

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

**October 11, 2007**

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on October 11, 2007, at 4:00 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  
Janet Siddiqui, M.D.  
Andrew Gavelek, Student Member

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:10 p.m., and Ms. Ginny Glover, Wilde Lake HS Student Government Association (SGA) President, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Public Forum**

Mr. Matthew Winner, Longfellow ES Media Specialist, thanked the Board for providing schools with media assistants.

## **Approval of Agenda**

The following change was made to the agenda:

Delete: Item XI. Appointment – PTA Council of Howard County Monthly Report.

*Action:* Mr. Aquino moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

## **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Cousin thanked all who planned and attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Partnership Celebration. He also reported on the Board's meeting with the County Council on October 10, 2007. He offered congratulations on the following accomplishments:

- Burleigh Manor MS and River Hill HS for their selection as National Blue Ribbon Schools.
- Cradlerock School and Reservoir HS for being named 2007-2008 Character Education Schools of the Year by the Maryland Center for Character Education.
- Harper's Choice MS Physical Education teacher Alexandra Inglis, who received the Simon McNeely Award from the Maryland Association of Health, P.E., Recreation, and Dance.

## **Student Representative's Report**

Ms. Ginny Glover, Wilde Lake HS, reported on events at the school, including the school's 36<sup>th</sup> annual homecoming, goals for the school year, and a visit to the school by Dr. Reverend Jesse Jackson. Reverend Jackson urged early voter registration for students and stressed the need for students to make good decisions.

## **Board Members' Reports**

Mrs. Giles reported on Board attendance at a meeting on gang awareness sponsored by Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Mrs. French congratulated Ms. Gordon on her election as President-Elect of MABE (Maryland Association of Boards of Education). She also congratulated Mrs. Mikulis for completing the MABE Leadership Program. In addition, Mrs. French stated that she provided assurance to Senator Kasemeyer and Delegate DeBoy that Howard County has benefited from Thornton funding and has used those funds very wisely.

Mrs. Mikulis reported on the recent MABE conference. Two keynote speakers addressed issues related to student learning and teaching styles as well as the importance of support systems for children.

Mr. Gavelek reported on the presentation geared for students at the MABE conference. He also noted that the Student Leadership Luncheon with the Board is scheduled for October 18, 2007.

## Consent Agenda – General

Financial Reports/Operating Budget Monthly Report and School Construction Reports; Minutes of September 7 (Board Retreat), September 14 (Legislative Breakfast with State Delegation), September 20 (Regular Meeting), September 21 (Capital Budget Work Session), and October 1, 2007 (Capital Budget Work Session and Approval); and Donations.

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved approval of the General Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gavelek and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Operating Budget Monthly Report – Accepted by the Board.

School Construction Reports – Accepted by the Board.

Minutes of September 7 (Board Retreat), September 14 (Legislative Breakfast with State Delegation), September 20 (Regular Meeting), September 21 (Capital Budget Work Session), and October 1, 2007 (Capital Budget Work Session and Approval) – Approved by the Board.

Donations: Approved by the Board.

Clarksville MS: Giant Food, in the amount of \$6,109.79, designated for book carts and mobile cabinets to be used during the school renovation.

Atholton HS: Jim Brown, in the amount of \$1,980, designated for a sound system for the field hockey team.

Celia Carr, in the amount of \$500, designated for the Agnes Purnell Scholarship Fund.

Centennial HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$4,705, with \$100 designated to cover conference fees for the Young Democrats program, \$1,600 designated for warm up uniforms for the cheerleaders, \$1,505 designated for a trailer to move equipment for the marching band, and \$1,500 designated for equipment for the weight room.

Glenelg HS: Best Buy Children's Foundation, in the amount of \$5,000, designated for equipment to build robots for the robotics program.

Marriotts Ridge HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$41,697, designated as follows: \$990 for stat programs for cross country; \$2,791.39 for cheerleading uniforms and break-away banners; \$2,150 for bleachers for the field hockey area; \$3,055 for wrestling tournament fees, uniforms, mat racks and cleaning system; \$3,302.61 for volleyball and poms uniforms; \$3,700 for a scorer's table; \$1,618 for shotput and discus equipment; \$2,160 for an outdoor batting cage for baseball; \$4,000 for plaques and certificates; \$4,500 for a cello, band repair kit and sheet music; \$4,165 for agenda books and freshman t-shirts; \$1,785 for teacher web sites; \$5,900 for auditorium sound system, and \$1,580 for college search software for the Guidance Office.

PTSA, in the amount of \$500, designated for the purchase of certificates for student achievement awards.

River Hill HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$8,000, designated for computers for the Music Tech lab.

### **Consent Agenda – Restricted**

#### Staff Personnel and Bids and Contracts

Mr. Cohen noted that Human Resources staff perform exit interviews with employees who leave the school system due to dissatisfaction.

