathryn	OMMS	SPE	Baltimore County	B-09	08/21/07
Rauscher, Nathan	LRHS	SCI	Private School	A-04	08/21/07
Redden, Lucinda	LWES	MUS	Falls Church, VA	D-18	08/21/07
Redick, Jaime	OMHS	SCI	--	C-01	08/21/07
Reis, Anne	HWS	MED	--	C-01	08/21/07
Remington, Tiffany	LWES	SLP	--	C-01	08/21/07
Richardson, Heather	OMMS	ENG	--	A-01	08/21/07
Roman, Amanda	FES	ELE	--	C-01	08/21/07
Russell, Katherine	TRES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Santoro, Jennifer	AHS	MAT	Anne Arundel Co.	B-06	08/21/07

Schoenhut, Jason	WaES	ELE	Bartow, FL	C-04	08/21/07
Schwartz, Norman	RHHS	SST	Prince George's Co.	C-18	08/21/07
Scott, Ellen	OMMS	GUI	Harford County	C-08	08/21/07
Shaulis, Diane	TSES	ECE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Sikorski, Tiffany-Rose	HaHS	SCI	Revere, MA	C-02	08/21/07
Sillers, Matthew	HaHS	SST	--	C-01	08/21/07
Simon, Erin	CLES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Sloat, Sherri	EES	ELE	Dept. of Defense	A-05	08/21/07
Smith, Brian	SFES	ELE	Montgomery Co.	C-10	08/21/07
Smith, Cynthia	GHS	SLP	Griffin, GA	C-18	08/21/07
Sneddon, Pamela	HES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Song, Jonathan	TSES	MUS	--	A-01	08/21/07
Stout, Sarah	PLES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Templeton, Katie	CRS-L	ELE	Carroll County	A-05	08/21/07
Van Meter, Michael	BSES/NES	ART	--	A-01	08/21/07
Walker, C'mon	FRES	SPE	Baltimore City	C-04	08/21/07
Walker, Victoria	TSES	SPE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Walsh, Amy	TSES	SPE	Reynoldsburgh, OH	C-09	08/21/07
Whitaker, Jeremy	CHS/LRHS	SST	Montgomery Co.	C-14	08/21/07
Williams, Lakeisha	THES	ELE	Baltimore City	D-09	08/21/07
Wright-Bonaparte, LaToya	WaES	SPE	Private School	C-08	08/21/07
Zielinski, Mariah	MRHS	MAT	--	A-01	08/21/07

Leaves of Absence:

Name	Grade or School	Subject	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Berlin, Alicia	TRES	Elem. Ed.	6.0	08/21/07
Jones, Angela	PMS	Spec. Ed.	5.0	08/21/07
Kendrick, Kelly	TRES	Elem. Ed.	6.0	08/21/07
LaRocco, Mary	CLS	Resource	13.0	08/21/07
McCue, Mary Ann	EES	Kindergarten	7.0	08/21/07
Mitchell, Stacy	ReHS	Phys. Ed.	4.0	08/21/07
Myers, Sandra	HOHS	Soc. Studies	4.0	08/21/07
Ocadiz, Laura	PRES	Elem. Ed.	9.0	08/21/07
Oros, Barbara	CCES	Elem. Ed.	6.0	08/21/07
Ritter, Laura	DOE	Elem. Ed.	5.0	08/21/07
Russo, Cristina	FRES	Elem. Ed.	4.0	08/21/07
Schachter, Laura	SJES	Spec. Ed.	2.0	08/21/07

Retirements:

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Dauberman, Jana	PRES	Reading	16.0	07/1/07
Lewis, Mellie	AES	G/T Res.	22.0	07/1/07

Siberman, Alan	HOHS	Counselor	37.0	07/1/07
Shawver, Roberta	OMMS	Counselor	17.8	07/7/01
Slacum, Rachel	TSES	Principal	10.2	07/1/07
Truett, Jacquelyn	GMS	Soc. Studies	37.5	07/1/07
West, Mary	HAHS	Media	31.0	09/1/07

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

P-1	Student Transportation	
	W. Daniels Transportation	\$ 59,166
	Mina Transportation	59,481
	Doreste's Bus Service	<u>87,660</u>
	TOTAL	\$206,307
P-2	Replacement Windows at Glenwood MS	
	Window Consultants	\$53,435

Approval of STEM Initiative Grant – MSDE – Approved by the Board.

