

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

October 25, 2007

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on October 25, 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
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

Chairman Diane Mikulis called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m., and Farrah Khan, Howard High School student, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

Ms. Linda Turner, representing the Council of Elders, informed the Board of the formation of the Black Students' Family-Community Network, an advocacy group that will address educational continuity issues and other issues of concern.

Approval of Agenda

The following change was made to the agenda:

Add: Item IX.E – Board of Education Member Cluster Assignments – 2007/2008.

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

Approved – November 8, 2007

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin reported that the school system has received an MSDE 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant in the amount of \$340,000 for a Columbia Bridges Program. This represents funding for the first year of a three-year grant. This grant will be used to provide services to children in areas of highest poverty, with an emphasis on accelerating achievement for students receiving free and reduced meals.

The Annual Student Leadership Luncheon was held on October 18, 2007, and the Student Government Association theme for the year is: "Maintaining Effective Communications."

Dr. Cousin recognized Ms. Debby Doyle, Mt. Hebron High School Spanish teacher. Ms. Doyle was named 2008 Maryland Language Teacher of the Year at the conference of the Maryland Foreign Language Association. Ms. Doyle will represent Maryland at the regional competition in New York.

Dr. Cousin also recognized Ms. Charlotte Lollis, Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School counselor. Ms. Lollis was named Maryland Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Maryland School Counselor Association.

Student Representative's Report

Ms. Farrah Khan, Howard High School senior, reported that Howard High School's objective for this year is to move from good to great and green, and be environmentally friendly. She is proud to say that the test scores at Howard High School have been steadily increasing.

Other points of interest include:

- LEO – Leading Each Other program.
- "White-out" fan support at home football games.
- Captain's Clinic – a 2-day seminar for students that wish to be captain of their sports team.
- SGA attended the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HSASC's) luncheon.
- Howard HS is a participant of the "Greenest School" contest.

Board Members' Reports

Mrs. Mikulis recognized some members of the International Parent Liaison Program that attended the Board meeting as a field trip, to see how the HCPSS BOE does business. She announced that three seats on the Board would be open next year. She indicated that Mrs. Giles and Dr. Siddiqui have announced their plans to seek reelection. Mrs. Mikulis announced that she does not intend to seek a second term on the Board.

Mr. Aquino thanked the Howard High School Administration for hosting the Board's "Coffee and Conversation" on October 13, 2007. With more than twenty five people in attendance, topics of discussion included:

- School security.
- Communication.
- Cell phone usage.
- Allocation of resources among schools, including textbooks.
- After-school programs.
- Redistricting issues.

Mr. Gavelek thanked the Board members, Superintendent, and central office employees that attended the Annual Student Leadership Luncheon. The most common message received from the student leaders was how pleased they were to hear how well other schools were doing. He, Phil Lasser, HCASC President, and Mr. Plunkett met with the Youth Summit Steering Committee to follow up on last year's conference. Questions focused on Student Government Association topics.

Mr. Cohen reported that he and three other Board members attended Oakland Mills Middle School earlier that day where the eighth graders held mock interviews, as is done in the high schools. He thanked Oakland Mills Middle School and staff for setting up this event. He was impressed with the many different occupations the students plan to pursue.

Consent Agenda – General

Minutes of October 11, 2007 (Regular Meeting), and Donations.

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

Minutes of October 11, 2007 – Approved by the Board.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Bushy Park ES: Target, in the amount of \$531.49, designated for hand instruments to be used in the new music room.

Hollifield Station ES: PTA, in the amount of \$1,300, designated for the ESOL Homework Club.

Target, in the amount of \$682.29, designated for the "Write Traits Program" and the "Handwriting Without Tears Program."

Manor Woods ES PTA, in the amount of \$996, designated for the Maria Broom "Songs and Stories for Little Old Children" Cultural Arts Program.

Swansfield ES Ben Carson Scholars Fund, in the amount of \$10,000, designated to establish the Ben Carson Reading Room.

Elkridge Landing MS: PTSA, in the amount of \$3610, designated for assignment books.

Horizon Foundation, in the amount of \$1500, to be used as a Development Asset Framework Grant.

Centennial HS: PTSA, in the amount of \$2000, designated to assist with class activities for the Class of 2008, the Class of 2009, the Class of 2010 and the Class of 2011.

Boosters, in the amount of \$4,210, designated for the wrestling program and the It's Academic Team.

Target, in the amount of \$566.58, designated for the purchase of computers.

Howard HS: KLM Youth Foundation Inc., in the amount of \$900, designated for the athletic department.

Target, in the amount of \$655.74, designated for student awards and incentives.

