

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

April 30, 2009

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 30, 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 (left at 5:15 p.m.)
Patricia S. Gordon
Janet Siddiqui, M.D.
Adejire Bademosi, Student Member (left at 4:30 p.m.)

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

Chairman Frank Aquino called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., and Ms. Bademosi led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Approval of Agenda

- The Consent Agendas were moved to follow the Program Agenda.
- Meeting minutes include Closed Meetings of February 12 and March 12, 2009 (Official and Confidential); Regular Board Meeting of March 26, 2009; and the Legislative Committee Meeting of March 30, 2009.

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

Superintendent's Report

In his report to the Board, Dr. Cousin congratulated the following employees:

- Tracy Ganey Spillman, G/T Resource Teacher at Lime Kiln Middle School, recipient of the Washington Post's Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.
- Cynthia Hankin, Principal at Deep Run Elementary School, recipient of the Washington Post's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award.
- Gary Williams, Night Building Supervisor at Rockburn Elementary School, recipient of the HCPSS Excellence Award for Building Operations.
- Nancy Duffy, Principal's Secretary at River Hill High School, recipient of the HCPSS Office Professional Recognition Award.
- Kristie Dietrich, Elementary Inclusion Paraeducator at Cedar Lane School, recipient of the HCPSS Special Education Distinguished Assistant Award.
- Erik Burnett, BSAP Transition Assistant at Atholton High School, recipient of the HCPSSS Distinguished Assistant Award.
- Christina DeForge, recipient of the 2009 Presidential Award from the Maryland School Psychologists' Association.
- Robert DeAngelis, recipient of the 2009 Educator of the Year Award from the Maryland School Psychologists' Association.

Dr. Cousin also announced that the following schools earned Green School Certification from the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education:

- Atholton Elementary
- Centennial Lane Elementary
- Dayton Oaks Elementary
- Deep Run Elementary
- Forest Ridge Elementary
- Glenwood Middle
- Hollifield Station Elementary
- Longfellow Elementary

Dr. Terry Alban, Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on the recent H1N1 influenza strain and assured the community that the school system's emergency team is working closely with the county health department in response to this situation.

Student Representative's Report

No Student Representative was present to provide a report to the Board.

Board Members' Reports

Mr. Dyer spoke about an environmental initiative that the school system is pursuing with the Howard County Conservancy. He also noted that the annual Sheep and Wool Festival will be held the first weekend in May at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Ms. Bademosi reported on her attendance at the Maryland Association of Student Councils' recent convention, the Bentley Tomorrow25 Leadership Forum, and the Hispanic Mini Youth Symposium. She also announced that the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) will hold a meeting on May 13, 2009, and all students are welcome.

Dr. Siddiqui spoke about her attendance at the grand opening of the new skate park at Centennial Park and noted that the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks plans to open additional skate parks in the future.

Mr. Cohen reminded the public of prom season and noted the importance of supporting schools in keeping students safe.

Mrs. Giles reported on the county's Discovery Fair for Early Childhood Education, which is jointly supported by various county agencies.

Bright Minds Foundation

Presenters: Mrs. Mamie Perkins, Chief of Staff, and Mr. Douglas Hostetler, Chairman of the Bright Minds Foundation Board of Directors.

Mrs. Perkins noted that in 2006, the Board approved the formation of an educational foundation to support HCPSS. She introduced the Bright Minds Foundation Board—a group of community volunteers committed to the cause of preparing all students to thrive and succeed in an ever-changing, global world.

Mr. Hostetler reported on the status of the educational foundation and provided a brief overview of activities and plans to date. Murray

Hill MS Principal, Mr. Donyall Dickey, spoke about the positive impact that the Bright Minds Foundation has had on the school, the students, and the community.

NAACP – Recognition of School Improvement

Dr. Rhonda Jones, Chairperson of the Howard County NAACP Education Committee, presented recognition awards to Howard County schools that improved academic performance, increased attendance, improved graduation rates, and lowered suspension rates of African American students.

Appointment - Community Advisory Council (CAC) Monthly Report

Mr. Steven Estomin, Policy Committee Chairman, presented a report on recent activities of the CAC, including general policy concerns and steps that are being taken to ensure better communication and participation in the policy process. In addition, Mr. Estomin noted that the CAC is looking into HCPSS policies regarding drug violations and will be formulating a position and possible recommendation to the Board on this issue.

