

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

November 20, 2008

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2008, 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:

Frank J. Aquino, Chairman  
Ellen Flynn Giles, Vice Chairman  
Lawrence H. Cohen  
Sandra H. French  
Patricia S. Gordon  
Diane B. Mikulis  
Adejire Bademosi, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer  
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent  
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations  
Barbara Bowers, Recording Secretary

Chairman Frank Aquino called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m., and Patrick Mikulis and Alaina Feinberg, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Triadelphia Ridge ES, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Public Forum

Ms. Colleen Morris expressed concern with the difference between salary increases received by the Superintendent and top administrators and increases received by other staff groups.

The Superintendent and Board Chairman noted that most salaries are set through negotiations and that HCPSS is very fortunate to have extremely talented personnel throughout the school system who work hard every day for the citizens of Howard County.

## Approval of Agenda

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

## Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin reported on the "What Counts" forum that was held last week and attended by over 150 participants. State School Construction staff is recommending \$11.9 million in school construction funds for FY 2010. He also reported on the success of the Emergency Pandemic Drill. Dr. Cousin congratulated Bryant Woods, Clarksville, Deep Run, Guilford, Swansfield, and West Friendship elementary schools for receiving the Governor's Citation for Superior Maintenance for FY 2008. He also congratulated Donna Culan, Facilitator for the HCPSS Professional Development Schools Program, who was elected to the Executive Council of the National Association for Professional Development Schools as its new President Elect.

## Student Representative's Report

There was no Student Representative present.

## Proclamation Honoring Diane B. Mikulis

Mr. Aquino read the following proclamation honoring Mrs. Diane Mikulis:

Board of Education of Howard County

### PROCLAMATION

Honoring

### DIANE B. MIKULIS

For Her Contributions to Education and to the Students of Howard County

**Whereas**, Diane Mikulis served the citizens of Howard County for four years as a respected member of the Board of Education; and

**Whereas**, during her terms as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board, Diane provided capable, energetic leadership that advanced the mission and goals of the school system; and

**Whereas**, Diane provided stability to the Board and the school system during a time of leadership transition as the Board increased from five to seven members and extended voting rights to the Student Member; and

**Whereas**, Diane displayed strategic vision in her support for comprehensive capital planning, full-day kindergarten, the integrated financial system and student information management system, and enhanced communication and public engagement initiatives; and

**Whereas**, Diane demonstrated her commitment to public education at the state level through her service on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education and on the Association's Willis Award Committee, Conference Planning Committee and Resolutions Committee; and

**Whereas**, Diane's work on behalf of children extends beyond the Board Room and includes volunteer work in schools, PTA involvement, work with the Special Olympics and service as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 757; and

**Whereas**, in response to the many challenges of the office, Diane established herself as an effective advocate and compassionate public servant.

**Therefore be it proclaimed** that the members of the Board of Education of Howard County express their gratitude to Diane Mikulis for her four years of dedicated service on the Board and wish her ever-expanding horizons with endless hills to hike and mountains to climb; and

**Be it further proclaimed** that this document be adopted and entered into the official record of the Board of Education of Howard County and that Diane Mikulis receive a copy in recognition of her immeasurable contributions to public education and to the children of this county.

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**Frank J. Aquino, Chairman**  
Board of Education of Howard County

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**Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent**  
Howard County Public School System

*Action:* Mr. Aquino moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Mrs. Gordon, speaking as a representative of MABE (Maryland Association of Boards of Education), noted Mrs. Mikulis' accomplishments over the years on behalf of children, not only in Howard County, but in the state of Maryland as well.

Ms. Mary Kay Sigaty, Howard County Council Vice Chair, spoke on behalf of the Council and congratulated Mrs. Mikulis on her well-served four years on the Board of Education.

The Superintendent and Board members expressed appreciation to Mrs. Mikulis for her service and acknowledged her dedication to all children. Mrs. Mikulis thanked everyone, especially her family, for their support over the last four years.

## Board Members' Reports

Mr. Cohen reported on events he recently attended, including the Veterans Day Celebration at Gorman Crossing ES, the Youth Empowerment Summit, and the Connections Center partnership signing.

Mrs. Gordon expressed appreciation to everyone involved in the "What Counts" forum and noted the success of the occasion.

Mrs. Giles reported on her visit to Mt. Hebron HS, where State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick kicked off this year's statewide Parent Involvement Award Program.

Ms. Bademosi announced that a meeting of HCASC (Howard County Association of Student Councils) will be held on December 3, 2008, and encouraged middle and high school students to attend.

## Consent Agenda (Restricted\*)

### Bids and Contracts and Donations

*Action:* Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Restricted Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (6/0\*).

