

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

January 8, 2009

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009, 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, Esq., Chairman
Ellen Flynn Giles, Vice Chairman
Lawrence H. Cohen
Allen Dyer, Esq.
Sandra H. French
Patricia S. Gordon
Janet Siddiqui, M.D.
Adejire Bademosi, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

Chairman Frank Aquino called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and Elizabeth Kimble, Oakland Mills HS SGA President, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

Mr. Jason Copley of the American Cancer Society recognized 35 schools for their participation in American Cancer Society activities during the past year and provided information on how the Society can be of service to schools.

Approval of Agenda

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin reported that Dr. Jackie Haas, Superintendent of Harford County and Maryland Superintendent of the Year, died suddenly last

week. Over 2,000 people attended her memorial service, and Dr. Haas will be greatly missed.

Dr. Cousin shared the steps that the school system has taken to accommodate students and staff who wish to attend the presidential inauguration, as well as for those who will view the event on television in schools. He also reviewed the professional development that staff receives related to child abuse and maintaining appropriate relationships with students.

Student Representative's Report

On behalf of Oakland Mills HS Student Representative, Dalyce Wilson, Ms. Kimble, OMHS SGA President, presented a report on recent and upcoming activities at the school. The report included information on the school's theme of "Community" and the celebration of several recent achievements and events.

Board Members' Reports

Mrs. Gordon reported on her attendance at the recent MGT Corporation Conference. MGT conducted a survey of all schools in Maryland and determined that funds appropriated for the implementation of the Bridge to Excellence Act were wisely used.

Ms. Adejire Bademosi reported on the recent activities of the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC).

Consent Agenda (Restricted*)

Bids and Contracts; Donations; Operating Budget Monthly Report; School Construction Report; School Bus Contract Transfer; and Closed Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2008 (Official and Confidential)

The Closed Meeting minutes of November 21, 2008, were pulled from the agenda for voting purposes.

On behalf of the Board and HCPSS, Mrs. French expressed appreciation to everyone who provides donations to assist the school system.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the restricted consent agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0*).

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

P-1	On Call General Contractor Services R. K. Owens, Inc. John W. Brawner Contracting Co., Inc. Mirable Construction Co., Inc. Most, Inc. Warwick Supply & Equipment Co., Inc. Colossal Contractors, Inc.	\$250,000 annually
P-2	Copier Paper Xpedx	\$693,284

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Cedar Lane School:	Grace Community Church, in the amount of \$5,700, designated for the purchase of trees for the restoration project at the Cedar Lane School.
Atholton ES:	PTA, in the amount of \$4,752, designated for the purchase of LCD projectors.
Clarksville ES:	PTA, in the amount of \$795, designated for a schoolwide Cultural Arts program, <i>The Magical Math Tour</i> , with Brian Curry.
Manor Woods ES:	PTA, in the amount of \$4,519, designated for the purchase of a traverse wall and mat for the PE department.
West Friendship ES:	Steven and Patricia Sisney, in the amount of \$2,150, designated for the purchase of a digital video mixer for the West Friendship Elementary School News Team studio.
ARL:	Frederick Kovalyak, a 1991 Honda Accord, valued at \$1,000, designated for the Automotive Technology Program.
Atholton HS:	Boosters, in the amount of \$932, designated for the purchase of football helmets.

Centennial HS: Antonellis Pizza, in the amount of \$504, designated for the purchase of varsity letters and athletic certificates.

Boosters, in the amount of \$2,912, designated for the It's Academic Club, the Color Guard Squad, and the Speech and Debate Club.

Hammond HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$1,200, designated for the purchase of practice jerseys for the boys' lacrosse team.

Mt. Hebron HS: Verizon Foundation, in the amount of \$750, designated for the purchase of uniforms and equipment for the drill team.

Viking Backers, in the amount of \$5,650, designated for the purchase of uniforms for the cheerleaders and the boys and girls basketball teams, mats for the wrestling team, and hurdles and singlets for the indoor track team.