Superintendent's FY 2010 Operating & Capital Budget Priorities in Response to County Executive's Proposed Budget

Dr. Cousin provided the Board with a status report on the FY 2010 Operating and Capital Budget Requests. He noted that the County Executive's budget reduces the Board's request by \$4.2 million. Even though the Executive has recommended increasing funding for the school system by \$2.8 million over FY 2009 (which meets the maintenance of effort requirement), it still falls short of the Board's request.

Revised state revenue projections indicate that the school system will receive \$3.1 million less than anticipated, and the system will also see a decrease in revenue based on the change in the funding formula for out-of-county placement of special education students. Overall, the Board is facing a reduction of \$7.7 million to the operating budget request.

In addition to \$3.0 million in operating funds designated for services to children with disabilities that has been freed by anticipated stimulus funds, the Superintendent recommended the following:

- Use \$3.3 million in FY 2009 year-end funds to pre-fund the Technology Internal Service Fund for FY 2010.
- Reduce Fixed Charges by \$500,000 based on updated calculations for retirement costs.
- Reduce accounting costs by \$49,000 due to a lower than anticipated bid for auditing services.
- Remove unfilled positions based on the latest enrollment projections for a savings of \$604,940; use pool positions if later adjustments are necessary.
- Cut \$180,060 from Transportation based on a decrease in fuel costs.

In his proposed capital budget for the county, the County Executive cut the Board's FY 2010 Capital Budget Request by \$26.2 million. The state recently increased funding to Howard County from \$14.3 to \$16.3 million by adding \$1 million each to the renovations projects for Mt. Hebron HS and Northfield ES.

Dr. Cousin recommended that the Board ask the County Council to restore at least \$10.7 million to the capital budget as follows:

- Not supplant the extra \$2.0 million, but put it into technology to fund the teacher laptop replacement cycle.
- Restore \$4.7 million for systemic projects.
- Transfer \$4.0 million from other projects into systemic projects.

A public hearing before the County Council will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009, and a county budget work session is scheduled for May 8. The County Council will adopt their budget on May 20, and the Board of Education will hold a work session and public hearing on May 21. Final adoption of the Board's FY 2010 Operating and Capital Budgets is scheduled for June 1, 2009.

Discussion:

Dr. Cousin stated that staff is looking into the possibility of moving qualified maintenance requests into the capital budget. He assured the Board that no maintenance items related to health or safety issues would be deferred.

Mrs. Gordon spoke in support of Central Office positions that serve to strengthen and enhance teaching/learning positions and noted the importance of these positions to the curriculum.

It was noted that the deferral of projects for dance studios at Hammond and Centennial high schools will not affect delivery of the programs at this time.

Mr. Aquino encouraged the public to provide oral or written testimony to the County Council and the Board of Education regarding the FY 2010 budget.

Categorical Transfer/FY 2009 Operating Budget*

Mr. Ray Brown, Chief Financial Officer, explained that categorical transfers are necessary to ensure that no individual category will be overspent at the fiscal year end. He presented a categorical transfer request for \$1.47 million to be transferred from the Operation of Plant (Fixed Charges) and Transportation categories to the Special Education category to address a projected deficit. The projected deficit is a result of fewer vacancies in Special Education and the use of more costly contracted services where vacancies did occur.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of the categorical transfer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dyer and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Bridge To Excellence - Social Studies

Presenters: Mr. Mark Stout, Curriculum Coordinator, Secondary Social Studies, and Ms. Kim Loisel, Curriculum Coordinator, Elementary Social Studies.

Mr. Stout and Ms. Loisel presented a report on the elementary and secondary social studies programs and the goal to provide students with the content and skills to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good. The selection of content for social studies curriculum is based on the content standards established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in the Voluntary State Curriculum in the areas of:

- Political Science
- Peoples of the Nations and the World
- Geography
- Economics
- History
- Social Studies Skills and Processes

These topics are embedded within the various lessons and units provided for each grade level. A specific integration of language arts skills is also an important component of each of the lessons.

Brian Wallace, social studies teacher at the Homewood Center, reported on the TCI (Teachers Curriculum Institute) Approach, which emphasizes an interactive approach to teaching social studies. Secondary resource teacher Robert Coffman explained how social studies instruction supports content literacy and success in reading. Stacy Walker, teacher at Triadelphia Ridge ES, reported on how the Simulated Congressional Hearings (SCH) promote civic efficacy and create active, informed citizens of the future.