This is the first stage of a five-year plan to increase the number and diversity of students interested in, involved in, and committed to STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics)-related content areas, courses, programs, and careers. The grand award is \$160,000 (July 1, 2007 – December 31, 2008).

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Bollman Bridge ES:	PTA, in the amount of \$2,033.75, with \$1,350 designated for the Saxon Phonics & Spelling Kit for 2 nd grade and \$683.75 for water bottles for field day.
Centennial Lane ES:	PTA, in the amount of \$990, designated for additional educational software and books.
Clarksville ES:	Giant Food, in the amount of \$3,918.31, designated for educational supplies and schoolwide programs.
	PTA, in the amount of \$745, designated to cover the cost of a schoolwide assembly, Romp in the Swamp.
	Safeway, in the amount of \$582.36, designated for educational supplies and schoolwide programs.
	Target, in the amount of \$530.52, designated for educational supplies and schoolwide programs.
Forest Ridge ES:	PTA, in the amount of \$1,500, to purchase summer reading books for all students.

- Gorman Crossing ES: PTA, in the amount of \$5,368.05, with \$2,970 designated for four cultural arts programs, \$1,200 designated for an artist in residence program, \$589.05 for playground equipment, and \$609 to purchase an Epson LCD.
- Hollifield Station ES: PTA, in the amount of \$1,335, with \$1,000 designated to purchase a school mascot sign and \$335 to cover the cost of banners for the guidance department.
- Jeffers Hill ES: Giant Food, in the amount of \$557.70, designated to subsidize field trips and for educational supplies and books.
- Manor Woods ES: Chick-fil-A, in the amount of \$500, designated to cover costs associated with the installation of TVs in the classrooms.
- General Mills/Box Tops for Education, in the amount of \$694.10, designated to cover costs associated with the installation of TVs in the classrooms.
- Burleigh Manor MS: PTA, in the amount of \$1,837.50, designated for student agendas.
- Folly Quarter MS: Friends of Folly Quarter Musicians, in the amount of \$1,262.50, designated to defray transportation costs to attend the Hershey Park Festival.
- Wilde Lake MS: PTSA, in the amount of \$3,129, with \$504 designated for field trip subsidies, \$1,625 designated for 8th grade end-of-year celebration costs, and \$1,000 for student scholarships for 6th grade Outdoor Ed.
- Atholton HS: Balfour, in the amount of \$500, designated to fund the Principal's Scholarship Award.
- Glenelg HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$3,227, designated for benches in hallways.
- Hammond HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$11,366, with \$1,000 designated for a camcorder and accessories for the football program; \$2,000 designated for a baseball backstop; \$1,135 for a softball batting tee; \$1,105 for athletic tournament fees; \$500 for drama scripts and supplies; \$2,000 for an acoustical shell; \$250 for prom expenses; \$180 for homecoming refreshments; \$1,966 for printing fees for the

dance program; and \$1,230 to support the Best Buddies, music, chorus, tech ed, and wrestling programs.

Oakland Mills HS: Giant Food, in the amount of \$2,978.55, designated for technology supplies for the Media Center.

Wilde Lake HS: Giant Food, in the amount of \$601.16, designated for educational supplies for student activities.

HCPSS Music Department: Music and Arts Center, music for the band, strings, and chorus programs for elementary, middle, and high schools, valued at \$15,000.

HCPSS Office of Instruction & Business Technology Oracle Transcriptions, Inc., three SuperMicro Servers, valued at \$2,500.

Closed Meeting Minutes - Official and Confidential Minutes of Closed Meetings of June 26, July 26, and August 8, 2007. – Approved by the Board.