Oakland Mills HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$1,016, (\$728) designated for the boys basketball team, and (\$288) designated for the Class of 2010.

Reservoir HS: Zenyou, Inc. (Prasa Karunakran, President), in the amount of \$1,000, designated for students who participate in Project Community. The students will attend a retreat to promote understanding and tolerance.

Wilde Lake HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$3,115.50, designated for the purchase of cheerleading uniforms.

Operating Budget Financial Report as of November 30, 2008 – Accepted by the Board.

FY 2009 School Construction Monthly Report – Accepted by the Board.

School Bus Contract Transfer – Approved by the Board.

<u>Contractor:</u>	<u>No. of Contracts w/this Transfer</u>
Barry Amoss	4
Woodlawn Motor Tours, Inc.	49

Closed Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2008 (Official and Confidential)

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Closed Meeting minutes of November 21, 2008. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (6/0*), with Mr. Dyer abstaining.

Consent Agenda (Regular)

Request to do Research from the Scantron Corporation Titled "Policy for Prediction Studies: Using Performance Series to Predict Performance Levels on State Tests;" Request to do Research from Towson State University Titled "Common Planning Time in the Middle School: What Really Happens Behind Closed Doors?;" and Regular Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2008.

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved acceptance of the regular consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bademosi and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Request to do Research from the Scantron Corporation Titled "Policy for Prediction Studies: Using Performance Series to Predict Performance Levels on State Tests" – Approved by the Board.

Request to do Research from Towson State University Titled "Common Planning Time in the Middle School: What Really Happens Behind Closed Doors?" – Approved by the Board.

Regular Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2008 – Approved by the Board.

Administrative Appointments and Promotions*

Dr. Terry Alban, Chief Operating Officer, presented the following administrative promotion for Board approval:

Name	From	To
Andrew Raith	Coordinator of System Performance Reporting	Director of Systems Development

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

Proclamation: Employee Appreciation Week

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY PROCLAMATION

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES OF THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, it is the mission of The Howard County Public School System to ensure excellence in teaching and learning so that each student will participate responsibly in a diverse and changing world; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes this goal can only be achieved when all employees acknowledge and accept this mission as their own; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to thank the employees of the Howard County Public School System for their individual and collective commitment to the realization of this shared vision for education in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the Board also wishes to acknowledge each teacher, administrator and support staff member for their personal contribution in maintaining a public education system that is not only a source of local pride, but is also recognized as one of the best in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to express sincere appreciation to all school system employees for their devotion to children, their dedication to excellence in teaching and learning, and their commitment to continuous improvement; and

WHEREAS, it is the expressed request of the Board of Education that this proclamation serve to launch meaningful recognition activities in all schools and for each employee group as a way to celebrate our successes, acknowledge our achievements and encourage ongoing recognition of the valuable contributions of all employees;

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates the week of February 9 through February 13, 2009 as Employee Appreciation Week; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that a copy of this proclamation be displayed in each school facility as a token of appreciation from the Board of Education to the 7,796 employees of the Howard County Public School System.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. French moved adoption of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Proclamation: African American History Month

PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY AS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the theme for National African American History Month 2009 is: "Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas;" and

WHEREAS, we find in the lives and voices of Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Booker T. Washington, Benjamin Banneker, and others who, rising above slavery, brutality and bigotry, became great American champions of liberty, equality and dignity; and

WHEREAS, the power, beauty, and unflinching words of poets and writers like Maya Angelou, Gwendolyn Brooks, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Toni Morrison, and Lucille Clifton challenge every American to live up to the ideals of freedom, equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, visionary leaders like Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King Jr. possessed a clarity of purpose and were instrumental in exposing and addressing the issues that threatened this country's founding principles; and