*Action:* Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the Restricted Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board

*Resignations-Violation of Contract*

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Rowan, Laura	LRHS	Science	Dissatisfied	1.1	09/21/07

*Resignations*

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Boland, Trici	GHS	English	Promotion	Other Co. 7.1	09/21/07
Frost, Heather	HCMS	Spec. Ed.	Relocation	2 months	10/12/07
Spacciapoli, Natalie	Fr. Leave	Business Ed.	Relocation	7.0	06/30/07
Vredenburgh, Maureen	DOES	English	Relocation	5.1	10/05/07
Whittenbaugh, Stephanie	DRES	Spec. Ed.	Relocation	3.2	11/02/07

*Contracts*

Name	Grade or Effective School	Subject	Place of Last Teaching Assignment	Grade/Step	Effective Date
Bankard, Monica	RHHS	ESOL	San Diego, CA	C-05	08/27/07
Bernsohn, Todd	MVMS	WLA (Spa)	--	A-01	08/21/07
Bethea, Anthony	HCMS	SCI	Private Industry	A-11	08/21/07
Burdette, Kimberly	CRS	ELE	--	B-01	08/21/07
Burke, Amber	EMMS	WLA (Spa)	--	A-01	08/24/07
Chuppetta, Monica	CCES	ELE	St. Mary's County	A-02	08/21/07
Costa, Marlei	WLHS	CSC	Montgomery County	B-05	08/27/07
Demos, Dorothy	MHHS	ENG	HCPSS – IA	A-04	09/17/07
Doyle, Hillary	PLES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Elznic, Lyndsay	PMS	SPE	Dix Hills, NY	C-02	08/21/07
Evans, Elizabeth	VES.SJLES	ECE	--	C-01	08/21/07
Fargnoli, Christine	LWES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Giacobbe-Epstein, Nicole	DRES	ECE	Brunswick, GA	C-08	08/30/07
Gibbons, Robert	HaHS	CSC	Private Industry	C-11	09/10/07
Gino, Lori	LWES	SPE	Staten Island, NY	C-01	08/21/07
Golibart, Keri	PLES	ELE	--	A-01	08/23/07
Gray, Yvonne	PVMS	TE	Private Industry	C-06	08/21/07
Jaworowski, Samantha	MWMS	SPE	--	A-01	09/11/07
Kolasny, Alice	BBES	ECE	Private School	C-02	08/21/07
Shobapriya, Lakshminarayanan	DRES	ESOL	HCPSS – IA	C-03	09/10/07
Matthews, Mark	MHHS	SPE	Private School	D-11	08/23/07
McFarland, Tracy	HoHS	SST	--	C-01	08/21/07
McVey, James	PVMS	SST	--	A-01	09/17/07
Meek, Casey	CLES	SPE	Lindenhurst, IL	A-04	08/21/07
Mueller, Jacklyn	LoES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Myers, Amber	OMMS	RDG	Carroll County	A-03	08/21/07
Nguyen, Martha	VES	ECE	HCPSS – Temp	A-05	08/21/07
O'Neill, Patricia	SFES	ECE	Private School	C-08	08/21/07

Paige, Brenda	HaHS	SPE	Augusta, GA	A-02	08/21/07
Parrotte, Amanda	RHS	WLA (Fre/Ger)--		A-01	08/21/07
Parsons, Kimberly	BBES	ECE	HCPSS	A-07	09/17/07
Pearl, William	HoHS	SST	--	A-01	08/21/07
Prendergast, Nancy	HCMS	SCI	Eagan, MN	C-14	08/24/07
Roller, Samantha	BBMS	SPE	--	A-01	09/12/07
Saperstein, Jamie	LiES	ELE	--	C-01	08/22/07
Searles, Karen	RHS	SPE	Hoschton, GA	A-08	08/21/07
Seldon, Tiana	PLES	ELE	HCPSS	D-04	08/27/07
Taylor, Rebecca	WFES	ELE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Wallace, Brian	HWS	SST	Baltimore County	C-04	08/21/07
Waltemire, Jennifer	RBES	ELE	Albuquerque, NM	A-12	08/21/07
Wetmiller, Cara	DMS	SPE	--	A-01	08/21/07
Wood, Tracy	CCES	ELE	New York, NY	C-03	08/21/07

*Leaves of Absence*

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Shurtleff, Erin	HMS	Counselor		4.2	10/01/07
Wright, Stacey	BPES	Spec. Ed.		8.2	10/09/07

*Retirements*

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Brown, Evelie	HOHS	Home Economics	11.0	06/30/07
Cohen, Vickie	CES	Elem. Ed.	16.0	10/01/07

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

P-1	Hand Sanitizer Leonard Paper Co.	\$84,260
P-2	Boiler Replacement – Pointers Run ES Hurly Company	\$39,000
P-3	Consultant Services CampbellJones & Associates	\$160,200

## **Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC)/Recommendation for Makeup of Membership**

*Presenter:* Mr. Ray Brown, Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Brown requested Board approval of the membership composition for the FY 2009 Operating Budget Review Committee. The following groups will provide one nominee:

- Superintendent's Advisory Council for Business/Educational Partnerships
- Chamber of Commerce
- Community Advisory Council
- PTA Council of Howard County
- Special Education Advisory Council
- Economic Development Authority
- Howard County Education Association
- Howard County Administrators Association
- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees

The Superintendent's Equity Council will have three nominees. In addition, each Board member will nominate a member. Mr. Brown asked that nominations be provided as soon as possible so that the committee can begin work in November.

