

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

**February 24, 2009**

The Board of Education of Howard County held a meeting to adopt the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2010 Operating and Capital Budgets, FY 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program Request, and FY 2010-2019 Long-Range Master Plan on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 9:00 a.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  
Barbara Bowers, Recording Secretary

Chairman Frank Aquino called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., and Dr. Siddiqui led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ray Brown, Chief Financial Officer, reported on the President's stimulus funding and how it may impact the school system's budget. The Governor of Maryland has announced the following commitments:

- Restoration of GCEI (Geographic Cost of Education Index) for both 2010 and 2011 at 100-percent funding levels.
- Restoration of supplemental grants (does not apply to HCPSS).
- Funding of the significant growth in teachers' retirement.
- Funding of the Thornton formula growth.
- Restoration of nonpublic placements at the previous 80/20 split.
- Restoration of the proposed GCEI reduction for this year.

In addition, Mr. Brown stated that \$5.1 million will come in the form of a Special Education grant, but it is unknown at this time how the school system will be allowed to use those funds.

## **Revenues (General Fund)**

Changes since the last Board work session on the budget include:

- Increasing the County Appropriation by \$4,565,290 in response to the stimulus package.
- Increasing State Sources by \$422,710.
- Increasing Other Sources by \$6,000 to reflect the use of Scantrons (\$2,000) rather than renting voting machines (\$8,000) for the election of the Student Member of the Board of Education.
- Total FY 2010 Operating Budget Request: \$663,976,570.

## **FY 2010 Operating Budget Request**

### Pupil Personnel Workers (PPWs)

Dr. Siddiqui spoke about data showing the increase in citizens looking for affordable housing and/or in need of financial help. The Grassroots Center has experienced a 300-percent increase in calls regarding these issues. She indicated the need for an additional PPW as a maintenance of effort in this area and an investment in resources to maintain Goal 1 of the school system, continue the progress that has been made, and continue to close the achievement gap. In addition to the increase in children experiencing homelessness, there is a 2- to 4-percent increase in children with developmental delays, learning disabilities, and emotional problems.

*Motion:* Dr. Siddiqui moved that an additional PPW position be included in the budget at an approximate cost of \$115,000, which includes benefits.

The motion died for lack of a second.

*Motion:* Mr. Dyer moved to add one PPW position, with an increase of \$115,000, reduce the parochial school transportation budget by an equal amount, and restore the revenue by charging back to the parochial schools \$115,000.

The motion died for lack of a second.

### Administration

*Action:* Mr. Cohen moved approval of the Administration budget in the amount of \$11,096,780. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Mid-Level Administration

*Action:* Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Mid-Level Administration budget in the amount of \$51,618,170. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Instructional Salaries

*Action:* Mrs. French moved approval of the Instructional Salaries budget in the amount of \$280,593,440. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Instructional Texts/Materials

*Action:* Mr. Aquino moved approval of the Instructional Texts/Materials budget in the amount of \$13,551,890. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Instructional Other

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Instructional Other budget in the amount of \$2,527,820. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Special Education

*Action:* Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the Special Education budget in the amount of \$83,147,250. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Pupil Personnel

*Action:* Mr. Cohen moved approval of the Pupil Personnel budget in the amount of \$2,834,680. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Health

*Action:* Mrs. Gordon moved approval of the Health budget in the amount of \$5,980,900. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Transportation

*Action:* Mrs. French moved approval of the Transportation budget in the amount of \$33,017,330. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Operation of Plant

*Action:* Mr. Aquino moved approval of the Operation of Plant budget in the amount of \$45,035,810. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Maintenance of Plant

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Maintenance of Plant budget in the amount of \$22,069,730. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Fixed Charges

*Action:* Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the Fixed Charges budget in the amount of \$105,383,170. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Community Services

*Action:* Mr. Cohen moved approval of the Community Services budget in the amount of \$6,205,340. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Capital Outlay

*Action:* Mrs. Gordon moved approval of the Capital Outlay budget in the amount of \$914,260. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Total Proposed FY 2010 Operating Budget: \$663,976,570

## **Revolving Funds**

### Food and Nutrition Services Fund

*Action:* Mrs. French moved approval of the Food and Nutrition Services Fund in the amount of \$11,692,320. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Worker's Compensation Self-Insurance Fund

*Action:* Mr. Aquino moved approval of the Worker's Compensation Self-Insurance Fund in the amount of \$2,284,130. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Printing and Duplicating Fund

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Printing and Duplicating Fund in the amount of \$2,683,470. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Information Management/Computer Services Fund

*Action:* Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the Information Management/Computer Services Fund in the amount of \$5,113,080. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Health and Dental Self-Insurance Fund

*Action:* Mr. Cohen moved approval of the Health and Dental Self-Insurance Fund in the amount of \$97,100,860. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### Grants Fund

*Action:* Mrs. Gordon moved approval of the Grants Fund in the amount of \$30,100,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

## **FY 2010 Operating Budget Revenues - Summary**

*Action:* Mr. Aquino moved approval of revenue sources as follows:

County Appropriation	\$461,761,400
State Sources	195,711,820
Federal Sources	370,000
Other Sources	<u>6,133,350</u>
Total Revenue Request	\$663,976,570

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

## **FY 2010 Capital Budget Request**

The following changes were introduced at the last work session on the budget:

- Defer Maintenance/Warehouse Facility.
- Defer Old Cedar lane Project.

In addition, designated state funding reduces the capital request from the county to \$81 million, with an overall request of \$95 million.

*Action:* Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the FY 2010 Capital Budget Request in the amount of \$95,028,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

## **FY 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program Request**

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved approval of the FY 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program Request in the amount of \$536,974,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

## **FY 2010-2019 Long-Range Master Plan**

*Action:* Mr. Aquino moved approval of the FY 2010-2019 Long-Range Master Plan in the amount of \$1,035,883,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

## **FY 2010-2015 Long-Range Systemic Renovation Projects**

For information only.

## Comments

Dr. Cousin emphasized that unknowns still exist regarding the stimulus for Special Education and how the funds will be used. Additional information will be provided as soon as it becomes available. Dr. Cousin thanked the account managers and all employees who diligently worked on constructing the proposed budget. He stated that although the budget is prudent, it is still an effective instrument for carrying out the mission and meeting the goals of the school system. He noted the importance of protecting the classroom and ensuring that teachers have the necessary resources to provide the best instruction in the best possible environment.

Board members also expressed appreciation to everyone involved in developing the budget.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:55 a.m.

## Attachments

- FY 2010 Operating Budget Request Summary
- FY 2010 Capital Budget Request
- FY 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program Request
- FY 2010-2019 Long-Range Master Plan
- FY 2010-2015 Long-Range Systemic Renovation Projects