WHEREAS, Barack Obama is the first man of color elected President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that, despite our progress, racial prejudice still exists in America and that we must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System is committed to promoting understanding and opportunity, and efforts to build a society where every person of every race and ethnicity can realize their potential; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System recognizes the importance of educating students about the struggles for equality that are part of America's history so that this generation, and those that follow, will not take our hard-earned freedoms for granted;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education hereby designates February 2009 as African American History Month in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this document serves to reinforce our commitment to recognizing the significant contributions of African Americans and to ensuring that all children see themselves in the Howard County curriculum.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Ms. Bademosi moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Proclamation: National School Counseling Week

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2-6, 2009
AS
NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

WHEREAS school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

WHEREAS school counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal and social growth of their children; and

WHEREAS school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

WHEREAS school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school:

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education designates February 2-6, 2009 as National School Counseling Week in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that school counselors accept our sincerest gratitude for the essential services they provide in support of children and their education.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved acceptance of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Proclamation: The Alpha Phi Fraternity, Inc.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION

HONORING

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Kappa Phi Lambda Chapter

WHEREAS, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Phi Lambda Chapter, is committed to the work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, through the Alpha Foundation of Howard County, Inc., the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity funds a number of programs that positively impact the youth of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity promotes the academic achievement of young men through the Alpha Achievers Program at four Howard County high schools; and

WHEREAS, the fraternity provides education, motivation and skill-building for young men on issues of responsibility and relationships through Project Alpha; and

WHEREAS, the fraternity pairs young musicians with seasoned veteran musicians in the Ellington/Adderley African-American Jazz Ensemble; and

WHEREAS, the Alpha Foundation provides scholarships and recognition awards to support and encourage young men who display personal motivation and positive determination;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County wishes to express appreciation to the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity as a partner in education and a positive influence on the youth of Howard County; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this proclamation be adopted by the Board of Education of Howard County on this date and presented to the membership of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on the occasion of the 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on January 11, 2009.

Frank J. Aquino, Chairman
Howard County Board of Education

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. Gordon moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Northfield ES Addition/Renovation Design Development Brochure*

Presenters: Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management; and Mr. Bruce Gist, Director of School Construction.

Highlights:

- Renewing mechanical and building infrastructure.
 - Integrates nine-week project elements with core program improvements.
- Addition adds 150 seats (program capacity).
 - Includes administrative, cafeteria, music and art expansion, and physical education activity room.
- First LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) - Silver project.
 - Currently 44 points possible - 37 required for certification.
- Schedule:
 - Construction documents ready for approval in April 2009.
 - Bid – May 2009.
- Alternate package to include:
 - Extended learning area.
 - Cafeteria expansion.
 - Two small additions designed as swing classrooms.

Discussion:

Mr. Mike Lahowin, TCA Architects, assured the Board that there is adequate onsite parking at the school, including a new visitor parking lot that has recently been paved. In addition, traffic flow will be improved, and student drop-off/pick-up spaces will be designated closer to the front entrance.

In response to Dr. Siddiqui, Mr. Roey and Mr. Lahowin provided details regarding the LEED rating system. Dr. Siddiqui asked for specific information about the requirements for mold prevention, which is a new credit. Mr. Lahowin agreed to the request. Mrs. Giles pointed out that LEED points are provided for innovation and do not indicate that systems currently in place are inadequate or unsafe.

Mr. Roey noted that HCPSS is pursuing the "Green Cleaning Certification" by using entirely "green" cleaning products within Northfield ES, with the expectation that green cleaning will be used throughout the school system in the future. A number of measures are being considered that will promote a healthy school environment.

Mr. Lahowin spoke about the wind turbine, which is strictly an educational tool and provides no power for the school. The wind turbine will be showcased through the Gifted and Talented room and will charge a 12-volt battery. An inverter will then create 120-volt power from the original battery. Students can see that a battery charged by the wind can be converted into energy that can power a computer or other electronic equipment.

In response to Mrs. Gordon, Mr. Roey stated that it is unclear how much funding will be received as part of an education stimulus package, but it is expected that the amount will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, not millions.

