

A Summary of the Board of Education Meeting Thursday, September 18, 2008

ACTION ITEMS

- Approved a restricted consent agenda including bids and contracts, and donations.
- Approved a proclamation designating October as Learning disAbility Month in the HCPSS.
- Approved a deed of easement with Howard County at Cedar Lane School for the installation of a fire hydrant.
- Approved the Site Development Plan for the Northfield Elementary School addition/renovation.
- Approved the State Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for submission to the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC).
- Approved revised guidelines for Minority Business Enterprise.
- Approved Board of Education negotiation teams for upcoming negotiations (see: "Board approves negotiation teams").
- Approved the Board's quarterly agenda for October through November 2008.
- Approved the 2008 Bridge to Excellence Master Plan for submission to MSDE (see: "2008 BTE Update Plan ready for submission").

2008 BTE Update Plan ready for submission

Elizabeth Mahler, Coordinator of Strategic Planning and Program Enhancement, reviewed the requirements for the annual update of the school system's *Bridge to Excellence Master Plan*. She indicated that the process occurs between May and November annually and the final document must be approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. In approving the update, the Board praised Ms. Mahler and all those who participated in the review process.

Community members speak to Capital Budget priorities

Five individuals provided testimony at the Public Hearing on the FY10 Capital Budget Request. President Howard Lyles and Treasurer Bessie Borden Nave of the Harriet Tubman Foundation spoke in support of the maintenance and warehouse facility line item that would free the Harriet Tubman Building for preservation as a historical building.

Chris Wertman, Chairman of the Community Advisory Council, presented concerns of the council including the amount of the request, the probability for full funding and the need for a project prioritization process. Karen Lasser and Ellen Makar of the Atholton High School PTSA thanked the Board for the improvements to the school's parking lot this summer and for including the Atholton renovation in the FY2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program.

The Board will hold a work session and take action on the capital request on Thursday, October 2.

Board approves negotiation teams

Director of Staff Relations Sue Mascaro presented recommendations for the Board's FY10 negotiation teams. Negotiations for FY10 begin this year with all four bargaining units. Contracts for AFSCME, HCEA and HCEA-ESP are open for salary negotiations only this year. Contract negotiations with HCAA include but are not limited to salary. The Board approved the members for each of its negotiation teams.

In other action...

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin reported on the last day for seniors and graduation dates, the internal review of school supply lists and activities fees being conducted by School Administration, and the Cooperation and Efficiency in Government Work Group formed by the school system and county government. He also reported that the school system was selected as Large Business of the Year by the Howard County Chamber of Commerce and that the HCPSS Family and Community Outreach Program has received a 2008 Partnership District Award for the second time from the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University.

At Public Forum, Mark Norman spoke to the importance of the HCPSS land bank initiative and issues related to the proposed Turf Valley development.

At an appointment with the Board, Chairman of the Community Advisory Council Chris Wertman reported on the current activities of the Council.

Board member Janet Siddiqui reported on the Board's Sept. 5 Legislative Breakfast and the first meeting of the Board's Legislative Committee, which she is chairing. The Board's Policy Committee, which is chaired by Board member Sandra French, has had its first meeting. Board member Larry Cohen, chairman of the Board's Audit Committee, reported on the recent meeting of that committee.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 pm on Thursday, October 2, 2008.