*Motion:* Mr. Aquino moved approval of the Operating Budget Review Committee composition recommendation as stated. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles.

Board members reviewed the Committee Charter. Mrs. French suggested adding a notation to the charter encouraging the committee to bring information to the Board's attention on additional or growing needs in the budget. Mr. Brown agreed to the request.

*Action:* The motion was approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

## **Scheduling**

Board members set interview dates for the Ombudsman position.

## **Policy 9280 – Students Charged with Community or Reportable Offenses – Committee Charter**

*Presenter:* Dr. Craig Cummings, Alternative Education Programs.

Dr. Cummings presented the charter to revise Policy 9280 and provided a partial listing of committee members. Policy 9280 gives staff direction on how to respond to instances where students are arrested in the community for criminal offenses.

Mrs. French indicated the need to include a liaison with the police department or a School Resource Officer (SROs) on the committee. Dr. Cummings noted the importance of keeping SROs on duty in the schools, and Mr. Aquino suggested that a request be made to the police department to appoint a representative to the committee.

In response to Mr. Cohen's concerns, Dr. Cummings stated that the committee could consider gang-related activity and how it relates to this policy.

Dr. Cummings indicated that one goal is to craft a document that will be much clearer for school administrators and will provide more direction. The current policy is confusing in terms of what constitutes cause for removal versus what constitutes cause for discipline and how administrators respond to those issues.

## **Fiscal Policies – Committee Charter**

*Presenter:* Mrs. Beverly Davis, Director of Finance.

Mrs. Davis reported on the charter for the Fiscal Policies review committee. This committee will review existing fiscal policy and develop new language for investment and debt management areas and also consider alignment with existing policies.

*Discussion:*

Mrs. Davis stated that staff recommended that policy be developed in response to prior legislative audit findings at other school districts. Internal written procedures are currently in place while staff works through the procedures of developing Board policy.

**Policy 5220 – Criteria for Selecting School Bus Contractors and Policy 5230 – School Bus Contractors, Bus Operators, and Assistants – Committee Charter**

*Presenter:* Mr. David Drown, Director of Transportation.

Mr. Drown presented the charter, which outlines the purpose and objectives of a membership committee charged with reviewing and revising policies 5220 and 5230.

*Discussion:*

Mrs. French asked that consideration be given to include more than one bus contractor on the committee. Mr. Drown stated that if an interest is indicated, more than one contractor would be included.

Mrs. French stated that concerns have been raised regarding bus drivers using cell phones while driving and asked if this issue could be addressed in policy. Mr. Drown noted that the school system has procedures requiring drivers to pull over when using cell phones. He acknowledged the need for tighter measures in this area.

Mr. Brown confirmed that the same requirements in this policy would apply to HCPSS in the event that the school system acquires its own fleet of buses.

**Policy 9220 – Corporal Punishment/9200 – Discipline**

*Presenter:* Dr. Craig Cummings, Alternative Education Programs.

Dr. Cummings reported that the recommendation to rescind the corporal punishment policy is accompanied by a recommendation to include the prohibition of corporal punishment in the discipline policy. Amendments to Policy 9200 – Discipline would include definitions and standards related to corporal punishment.

*Discussion:*

Mrs. Giles emphasized that corporal punishment is prohibited.

Board members and staff discussed the definition of corporal punishment included in the policy and whether or not there was a need to provide examples for clarification.

Mrs. Linda Wise, Assistant Superintendent for School Administration, stated that corporal punishment is also addressed in the handbook for athletic coaches, and Mr. Mike Williams, Athletics Coordinator, reviews the handbook with coaches three times each school year.

The Board will hold public hearings on policies 9200 and 9220 on November 8, with action scheduled for December 13, 2007.

### **Policy 5000 – Food and Nutrition Service**

*Presenter:* Mrs. Ellen Miller, Policy Specialist.

Mrs. Miller stated that it was determined that all key components of Policy 5000 were updated and included in Policy 9090 - Wellness through Nutrition and Physical Activity. Therefore, it is recommended that Policy 5000 be rescinded.

*Action:* Ms. Giles moved approval of the recommendation to rescind Policy 5000 – Food and Nutrition Services, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gavelek and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

### **Policy 9040 – High School Grievance Committee**

*Presenter:* Mrs. Ellen Miller, Policy Specialist.

Mrs. Miller stated that Policy 9040 requires every high school to have a committee to address student grievances, particularly with regard to discrimination. The Policy Review Committee determined that while a high school grievance committee may be a useful tool for some schools, having such a committee should not be a policy requirement. This is particularly true because so many means exist in the school system for remediation both within policy and through other avenues.

*Discussion:*

Mr. Gavelek stated that HCASC (Howard County Association of Student Councils) concurs with the recommendation from the committee to rescind this policy.

The Board will hold a public hearing on Policy 9040 on November 8, with action scheduled for December 13, 2007.

**Adjournment:**

*Action:* Mr. Cohen moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gavelek and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

**Information Item:**

Center to Advance the Teaching of Technology and Science (CATTS) Agreement.