Consent Agenda – Restricted

Land Acquisition/State Highway Administration – Folly Quarter Middle School; Land Acquisition/State Highway Administration – Howard High School; Minutes of Closed Meeting of October 11, 2007 (Official and Confidential).

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of the Restricted Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Land Acquisition/State Highway Administration – Folly Quarter Middle School – Approved by the Board.

Land Acquisition/State Highway Administration – Howard High School – Approved by the Board.

Minutes of Closed Meeting of October 11, 2007 (Official and Confidential) – Approved by the Board.

Proclamation: American Indian Heritage Month

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING

NOVEMBER 2007 AS

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaskan Natives have been an integral part of the American character and tribal America has contributed certain values and philosophies that have become ingrained in the American spirit; and

WHEREAS, their rich history speaks to us through the names of our cities, lakes, and rivers; the magnificent ruins of ancient communities; and more importantly, through the lives of the people who retain the cultural, spiritual, linguistic, and kinship bonds that have existed for millennia; and

WHEREAS, the native peoples of North America played a unique role in shaping the history and culture of our country as its earliest inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, there are 4.5 million American Indians and Alaskan Natives in the United States who belong to 563 federally recognized tribal governments and speak 250 languages; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaskan Natives are strengthening our community through their participation in education and business development, opening the doors to opportunity;

WHEREAS, we celebrate American Indian Heritage Month during the month of November when many American Indians hold fall harvest, world-renewal ceremonies, powwows, dances and various feasts; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the National American Indian Heritage Month for 2007 is: *"Honoring Warriors: Past & Present"*;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education declares November 2007 as American Indian Heritage Month in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that it is the intention of the Board that meaningful activities take place in all schools so students and staff may learn more about the history and heritage of the Native peoples of this land and, in doing so, preserve an important part of our culture for generations to come.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Resolution in Appreciation of Educational Support Personnel

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION**

DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 14, 2007
AS
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL DAY

WHEREAS November 12-16, 2007 marks the annual observance of American Education Week in our country's public schools; and

WHEREAS the theme for American Education Week is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility;" and

WHEREAS the educational support personnel of the Howard County Public School System serve the staff, students, parents, and community with dedication and commitment; and

WHEREAS these dedicated employees play a vital role in advancing the mission and goals of the school system; and

WHEREAS educational support personnel consistently respond to the needs of the school system by providing a nurturing and productive learning environment for each student; and

WHEREAS educational support personnel frequently respond to needs over and above their job responsibilities; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education wishes to recognize the many and varied contributions made by our educational support professionals;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Howard County Board of Education designates Wednesday, November 14, 2007 as Educational Support Personnel Day in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this document be adopted by the Board of Education of Howard County in recognition of and appreciation for the high

quality of service provided by educational support personnel of The Howard County Public School System.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gavelek and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Legislative Report – 2007 Special Session of the General Assembly

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

Mr. Plunkett reported that Governor O'Malley has convened a 2007 Special Session General Assembly to begin on Monday, October 29, 2007, whereas education will be a paramount topic. In preparation for the Special Session of General Assembly, Mr. Aquino, Mrs. Giles, and Mrs. French met and drafted a letter for the Board's approval. The Board approved a letter to the Howard County Delegation outlining the impact of various aspects of the Governor's proposals to address the state deficit. The letter urges the members of the Delegation to pledge their support for full funding for Maryland public schools as required by the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Act, for continuing state funding of the teacher pension system, and for ensuring that the school system is able to meet capital project needs.

The letter indicates that amending the Thornton legislation would be detrimental for the following reasons:

- The Howard County Public School System is dependent upon the additional \$5.8 million as required by Thornton funding to continue targeted programs for intervention and student support services as required by both The Bridge to Excellence Act and The No Child Left Behind Legislation.
- Based upon the legislative commitment, the Howard County Public School System's academic programs have already included additional staffing that depends upon the committed

level of funding to sustain programs directed at closing achievement gaps.

- Not providing any inflation factor increase in each of the next two years, as proposed by the Governor, would erode the progress we are making to raise student achievement by forcing us to choose between rising utility, health care, transportation, and other costs – instead of focusing on investments in the classrooms.

The Governor's budget proposal includes funding for the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) to provide additional state aid to certain high cost school systems. Both the annual inflation factor and the GCEI are needed and the Board suggests one cannot substitute for the other. Specifically,

- Howard County is entitled to an additional \$4.9 million annually, if and when the GCEI is fully funded.
- Under the Governor's recommended phase-in schedule for GCEI funding, Howard County would receive an additional \$1.5 million in FY 2009. When coupled with a freeze on funding of the inflation factor at \$5.8 million, this will result in a net loss of \$4.3 million in legislated increases.
- If the inflation factor freeze continues and the GCEI funding for the second year is phased in at 60%, as proposed by the Governor last session (Senate Bill 109), then Howard County would receive \$3.1 million in FY 2010. However, total GCEI funding at these proposed levels over a two-year period represents less than 80% of the funding needed to match the inflation factor anticipated for FY 2009 alone.