Mr. Lahowin confirmed that the second entrance to the foyer of the school could be locked during the school day so that visitors would be required to enter the main office before gaining access to the rest of the school.

Regarding the noise generated from heat pumps, Mr. Roey stated that less noise will be generated, and the unit ventilators will be located in a closet between two rooms. These units will be much quieter than the typical classroom environment where a unit ventilator is visible. Mr. Roey noted that he has been in several green schools

with this configuration, and the difference in noise is very noticeable. The technology is reliable, simplifies maintenance, and stays operational longer.

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the Design Development Documents as submitted for the Addition and Renovations to Northfield ES. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (7/0*).

2009 Legislative Platform

Presenters: Dr. Siddiqui and Mr. Ray Brown, Chief Financial Officer.

The Legislative Platform for the 2009 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly is an integral component of an overall strategy on issues significant to the Board. The Legislative Platform is developed to assist the Howard County Delegation during the General Assembly Session.

Dr. Siddiqui expressed appreciation to Mrs. French, Mr. Aquino, Mr. Brown, and Mrs. Hanks for their work in developing the 2009 Legislative Platform.

Dr. Siddiqui noted that a concern was brought up at the MABE Legislative meeting that Mrs. Gordon has addressed in a letter to the Maryland State Board of Education regarding the waiver/appeal process for High School Assessments (HSAs). It was requested that the wording be reflected in a final bullet on the last page of the document to read as follows:

THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORTS:

- Local board of education control regarding the HSA waiver/appeal process.

Dr. Cousin stated that he worked with other superintendents and the state superintendent in drafting the waiver process. The intent was not to circumvent local boards, rather to expedite the process for students and allow sufficient time for final decisions prior to graduation exercises. Board members discussed concerns related to the waiver process, how it could impact May/June graduations, and possible solutions to concerns.

2009 Legislative Platform

1. Public Charter Schools.
2. Compulsory Attendance/Student Discipline Mandates.
3. Federal Support of Public Education.
4. Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) – Reauthorization.
5. Authority of Local School Board.
6. Adequate Funding for Public School Education.
7. High School Assessments (HSAs), with the added bullet of:
Local Board of Education control regarding HSA waiver/appeal process.
8. Legislated Curriculum and Testing.
9. School Safety and Student Discipline.
10. Maintenance of Effort.
11. Retirement and Pension.
12. School Nutrition and Health.
13. Nonpublic School Vouchers, Tuition Tax Credits, Tax Deductions and Textbooks.
14. Public School Labor Relations Board.

Mr. Brown provided a brief overview regarding the Public School Labor Relations Board issue. He explained that legislation was introduced (and failed) in 2008. There is likelihood that it will be introduced again in 2009. Essentially, this legislation would place a Public School Relations Board in the position of deciding all wages, hours, and working conditions for educational employees in the state, and it would replace the State Board of education as the arbitrator of bargaining disputes between unions and associations. Legislation in this form might impose binding arbitration in resolving negotiating issues.

Mr. Aquino stated his opinion that the Board members are elected by the people to represent their interests and the interests of the community as best as possible. This legislation, as previously introduced, would delegate one aspect of the Board's authority to an unelected body. Mrs. Gordon pointed out that this could affect decisions such as class size, length of the school day, etc.

Mr. Dyer spoke about his perspective on this issue and stated that the use of some sort of arbitration is an effective tool for ensuring that a process exists to deal with employee disputes. He indicated a need for the Board to recognize that the process should be examined to see whether or not the Board has become too one-sided.

Mr. Aquino emphasized that the Board monitors legislation during the session and takes positions on individual pieces of legislation as they occur when it is believed to be in the best interest of the Board to do so.

Mr. Cohen acknowledged Mr. Dyer's concerns but noted that there is a process currently in place that allows for appeals at the local and state levels.