Centennial Lane ES Additions

Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management, clarified that all alternates (music room, art room, and extended gymnasium) will be executed for the Centennial Lane ES addition.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the Centennial Lane ES Additions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Administrative Promotions

Name:	From:	To:
Bruce Gist	Construction Program Manager	Director, School Construction

Dr. Cousin noted that Mr. Gist has been with the school system since May of 1989 and has been involved in the building of 16 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, 5 high schools, the Homewood school, and the new Cedar Lane School. He has also been involved in 42 major addition/renovation projects.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Administrative Promotion of Mr. Bruce Gist. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Name:	From:	To:
John Krownapple	Professional Development Facilitator	Professional Development Coordinator for Cultural Proficiency

Mrs. Erickson noted that Mr. Krownapple has been with the school system since 1996, starting as an elementary educator and becoming a resource teacher for social studies and language arts. Through his visionary leadership, diligence, and planning skills, simulated congressional hearings take place in most elementary schools. In his position as Professional Development Facilitator, he has worked with most elementary schools and instructional team leaders at the elementary level in facilitating cultural proficiency, which has allowed HCPSS to begin building its own capacity to deliver this training without external consultants.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Administrative Promotion of Mr. John Krownapple. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Policy 3000 – Religious Observances

Presenters: Mrs. Sue Mascaro, Director of Staff Relations, and Mrs. Min Kim, Equity Assurance Coordinator.

Policy 3000 (formerly Policy 13111), Religious Observances, was reviewed during FY 2006 in conjunction with school system policies on Attendance and Religion and Religious Materials. Action was taken on the other two policies at that time; however, action on Policy 3000 was deferred until a yearlong study could be conducted on the implications of religious obligations on student performance and teacher workload.

The report on the study was presented to the Board on July 12, 2007. As a result of the study, Mrs. Mascaro and Mrs. Kim presented revised recommendations. Staff proposed removing specific limits related to time and location for religious observances. Additionally, this proposal replaced language related to opening exercises with a statement that morning exercises at schools will not include a moment of silence. On an individual school basis, a principal may include a moment of silence of approximately one minute as an appropriate response to special circumstances affecting the school community. During this minute of silence, a student or teacher may silently meditate, pray, or read scripture.

Discussion:

Board members expressed concern with the amount of class time that students could potentially miss and the possibility that more students would leave class, which could be a burden for the teacher and make it difficult to cover the curriculum. They noted that problems could arise if tests or projects are announced or scheduled on religious holidays. They also questioned the definition of religious *observance* versus religious *obligation*.

Mrs. Erickson stated that the policy is designed to provide uniform parameters, and the current practice seems to be working. Dr. Cousin suggested that the policy be implemented and tracked over time to see if there would be problems with the set

standards. It was pointed out that the Attendance Policy takes precedence over the Religious Observance policy; it applies to all absences, regardless of the reason. The Board is scheduled to take action on the policy on September 6, 2007.

Mr. Blom explained that Maryland law states that a complete absence (all day) from school for religious reasons, is allowed as a lawfully excused absence. Focusing more on excusals for less than a full day, the school system is obligated to provide a reasonable accommodation, which is not in violation of the separation of church and state. The difficulty lies in determining what constitutes a reasonable accommodation. Dr. Cousin noted that this policy came into effect because there were no set standards.

Public Hearing – FY 2009 Capital Budget and FY 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program

Mr. David Thalheimer

- Asked the Board to add more high school seats in the future instead of building a proposed northwestern middle school in 2013.
- Indicated that the proposed northwestern middle school will not be needed.

Ms. Carol Zimmerman - Representing the Atholton High School PTSA Executive Board

- Thanked the school system for performing the needs assessment for four high schools.
- Asked the Board to include the replacement of a roof and HVAC system at Atholton in the next budget.

Mrs. Mikulis encouraged the public to submit testimony in either written form or electronically for the Board's consideration.

Administrative Agenda (Continued)

Legislative Protocols

Presenter: Mr. Roger Plunkett, Business, Community and Government Relations

Mr. Plunkett presented legislative protocols for a Board subcommittee that will review local, state, and federal legislation prior to presentation to the entire Board.