The letter references the scenario of shifting 50% of such costs to local governments was included in the "Doomsday" budget briefing to the General Assembly earlier this summer and states that it would total more than \$317 million in new, unanticipated expenditures for local governments. Howard County's share of the annual costs for teacher retirement would amount to \$27.1 million dollars in FY 2009. Moreover, these costs will increase in future years based on rising pension levels and the number of retirees.

In addition, the Board notes that Howard County is in dire need of dedicated capital funding and is dependent upon state aid. For FY

2008, the Board requested \$52.2 million dollars from the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction, but received \$23.2 million. For FY 2009, the Board has submitted a capital budget request to the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction in the amount of \$50.4 million.

The letter will be forwarded to the Howard County Delegation before the special session of the General Assembly is convened.

Attendance Area Adjustments

Presenter: Mr. Joel Gallihue, Manager, School Planning.

Mr. Gallihue reported that no elementary or middle school redistricting is necessary for 2008. He also recommended that the Board retain the Greenbridge open enrollment exception until comprehensive high school redistricting adjustments are made in 2010.

Mr. Gallihue reviewed the attendance area adjustments approved last year in light of this year's September 30 enrollment count and indicated that a more detailed analysis of projection accuracy will be presented in February, followed by the Feasibility Study with new projections in June.

The primary thrust of elementary school redistricting was to open the new Veterans Elementary School, and it was successful in achieving balanced student populations in the Northern and Northeastern regions. Redistricting from Bryant Woods Elementary to Running Brook Elementary has provided some relief. The middle school redistricting to relieve Elkridge Landing Middle School by sending students to Mayfield Woods Middle School has been successful.

The official enrollment report is still being checked; however, preliminary information indicates that projections were accurate. As a result, it appears that both elementary and comprehensive high school redistricting are still needed in 2010. Middle school redistricting in 2013 is also supported. These redistricting plans have been discussed with some variation in the last two Feasibility Studies but will require further adjustment, including new plans that could include Phelps Luck Elementary School.

The "Greenbridge Exception" is an open enrollment decision by the Board that has been in effect since 1998. Students who live in the area are assigned to River Hill High School but may attend Glenelg High School under open enrollment without transportation. At the time, staff recommended that redistricting should be contingent on completion of the addition at Glenelg. With major impediments to completing that project now resolved, it is estimated that the addition will open by spring 2008.

Some families, who made the decision to send their students to Glenelg while providing their own transportation, have voiced expectations to be redistricted with bus transportation as soon as the addition is complete. Staff does not recommend redistricting at this time because comprehensive high school redistricting plans will be considered in 2009 and take effect in 2010.

Staff has also reviewed the option of providing transportation to both schools. This would double transportation costs to serve Greenbridge and would place an additional strain on an already taxed transportation system. Staff recommends that bussing to both schools only be provided as part of an approved phased redistricting or phase-out of the exception.

Mrs. Mikulis said there will be a Public Hearing scheduled for November 29, 2007, with action scheduled for December 13, 2007.

Board of Education Member Cluster Assignments 2007/2008

Presenter: Mrs. Ellen Flynn Giles.

Mrs. Giles reported that the cluster assignments for the 2007/2008 school year were approved on August 16, 2007, but a minor adjustment needed to be made.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved approval of the cluster assignment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Scheduling

The Board scheduled the date of Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 7:00 pm, for the "What It's Like to Be a Board Member" presentation.

Policy 2030- Ombudsman

Presenter: Mrs. Perkins, Chief of Staff.

Mrs. Perkins reported that at the direction of the Board and in consultation with Policy Specialist Ellen Miller, Policy 2030 was reviewed by a work group of the Board of Education consisting of Mrs. French, Mrs. Giles, and Ms. Gordon. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the policy and current job description for the Ombudsman were aligned and that the new policy met the intent of the Board. Following a public hearing on November 29, 2007, the Board will take action to adopt the revised policy.

Appointment – Community Advisory Council Monthly Report

Presenter: Ms. Rose Dennison, Chairman of the Community Advisory Council (CAC).

Ms. Dennison thanked the Board members, Superintendent, and staff members for attending the last CAC meeting. She reported on recent activities of the Council.

Appointment – PTA Council of Howard County Monthly Report

Presenter: Mary Jane Grauso, President of the PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC).

