

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

February 19, 2009

The Board of Education of Howard County held Public Work Session IV on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2010 Operating Budget on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 1:00 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.

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

Chairman Frank Aquino called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., and Mr. Cohen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Work Session IV

FY 2010 Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC) Presentation

Mr. Michael Klatzkin, OBRC Co-Chair, introduced the members of the committee:

FY 2010 OBRC Committee Members

Marcelino Bedolla	Carolyn Jameson
Jay H. Blackman	Michael Klatzkin
Mary Cannon	Brian Meshkin
Ann DeLacy	Linda Rogers
Roy Ferguson	Marcia Soergel
Ron Giles	Larry Walker
Tom Grobicki	Richard A. Wilson
Staci Irish	

Mr. Brian Meshkin, OBRC Chairman, presented a report to the Board on activities of the committee. The report included specific recommendations on the following items:

- Transportation
- Operation of Plant
- Technology
- Human Capital Management (HCM)
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Tiers of Reductions

In addition, information was provided to the Board regarding the progress of recommendations made by the OBRC in FY 2009.

The Board members, Superintendent, and staff expressed appreciation to the OBRC for their work on the committee.

Staff presented budget score sheets to the Board, which provide a review of the budget in summary by program and category. Dr. Cousin recommended that \$5 million be included as a placeholder to cover salary negotiations. The school system is still waiting for clarification on the President's stimulus package and how that will impact the budget.

Ms. Woody Swinson, Budget Officer, provided information on the following changes to the score sheets for the proposed operating budget:

Revenues (General Fund)

- Reduction of \$3,007,290 based on estimates from the Governor's budget.

Administration – Program 0101 – Board of Education

- Reduction of \$8,000 for the elimination of voting machine rentals for the 2010 election of the Student Member of the Board.
- Addition of \$2,000 to cover Scantrons used to replace voting machines.

Special Education – Various Programs

- Addition of \$1,252,000 for nonpublic placements based on a reduction in State restricted funds.

Worker's Compensation Self-Insurance Fund

- Addition of \$221,000 based on an updated actuarial review and unpaid liability reserve.

Health and Dental Self-Insurance Fund

- Addition of \$3,608,810 based on updated cost estimates from actuaries.

Grants Fund

- Reduction of \$1,252,000 for the Special Education – Nonpublic Placement Grant.
- Addition of \$6,252,000 for contingent revenues.

Dr. Cousin and Mr. Brown explained the process that will be followed as this budget moves forward. It was noted that public opportunities to comment on the budget will be provided as the proposal goes through the County Executive and County Council.

Board members were asked to bring forth any particular proposals prior to approving the budget for submission to the county.

FY 2010 Capital Budget

The following recommendations were presented to the Board:

- Defer Maintenance/Warehouse Facility to FY 2014 or FY 2015. - This recommendation is due to the need for a feasibility study to look at all options for sharing space and costs for this facility with the county. The study should be completed in approximately six to nine months.
- Defer Old Cedar Lane Addition/Renovation to FY 2012 or FY 2013 – This is recommended due to current economic conditions.

With these deferrals, the total FY 2010 Capital Budget Request would be reduced from \$125 million to \$95,028,000.

It was noted that some renovation projects are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) compatible and certain projects are not. Staff agreed to provide information regarding additional costs that would be associated with LEED certification for particular future projects.

The Board is scheduled to take action on the FY 2010 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 2:22 p.m.