Student preparation and performance on the American Government High School Assessment (HSA) was addressed by resource teacher Arden Stara. Laura Migasiuk, Reservoir HS student, spoke about her participation in the History Day Program and how the program promotes problem solving and critical thinking. Wilde Lake MS teacher Laura Attridge reported on how the Teaching American History grant impacts students through content knowledge for cultural literacy.

Discussion:

Board members commented on the value of the Simulated Congressional Hearings that are held in the elementary schools.

It was noted that financial literacy teaching begins in elementary school and continues into high school. It is integrated through various subject areas, in many different capacities.

Ms. Attridge explained that last year, as part of the American History grant, projects were chosen that relate to either Howard County or Maryland history. This year, that research will be used to write document-based questions and historical investigations. Staff agreed to provide the wikispace web link for all projects and descriptions of programs to the Board.

Mr. Stout noted that teachers are encouraged to discuss current events on a weekly basis. Ms. Loisel provided examples of ways that current events are addressed at the elementary level.

Board members expressed appreciation to staff for their presentation and commended them on their work.

Consent Agendas - Restricted* and General

The consent agendas were combined due to the absence of the Student Member.

Bids and Contracts; Donations; Non-Tenured Teacher Renewal; Non-Renewal of Teacher's Contract; Summer School Principals; Closed Meeting Minutes (Official and Confidential) of February 12 and March 12, 2009; Regular Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2009; Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes of March 30, 2009; and Recommended Appointment to the Board of Directors of the HCPSS Educational Foundation.

The minutes of the Legislative Committee meeting of March 30, 2009, were pulled due to a lack of Board committee members available for approval.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Restricted and General Consent Agendas, including the Closed Meeting minutes of February 12 and March 12, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen 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	INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT SERVICES Innovative Pest Management	\$82,752
P-2	STORAGE BUILDING Doubletree Structures	\$28,992
P-3	TRACK RESURFACING American Tennis Courts, Inc.	\$169,035
P-4	ENGINEERING SERVICES - CLARKSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL MASONRY WALL REPAIRS Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger	\$350,000
P-5	ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS AT MT. HEBRON HIGH SCHOOL Contract 10A – Partition Plus, Inc. Contract 10D – Steel Products, Inc. Contract 12A – Steel Products, Inc.	\$203,250 123,400 <u>347,437</u> \$674,087

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Running Brook ES: Vivian Bailey in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the purchase of printer cartridges for the computer lab and a camcorder.

St. John's ES: Target, in the amount of \$527.36, designated for the purchase of a bookbinding machine.

Atholton HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$784, designated for the purchase of a cart that holds basketballs.

Charles C. Harrison, in the amount of \$500, designated for the purchase of helmets, shoulder pads, elbow pads, and gloves for the boys' lacrosse team.

Hammond HS: Savage Boys and Girls Club, in the amount of \$1,500, designated for the purchase of an irrigation system for the baseball field.

Boosters, in the amount of \$2,000, designated for the purchase of an irrigation system for the baseball field.

River Hill HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$1,200, designated for the purchase of wrestling uniforms.

Non-Tenured Teacher Renewal – Approved by the Board.Non-Renewal of Teacher's Contract – Approved by the Board.Summer School Principals – Approved by the Board.

Comprehensive K-8 Summer School: Gavin West, Principal
Comprehensive High Summer School: Rick Robb, Principal

Closed Meeting Minutes of February 12 and March 12, 2009 (Official and Confidential) – Approved by the Board.Regular Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2009 – Approved by the Board.

Recommended Appointment to the Board of Directors of the HCPSS Educational Foundation – Approved by the Board.

Richard Talkin – Reappointed to the Board of Directors of the Bright Minds Foundation.

Proclamation: Pupil Personnel Worker Week

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
HONORING
PUPIL PERSONNEL WORKERS

WHEREAS the Howard County Public School System recognizes each child is unique and valuable and must experience good mental, emotional and physical health to be successful in school; and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers work to foster awareness of the unique characteristics of every child and the importance of their education in the home, school and community; and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers help children recognize and solve problems that impede their ability to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS in their role on Student Support Teams, Pupil Personnel Workers develop and participate in the planning of educational programs that promote academic success; and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers serve as child advocates by assisting parents in bridging the gap between home and school in issues dealing with a child's physical, psychological, social and intellectual growth, and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers serve as liaisons with community organizations and social services agencies to ensure that families and children are aware of and have access to appropriate services.

