

Quarterly Meeting of the
Howard County Board of Education and
Howard County Council
Howard County Department of Education
Board Room B
10910 Route 108
Ellicott City, MD 21042

October 15, 2008
8:15 a.m.

Attendees were as follows:

Board Members: Frank J. Aquino, Chairman; Ellen Flynn Giles, Vice Chairman; Patricia Gordon; Diane Mikulis; and Janet Siddiqui

County Council: Courtney Watson, Chairperson; Mary Kay Sigaty, Vice Chairperson; Calvin Ball; Greg Fox; Jennifer Terrasa; and Sheila Tolliver, Council Administrator

School Staff: Dr. Sydney Cousin, Superintendent; Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent; Mamie Perkins, Chief of Staff; Raymond Brown, Chief Financial Officer; Terry Alban, Chief Operating Officer; Linda Wise, Chief Academic Officer; Ken Roey, Director, Facilities Planning and Management; and Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning

Board Staff: Kathy Hanks, Administrative Specialist

Ms. Watson called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

- 1) Current costs and cost-saving measures that HCPSS is taking. In particular: specific measures regarding fuel saving, technology, printing, and take-home cars.

Mr. Raymond Brown, Chief Financial Officer provided a handout regarding the above. He highlighted information related to Energy Performance Contracts. We are training our own staff and they have been able to handle the maintenance of the buildings, which is very cost effective. In technology we are continuing our efforts towards electronic formats-paperless by using BoardDocs, E-Guides, and the Central Document Repository. We have also switched to high-speed copiers where documents can be sent. This cuts costs on expensive toner cartridges for printers. We have also developed the Cooperation and Efficiency in Government Work Group to explore avenues with county government to consolidate costs.

- 2) Briefing on the schools below and what we are doing to address the challenges: six schools fall short of state-ordered progress. The elementary schools were Bollman Bridge in Jessup and Stevens Forest in Columbia. The middle schools were Harper's Choice in Columbia, Patuxent Valley in Jessup, Murray Hill in Laurel, and Oakland Mills in Columbia.

Ms. Linda Wise, Chief Academic Officer, stated that many interventions are in place including professional development with principals and staff and academic interventions for students. She stated that in all cases, it was no more than 10 students, and they were Special Ed and FARMS. Murray Hill actually made AYP this year but must make it two years in a row to be removed from the list. Also, Oakland Mills missed AYP by one student. Everyone is working very hard to assist every school in making all state-ordered progress.

- 3) Potential impact on education budget of state deficit. Explanation of teacher retirement program and state and county share of funding.

Mr. Raymond Brown, Chief Financial Officer, provided a handout. He stated that in FY09 there will be a 50% reduction in state funding. He also noted that the state was considering putting the state retirement funding on the counties. Ms. Watson also stated that the school system could expect budget reductions from the county too.

- 4) Update on first green building project - pitfalls, surprises, and challenges - what will be different because of the new green requirements.

Mr. Ken Roey, Director, Facilities Planning and Management, provided a handout. He noted it is more difficult than it looks. We also want the school to look different and not like any other school. Therefore, decisions need to be made as to having solar panels, bio-retention areas, windmills, etc. These would also be used as teaching tools. The biggest challenge is to prove to LEED that we have met the requirements and receive the LEED Silver rating.

- 5) Report on the official enrollment numbers per school, showing percentage over capacity if applicable.

Mr. Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning, provided a handout listing capacity and enrollment numbers. He stated that we are aware that the Route 1 corridor needs to be addressed and that land options are being considered. Regarding the downtown Columbia schools with the new Town Center, it was stated that the school system is working and meeting with General Growth Properties to understand the impact on the school system.

- 6)** Suggested dates for 2009 schedule. HCPSS Board is to confirm dates.

Wednesday, February 4, 2009 (Board Room)
Wednesday, April 1, 2009 (8930 Stanford Blvd.)
Wednesday, June 10, 2009 (8930 Stanford Blvd.)
Wednesday, October 7, 2009 (Board Room)

- 7)** Ms. Watson took a moment to thank Mrs. Diane Mikulis, Board Member, for all her hard work. Mrs. Mikulis will not be seeking re-election.
- 8)** Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.