Discussion:

By consensus, Board members agreed to add language indicating that the Director to the Legal Services Association will be a member of the Board of Education, and preferably an officer of the Board.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of the Legislative Protocols as presented and modified. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Approved – September 6, 2007

Ombudsman Position/Job Description

Presenter: Mrs. Sandra French, Board Member.

Mrs. French noted that the job description has been modified as a result of discussions and meetings with various staff and Board members. (No changes have been made to Policy 2030 – Ombudsman.)

Mr. Aquino expressed a desire for more flexibility in the educational requirements for the position by allowing experience as a measure of qualification. It was noted that Human Resources staff strongly advised that the position have more stringent requirements by requiring a Bachelor's Degree in order to have a narrower field of qualified candidates. The position may also involve work in a professional capacity for the Board.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the job description for the position of Ombudsman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Mrs. French stated that Policy 2030 will continue to be reviewed to determine if any revisions are needed. She also noted that there may be a desire for a policy for Board staff describing mandatory functions as well as the function of the Ombudsman.

Board of Education Committee Assignments – 2007/2008

By consensus, the Board designated representatives to serve on committees as follows:

MABE Committees:

Budget and Planning – Ms. Gordon and Dr. Siddiqui
Legislative – Mrs. French and Ms. Gordon
Conference Planning – Mrs. Mikulis and Ms. Gordon
Federal Relations Network – Mr. Cohen
Nominating – Mrs. French
Resolutions – Mr. Aquino
Charles W. Willis Memorial Award – Mr. Cohen

Legal Services Association (LSA) – Mrs. Giles (Mr. Blom – alternate)

County Executive's Spending Affordability Committee – Mr. Aquino

Recreation and Parks Board – Dr. Siddiqui

Community Advisory Council (CAC) – Mrs. Giles

Approved – September 6, 2007

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) – Ms. Gordon

District Planning Committee – Mr. Cohen

Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) – Mr. Gavelek.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Board of Education Committee Assignments for 2007/2008 as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

School Cluster Assignments/Board of Education – 2007/2008

Each year, Board members are assigned to a “cluster” of schools that they periodically visit and for which they serve as points of contact for each school community. This year, schools were grouped into six clusters, which consist of two high schools and the primary middle and elementary feeder schools to those high schools. Each Board member, except the Chairman, is assigned a cluster:

Atholton/Oakland Mills – Mrs. Giles
Centennial/Long Reach – Dr. Siddiqui
Glenelg/Wilde Lake – Mr. Aquino
Hammond/Reservoir – Mr. Cohen
Howard/Marriotts Ridge – Ms. Gordon
Mt. Hebron/River Hill – Mrs. French

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the School Cluster Assignments for the Board of Education for 2007/2008. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

FY 2009 Capital Budget and FY 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – Predevelopment Work Session

Board members discussed the following issues:

- Developing a CIP that establishes a standard of maintenance for all schools.
- Facilities Study – Addressing standards related to square footage of classrooms in the allocation of seats.
- Identifying and prioritizing needs of older schools.
- Limitations of capital budget funding and the need to lobby elected officials.
- Increasing the number of systemic renovations and developing a work plan.
- Eventual elimination of relocatable classrooms.
- Questions about the need to review educational specifications to ensure delivery of the curriculum.
- Need for an additional capital budget work session before October 1, 2007

Dr. Cousin explained the capital budget timeline and noted that the state deadline is in October, but there will be several opportunities for adjustments to the budget.

Approved – September 6, 2007

FY 2009 Capital Budget and FY 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) –
Timeline

Thursday, September 6, 2007	7:30 p.m.	Superintendent's Presentation FY 2009 Capital Budget & CIP
Thursday, September 20, 2007	7:30 p.m.	Public Hearing & Work Session FY 2009 Capital Budget & CIP
Friday, September 21, 2007	9:00 a.m.	<i>Tentative</i> – Work Session on FY 2009 Capital Budget & CIP
Monday, October 1, 2007	7:30 p.m.	Work Session & Approval of FY 2009 Capital Budget & CIP

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:50 p.m.