

Summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, October 11, 2007

ACTION ITEMS

- Approved the general consent agenda including donations and minutes of regular Board meetings; and received status reports on the operating budget and the school construction fund.
- Approved the restricted consent agenda including staff personnel and bids and contracts.
- Approved the membership makeup of the Operating Budget Review Committee (see: "Board prepares to form Budget Review Committee").
- Rescinded Policy 5000, Food and Nutrition Services, effective immediately (see: "Board considers policy revisions").

Board prepares to form Budget Review Committee

The Board approved the following membership composition for its 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 and, in addition, each Board member will nominate a member. The Board also reviewed the Committee Charter.

Board considers policy revisions

The Board received Committee Charters for four policy committees. The first committee is charged with developing new fiscal policy related to investment and debt management. Other committees will review existing policies including Policy 2980, Student Charges with Community or Reportable Offenses; Policy 5220, Criteria for Selecting School Bus Contractors; and Policy 5230, School Bus Contractors, Bus Operators and Assistants.

The Board also received recommendations from the Policy Review Committee to rescind two policies: Policy 9040, High School Grievance Committee, and Policy 9220, Corporal Punishment. 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.

The recommendation to rescind the corporal punishment policy is accompanied by a

recommendation to include the prohibition of corporal punishment in the discipline policy. The Board will hold public hearings on both policies on November 8 and take action on December 13.

The Board rescinded Policy 5000, Food and Nutrition Services, effective immediately. It was determined that all key components of this policy were updated and included in Policy 9090, Wellness through Nutrition and Physical Activity.

In other action...

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin thanked all who planned and attended the 21st Annual Partnership Celebration. He also reported on the Board's meeting with the County Council on October 10. He congratulated

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

At Public Forum, Longfellow Elementary School Media Specialist Matthew Winner thanked the Board for providing schools with media assistants.

Board member Ellen Giles reported on Board attendance at a meeting on gang awareness sponsored by Congressman Cummings. Board member Sandra French announced that Patricia Gordon has been elected President-Elect of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE). Chairman Diane Mikulis reported on the recent MABE conference. Student member Andrew Gavelek reported that the Student Leadership Luncheon with the Board is scheduled for October 18.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 pm on Thursday, October 25, 2007.