Mrs. Grauso thanked the Board for hosting the PTA President Luncheon, for partnering with PCs for Kids, and for inviting PTA members to participate in Facilitative Leadership and Cultural Proficiency training.

Curriculum and Curriculum-based Assessment Development 2007

Presenters: Dr. Clarissa Evans, Executive Director of Secondary Curricular Programs; Mrs. Marie DeAngelis, Director of Elementary Curricular Programs; Ms. Julie Wray, Instructional Facilitator for Educational Technology; and Mrs. Fran Albert, Coordinator of Assessment.

Dr. Evans reported that the Howard County Public School System develops relevant and challenging curriculum as a major

strategy that supports our academic achievement goal, which is goal number one.

Mrs. DeAngelis reported that the Howard County Public School System develops its own essential curriculum and curriculum documents for all content areas. Not only does the essential curriculum align with the state's Voluntary State Curriculum and National Standards, but it also assists teachers in knowing what students must know and be able to do.

Ms. Wray reported the Maryland State Department of Education approved the Maryland Technology Literacy Standards for Students (MTLSS). The Office of Media and Educational Technology aligned the HCPSS Educational Technology Curriculum to the newly developed state standards. Over seventy new lessons were developed in the Curriculum Writing Workshop over the summer.

Mrs. Albert reported on the PreK–12 Assessment System. The assessments are administered in elementary, middle, and high school. The item types include selective response, brief constructed response, and extended constructed response. Reports generated from the local assessments provide common information with which to monitor student progress and adjust instruction. With the formative local assessments, teachers can learn to use the specific diagnostic data to see what their students have learned and can make adjustments to instruction with current students.

Discussion:

In answer to a question about the "Voluntary" State Curriculum, Dr. Evans explained that it is the basis for the State assessment program. Since local districts want their students to do well on the assessments, it is not really voluntary.

Mrs. French asked if teachers are restricted to only what is in the curriculum document repository or are they permitted to add a unit if students are passing the assessments and all the material is being taught in the classroom.

Mrs. DeAngeles stated that they purposely look at the time it takes to teach different units of study with the essential curriculum and make sure that all the objectives are covered. If a teacher is able to integrate another topic or take on another unit, they can do so,

although she feels it would be difficult considering the time constraints and the amount of material teachers are being asked to cover.

Mrs. French asked if all teachers are expected to be teaching the same curriculum on the same day. Mrs. DeAngeles stated that it is not their expectation for all teachers to teach the same curriculum on the same day. They want the teachers to use their own creativity.

Dr. Evans added that in many cases the essential curriculum lays out skills and processes that students are expected to master. The specific content or specific topic that the teacher chooses to use in order to teach that skill or process will vary. She said they pride themselves on the fact that HCPSS does not have a dictated curriculum.

Ms. Gordon commented that some students are able to breeze through one topic in a couple of days and then find that it takes more time to learn another topic. Teachers need to understand their students and their needs and set their own schedule so that by the end of the year the students will have mastered the curriculum.

Mrs. DeAngeles said that extension lesson ideas are provided for teachers to use. If the students come in knowing the basics, there are ways to provide additional challenges for students.

Dr. Evans said that handbooks have been developed to help instructional team leaders understand their jobs and responsibilities. Ms. Gordon requested a copy of the handbook.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the HCPSS PreK-12 essential curriculum and curriculum-based assessments in accordance with Policy 8000 - Curriculum, including Appendices B & C. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Dr. Evans reported that the courses that are being deleted are courses that no longer meet the Technology Education graduation requirement and therefore have been replaced. Many of the courses that are being added relate to career academies and changes that are being made in the Career and Technology Education Program.

The new course proposals include:

- Advanced Architectural Design.
- Advanced Design Applications.

- Advanced Technological Applications.
- Architectural Design.
- Financial Management using Software Applications.
- Foundations of Technology.
- Introduction to Ecological Systems.
- Chinese III.
- Chinese IV.

Proposed course deletions include:

- Architectural Drawing.
- Communication Technology.
- Materials and Process Technology.
- Mechanical Drawing.
- Production Technology.
- Technology Systems.
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Action: Mr. Gavelek moved approval of the addition and deletion of courses for the Catalog of Approved High School Courses for 2008/2009. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Adjournment:

Action: Mrs. Giles moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gavelek and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Information Items:

- A. Audit Committee Quarterly Meeting Report
- B. Third-Party Billing

Attachment – Letter to the Howard County Delegation dated October 26, 2007.

This letter was sent to all members of the Howard County Delegation.