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
P-1	<b>CABINET/BOOKCASE FABRICATION AND DELIVERY</b> Summerhill Cabinets, Inc. Most, Inc.	\$20,000 est. \$30,000 est.
P-2	<b>ARCHITECT FOR HAMMOND ELEMENTARY AND HAMMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDITION AND RENOVATION</b> Smolen Emr & Associates Architects	\$1,170,000
P-3	<b>ARCHITECT FOR STEVENS FOREST ELEMENTARY RENOVATION</b> Penz & Bailey Architects	\$580,000

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Longfellow ES: Loring, Wolcott and Coolidge Office, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for Positive

Approved – December 11, 2008

Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) student incentives.

Running Brook ES: Exxon Mobil, Educational Alliance Program, in the amount of \$500, designated for professional development activities for staff.

Centennial HS: Target, in the amount of \$561.80, designated for the purchase of an LCD projector.

Glenelg HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$1,300, designated for SAT prep class expenses.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### Minutes – Regular Board Meeting of November 6, 2008

*Action:* Mrs. French moved approval of the regular Board meeting minutes of November 6, 2008. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

#### **Administrative Promotion\***

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Michael Borkowski	Server Administrator	Technology Officer

*Action:* Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Administrative Promotion. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (6/0\*).

#### **FY 2010 State Capital Budget/IAC Appeal\***

*Presenter:* Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management.

The school system requested \$43,727,000 in capital funding from the state for FY 2010. The State Public School Construction Program staff has recommended that Howard County receive \$11,953,000 for several projects, including Clemens Crossing, Elkridge, and Waterloo elementary schools and Mt. Hebron High School.

It was suggested that all projects not recommended for approval, with the exception of the Patapsco MS and Centennial Lane ES roofing projects, be appealed to the State Interagency Committee on School

Construction (IAC). The total of the projects being appealed is \$30,660,000.

*Discussion:*

Mr. Roey noted that priority has been given to schools with major projects and those providing additional capacity. Although green elements are looked upon favorably, there is no indication that green projects will be funded above others solely on that basis.

Mr. Roey pointed out that planning has only been approved for 1 out of 92 requests throughout the state. Dr. Cousin mentioned that once planning approval is granted, there is some guarantee that the project will eventually be funded for construction. He noted that the state does not pay for architectural plans.

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved approval of the appeal of the State Capital Budget IAC items as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (6/0\*).

**Bridge to Excellence: Annual Goal 2 Progress Report**

*Presenters:* Dr. Terry Alban, Chief Operating Officer; Ms. Pamela Blackwell, Director, Student Reassignment; and Mr. Jose Stevenson, Acting Director of Student Assessment and Program Evaluation.

Mr. Stevenson reported that Howard County schools have continued to make consistent progress in reaching both local and state standards for safe and nurturing schools. Areas showing improvement include middle school attendance and middle and high school suspensions.

Parent survey respondents continue to indicate that the overall climate in schools is welcoming and nurturing. There are still areas for improvement, particularly with suspension rates for several student groups. Schools continue to use a variety of data sources to review Goal 2 indicators and to support improvement efforts.

Ms. Blackwell reviewed a number of initiatives that support safe schools, including Cultural Proficiency training for staff, the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative, and anti-bullying initiatives. She introduced Ms. Linda Monti, Assistant Principal, Murray Hill MS, who reported on the success of various strategies used at Murray Hill to improve school climate.

*Discussion:*

Mr. Cohen commented on a recent visit that he and Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Giles, and Mrs. French made to Murray Hill MS. Board members were very impressed with the positive atmosphere and effective classroom management at the school and expressed congratulations to everyone for their work.

Ms. Blackwell stated that the PBIS program is a framework for implementing various behavioral programs, and schools have generally been able to fund incentives on their own due to community and business partnerships, with no budget impact. She also noted that an orientation is provided each year to encourage other schools to get involved.

Board members discussed various survey questions and areas of improvement and expressed an interest in specific data related to FARM (free and reduced meals), special education, and African American students. Mr. Cohen also asked that data be provided regarding students from the Homewood School, as well as more specific suspension-rate data.

**Appointment – Community Advisory Council (CAC) Monthly Report**

Mr. Chris Wertman, CAC Chairman, reported on recent activities of the council.

**Adjournment**

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved that the Board meeting adjourn at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

**Information Items**

- A. Educational Foundation Annual Audit Report (Mary Schiller)
- B. Success of the Athletic Trainer and Teams (Mike Williams)

\*Under Section 3-701 of the Education Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the Student Member may not vote on these matters. Passage of a motion by the Board on these matters requires the affirmative vote of four (4) Board members.