Mrs. French made the comment that the Board treasures the employees of the school system and looks out for them as much as possible. She indicated that the Board knows what is best for its own school community, given its particular resources.

Mrs. Giles noted the importance of keeping in mind that the issues of education policy do not exist in a strictly labor management arena. She expressed her opinion that it would be in the Board's best interest to put forward the position indicated in the 2009 Legislative Platform.

Motion: Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of the Legislative Platform, as recommended by the Legislative Committee, and the amendment as proposed by Dr. Siddiqui for the legislative year of 2009. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon.

Discussion:

Mrs. French asked that the Legislative Platform be listed with the Authority of Local School Boards first and the remaining items in alphabetical order. Mrs. Giles also suggested that the items be numbered for easy reference and identification.

Mr. Dyer expressed concern with casting one vote for the entire legislative proposal. He requested that the vote be postponed until the items could be listed in correct order and an opportunity provided for a vote on each position stated in the proposal. Mr. Brown reminded the Board that the legislative session opens January 14, 2009, and that it has been the Board's desire to have an approved platform prior to the start of the session. He clarified that the platform is used as a communication tool and provides a general outline of the Board's positions. Board members will have the opportunity to vote on individual pieces of legislation in terms of support, oppose, or support with amendments, etc., as specific legislation is introduced.

The motion to approve the platform was withdrawn by Mrs. Giles.

Mr. Dyer indicated his disagreement with the legislative platform regarding the Public School Labor Relations Board.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of the Legislative Platform for 2009 as proposed, exclusive of the position on the Public School Labor Relations Board, and as amended for the High School Assessments. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Motion: Mrs. Giles moved that the Board accept the Legislative Platform for 2009 on the Public School Labor Relations Board as proposed by the Legislative Committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon.

Discussion:

Mr. Dyer reiterated his opposition to the position as stated in the platform.

Action: The motion was approved by the members of the Board (7/1), with Mr. Dyer voting no.

Policy 6020 – School Construction Program

Presentation: Mr. Bruce Gist, Director of School Construction.

Mr. Gist presented proposed revisions to Policy 6020 - School Construction Program. The proposed policy aligns the roles of the Offices of Planning and School Construction, establishes a new standard that addresses environmentally responsible construction, and adds legal and policy references. A requirement for a walk-through by building users has been added to the procedures.

Discussion:

In response to Dr. Siddiqui, staff agreed to make a notation in the policy to address the situation where temporary relocatable classrooms are replaced.

In response to Mr. Dyer, Mr. Roey explained that the state legislation regarding LEED applies only to new construction or when replacing 80 percent or adding additional space comprising 80 percent of the building. A renovation such as Northfield ES is not required to

adhere to LEED, but the school system has chosen to seek certification for the project. Mr. Roey also explained that it would be extremely difficult to adhere to LEED requirements within the nine-week timeframe allotted for summer renovation projects.

Dr. Alban noted that the Standards section of the Implementation Procedures states that the school system will follow an environmentally responsible construction process. That allows the school system flexibility in how construction/renovations issues are addressed.

Mrs. French made several suggestions regarding various sections of the policy. It was recommended that the policy committee meet to decide how best to address these suggestions.

A public hearing is scheduled for February 12, and the Board is scheduled to take action on the policy on March 12, 2009.

Policy 6070 – Closing of Schools

Presenter: Mr. Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning.

Mr. Gallihue presented proposed revisions to Policy 6070 - Closing of Schools. The policy works with Policy 6010 - School Attendance Areas to guide consolidation of student populations in order to promote uniform and efficient use of school facilities. The revised procedures add a step to the process that involves review by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Department of Planning.

Discussion:

Dr. Siddiqui suggested that the Implementation Procedures include information about who is responsible for notifying parents when a school is designated to close.

Dr. Cousin provided information on the process the school system follows when property is surplussed, which is spelled out in COMAR under State Regulations.

Mr. Gallihue indicated that he would be adding some of the deleted language from the policy related to COMAR regulations back into the policy based on the recommendation of legal counsel.

