

Summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, December 20, 2007

Action Items

- Approved the regular consent agenda including donations and minutes of regular board meetings.
- Approved the restricted agenda including bids and contracts, the FY09 Capital Budget appeal to the Board of Public Works and minutes of closed meetings.
- Approved the Board of Education tentative quarterly agenda for January-March 2008.

Progress on Goal I Standards Characterized as "Significant"

Executive Director Terry Alban presented a comprehensive summary of performance on the school system's Goal 1 standards. She noted that schools and the school system made significant improvement and achieved many of the rigorous standards. While the results indicate that there is much to celebrate this year, there were still student groups and schools that did not achieve the 2007 target, which indicates that much work is yet to be done.

Alban noted that standards would need to be updated to align with changes in the accountability system, which include new Annual Measurable Objectives as well as any changes resulting from the reauthorization of the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

Donyall Dickey, Principal of Murray Hill Middle School, shared interventions that have been successful in improving academic performance and student behavior at his school. In particular he focused on a pre-test, post-test model used to reinforce key reading and mathematics concepts that are assessed through the Maryland School Assessments.

Board Receives Update on SIMS Proposals

The Request for Proposal for a new Student Information Management System (SIMS) solution drew responses from seven vendors offering full packages and three vendors offering individual modules, according to Director of Information Technology Jose Stevenson. In a SIMS status report to the Board, Stevenson indicated the SIMS Committee would meet in January to develop a questionnaire for checking vendor references and determine criteria for evaluating vendor presentations.

Plans are for two-day vendor presentations to take place during February and to have recommendations formulated in March. A staggered rollout will begin in elementary schools during the 2008-2009 school year.

A new centralized system must address as many as 722 requirements and provide appropriate access to teachers, students, parents, and administrators within a secure environment. It is critical that the system can also differentiate functions for elementary and secondary schools and include scalable components to accommodate growth.

HCPSS Receives \$2,929,985 in Grant Funding

Coordinator Elizabeth Mahler presented the Annual Grants Report to the Board. She

reported that the school system received nearly \$3M in grant funding in 2007. The grants services function of the Strategic Planning, Assessment, and Program Evaluation Office continues to focus attention on three primary areas: program enhancement, system innovation, and capacity building.

Examples of program enhancement grants are the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Planning and Implementation Grants awarded by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

Grants support system innovation by providing opportunities to develop and pilot new ideas. Examples of innovative grants include the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant programs such as BRIDGES over Cradlerock and BRIDGES over Columbia (academic enrichment and family education programs targeted at underachieving students and their families). Over the last five years, the HCPSS has received five MSDE 21st Century Community Learning Centers' grants that now operate in fourteen schools.

Strategic Planning and Program Enhancement staff members help build capacity in schools and program areas when teachers and staff apply for smaller grants through corporate or community-based organizations and foundations. Examples include the Horizon Foundation's Strategic Initiative Program (SIP) grants that fund projects intended to stimulate positive changes in major health and wellness issues.

In other action...

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin congratulated Running Brook Elementary School fifth graders Debbie Kim, Kameron Langford and Autumn Myers for taking first place in the Teams Division for elementary school in the Stock Market Game sponsored by Morgan-Stanley. He also recognized Lime Kiln Middle School Special Education teacher Melissa Preston for her selection as a 2008 Service Learning Fellow by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Chris Wertman, chairman of the Community Advisory Council, reported that the council recently selected Mark Howard as vice chairman.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2007.