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates the week of May 18-22, 2009 as Pupil Personnel Worker Week in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board intends that this proclamation serve to launch appropriate activities in recognition of the vital role that Pupil Personnel Workers play in the personal and academic development of students.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Proclamation: Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING MAY 2009
AS
ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates the cultural, intellectual, economic and social contributions of Americans of Asian/Pacific heritage; and

WHEREAS more than 14.9 million Americans are of Asian/Pacific Islander origin and Asian/Pacific Islanders number over 31,877 in Howard County alone; and

WHEREAS the school system has 7,632 students and 240 employees of Asian/Pacific American Islander origin; and

WHEREAS the vitality of the community can be seen in the three Chinese Language schools, over 14 Korean churches, one Buddhist temple, and a number of ethnic businesses contributing to the community; and

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific Americans bring to our society a rich heritage representing more than 47 ethnic groups of many languages, cultural and religious traditions; and

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific Americans reinforce the values and ideals that are essential to the continued well-being of our nation and our community as family members, citizens, and involved members of the community; and

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific Americans, one of the fastest growing segments of our population, support the standard of educational excellence for every child; and

WHEREAS the theme in 2009 is: *Leadership to Meet the Challenges of a Changing World;*

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education declares May 2009 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Howard County community joins the celebration by expanding their knowledge of the contributions Asian/Pacific Americans make to our culturally diverse community.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Proclamation: Audiologist/Speech-Language Pathologists

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
HONORING
AUDIOLOGISTS & SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

WHEREAS, an estimated 42 million Americans, or 1 in 10 families, have some type of communication disorder, which has a \$30 billion impact on the U.S. economy due to lost work productivity, the provision of special education services, and medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System is proud to have 123 audiologists and speech-language pathologists offering quality education services to its students; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System recognizes the expertise of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in developing the listening, speaking, literacy and language skills of our students; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System values the efforts of all audiologists and speech-language pathologists to help individuals with communication disorders reach their academic potential and lead independent, productive and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, May is traditionally observed as Better Hearing and Speech Month;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates the month of May 2009 as Better Hearing and Speech Month in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this proclamation serves to recognize the contributions made by audiologists and speech-language pathologists in improving the quality of life for students with communication disorders.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Proclamation: Honoring Principals

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
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, school principals serve as instructional leaders and, in that capacity, influence the academic achievement of all students; and

WHEREAS, school principals are responsible for providing safe, nurturing teaching and learning environments for students, staff and parents; and

WHEREAS, the professional responsibilities of school principals include building the leadership capacity of staff members and mentoring aspiring administrators; and

WHEREAS, school principals often need to juggle numerous responsibilities, work extended hours, and make difficult, unpopular decisions; and

WHEREAS, the success of a school depends on the principal's ability to work collaboratively with all stakeholder groups and establish positive relationships by building trust, practicing open communication, and demonstrating cultural proficiency; and

WHEREAS, school principals effectively promote the success of students and staff through efficient management of the school's organization, operations and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to acknowledge the significant role that school principals have in creating and preserving high quality public schools that are a source of local pride and are recognized as being among the best in the nation;

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education designates May 1, 2009, as the first annual Principal Appreciation Day in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education extends sincere appreciation to school principals for their individual and collective commitment to the success of all students in 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. Gordon moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

BRIDGES To Success-21st Century Community Learning Centers Programs*

Presenters: Ms. Diane Martin, Director of Student, Family, and Community Services; and Ms. Marty Cifrese, Bridges Program Manager.

HCPSS has received \$375,000 from MSDE for year one of the three-year grant BRIDGES To Success-21st Century Community Learning Centers Programs. Funding will support a variety of programs to assist students at Swansfield and Talbott Springs elementary schools and Oakland Mills and Harper's Choice middle schools with their academic performance.

Mrs. Giles extended congratulations to Ms. Cifrese; Ms. Caroline Walker, Coordinator of Academic Intervention and Title I Programs; and Ms. Martin for the work being done in connection with this grant.

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved that the Board approve acceptance of the BRIDGES To Success-21st Century Community Learning Centers Programs grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (6/0).

Adjournment – By Board consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 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.