The Board asked that the policy be brought back after the revision and the approval schedule be adjusted.

**Policy 4060 – Third Party Billing
(Proposed New Title: Medicaid Reimbursement for Health Related Services)**

Presenter: Dr. James Walsh, Director of Special Education.

Discussion:

Dr. Walsh presented highlights of the revisions to the policy, including a new title: Medicaid Reimbursement for Health Related Services. Mrs. Giles thanked Dr. Walsh for incorporating Board members' suggested changes.

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved adoption of the revised Policy 4060 - Medicaid Reimbursement for Health Related Services. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Policy 7080 – Transfer of Administrators

Presenter: Mr. Dave Bruzga, Administrative Director for Secondary Schools.

Mr. Bruzga presented highlights of the revisions to the policy and requested Board approval.

Discussion:

It was agreed that the following sentence would be added to the Compliance section of the policy: The Superintendent's designee will provide notification to the Board of administrative transfers of school-based administrators.

In addition, language will be included in the Implementation Procedures to state that Board members will be notified prior to PTA Presidents regarding transfers.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of the recommendations with revisions to Policy 7080. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Policy 7090 – Administrative Transfer of Teachers

Presenter: Mr. Dave Bruzga, Administrative Director for Secondary Schools.

Mr. Bruzga presented highlights of the proposed changes to the policy and requested Board approval.

Discussion:

Dr. Cousin explained that language in the policy comes directly from the negotiated agreement for teachers. He noted that an agreement also exists with the teachers' association about the administrative workings of the transfer process, which at one time was an addendum to the negotiated agreement. Dr. Cousin stated that this information could be forwarded to the Board for a review of the step-by-step procedures.

Mr. Bruzga stated that certain circumstances cannot be addressed through the voluntary transfer process. There are very strict guidelines on how that process is to occur both for the benefit of HCEA members who may request that process, as well as for Central Office staff who may see a need for this process to be used. It is monitored very carefully by HCEA, and guidelines must be adhered to, but there is still a certain amount of leeway given to the Superintendent to meet specific needs of the system as well as to honor teacher requests.

It was also requested that the following language be added to the appropriate section of the policy: This process will be conducted in compliance with the terms of the Master Agreement Between the Board of Education and the Howard County Education Association.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of Policy 7090 as revised. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dyer and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Mr. Bruzga noted that there was union representation on the policy review committee.

Recess – The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Appointment – PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) Monthly Report

Mr. John Hannay, PTACHC President, reported on recent activities of the council. He reported on concerns from PTA representatives who have served on policy committees regarding the times of meetings, the availability of background legal references in advance of policy work, and confusion about the process for submitting minority reports.

Mr. Hannay also spoke about concerns of parents regarding the school schedule and its impact on students being able to participate in or view Inauguration Day activities. Dr. Cousin repeated the accommodations that have been made to address this issue. Mrs. French assured the public that no HCPSS student will be left uninformed about the inauguration.

Public Hearing – Policy 7100 – Family and Medical Leave

Mr. Chris Wertman, Chairman of the Community Advisory Council (CAC)

- Provided detailed recommendations from the CAC regarding clarifying language for the policy and corresponding procedures.
- Stated that the CAC is supportive of Board adoption of the policy subject to the Board's consideration of CAC's comments provided in written testimony.

The Board is scheduled to take action on Policy 7100 on January 22, 2009.

Public Hearing – Policy 7130 Substitute Teachers

Mr. Chris Wertman, Chairman of the Community Advisory Council (CAC)

- Provided detailed recommendations from the CAC regarding clarifying language for the policy and corresponding procedures.
- Stated that the CAC is supportive of the Board adoption of the policy subject to the Board's consideration of CAC's comments provided in written testimony.

The Board is scheduled to take action on Policy 7130 on January 22, 2009.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Vice Chairman at 8:35 p.m.

*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.