October 26, 2007

Senator Allan H. Kittleman
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Kittleman,

We urge you to pledge your support for full funding for Maryland public schools as required by the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Act, for continuing state funding of the teacher pension system, and for ensuring that we are able to meet capital project needs.

Thornton includes an annual inflation factor for all school systems, and in the years ahead, this is the only mandated increase in state aid to public schools. Amending the Thornton legislation would be detrimental for the following reasons:

- The Howard County Public School System is dependent upon the additional \$5.8 million as required by Thornton funding to continue targeted programs for intervention and student support services as required by both The Bridge to Excellence Act and The No Child Left Behind Legislation.
- Based upon the legislative commitment, the Howard County Public School System's academic programs have already included additional staffing that depends upon the committed level of funding to sustain programs directed at closing achievement gaps.
- Not providing any inflation factor increase in each of the next two years, as proposed by the Governor, would erode the progress we are making to raise student achievement by forcing us to choose between rising utility, health care, transportation and other costs – instead of focusing on investments in the classrooms.

The Governor's budget proposal includes funding for the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) to provide additional state aid to certain high cost school systems. Both the annual inflation factor and the GCEI are needed; one cannot substitute for the other. Please note that:

- Howard County is entitled to an additional \$4.9 million annually, if and when the GCEI is fully funded.
- Under the Governor's recommended phase-in schedule for GCEI funding, Howard County would receive an additional \$1.5 million in FY 2009.

Approved - November 8, 2007

When coupled with a freeze on funding of the inflation factor at \$5.8 million, this will result in a net loss of \$4.3 million in legislated increases

- If the inflation factor freeze continues and the GCEI funding for the second year is phased in at 60%, as proposed by the Governor last session (Senate Bill 109), then Howard County would receive \$3.1 million in FY 2010. However, total GCEI funding at these proposed levels over a two-year period represents less than 80% of the funding needed to match the inflation factor anticipated for FY 2009 alone.

Furthermore, while we appreciate the Governor's withdrawal of his proposal to shift teacher retirement costs from the state to the counties and Baltimore City, we urge you not to resurrect the idea. The scenario of shifting 50% of such costs to local governments was included in the "Doomsday" budget briefing to the General Assembly earlier this summer, and would total more than \$317 million in new, unanticipated expenditures for local governments. Howard County's share of the annual costs for teacher retirement would amount to \$27.1 million dollars in FY 2009. Moreover, these costs will increase in future years based on rising pension levels and the number of retirees.

Finally, as you may know from our discussion at the Legislative Breakfast held recently by the Superintendent and the Board of Education, renovating our older schools is a daunting task. We are in dire need of dedicated capital funding and are dependent upon state aid. For FY 2008, the Board of Education of Howard County requested \$52.2 million dollars from the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction, but received \$23.2 million. For FY 2009, we have submitted a capital budget request to the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction in the amount of \$50.4 million. Our public school facilities must continue to be a top priority in the State's capital budget.

The Board of Education of Howard County has identified three legislative liaisons who will represent the views of the Board and monitor legislation during the Special Session of the General Assembly as well as during the 2008 Maryland Legislative Session: Mr. Frank Aquino, Ms. Ellen Flynn Giles, and Ms. Sandra French. We also have a legislative staff member, Mr. Roger Plunkett, to whom you may direct your questions or comments. Mr. Plunkett may be reached at 410-313-6610 or at roger_plunkett@hcpss.org.

We understand that your task during this Special Legislative Session is challenging and that you must consider the many needs of Maryland's citizens while resolving the state's budget deficit. We ask you to honor the legislative funding pledge made through the Bridge to Excellence Act, to guarantee an adequate and equitable education for all students. On behalf of the 48,000+ Howard County Public School System students, all of Maryland's 860,000 public school students, their parents, their teachers and principals,

and on behalf of Maryland's future, we hope you take these requests into consideration in the demanding times that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Diane B. Mikulis
Chairman

Frank J. Aquino, Esq.
Vice Chairman

Lawrence H. Cohen
Member

Sandra H. French
Member

Andrew Gavelek
Student Member

Ellen Flynn Giles
Member

Patricia S. Gordon
Member

Janet Siddiqui, M.D.
Member

cc: Dr. Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Ken Ulman, Howard County Executive
Mr. Calvin Ball, Chair, Howard County Council
Mrs. Courtney Watson, Vice-Chair, Howard County Council
Mr. Gregory Fox, Member, Howard County Council
Mrs. Jen Terrasa, Member, Howard County Council
Mrs. Mary Kay Sigay, Member, Howard County Council
Mr. John Woolums, Director of Governmental Relations, MABE
Ms. Sandra Barry, President, Board of Directors, MABE