

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

May 21, 2009

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 21, 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  
Janet Siddiqui, M.D.  
Adejire Bademosi, Student Member

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

Chairman Frank Aquino called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m., and Ms. Bademosi led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Memorial Day Tribute (Community Advisory Council)**

Mr. Chris Wertman, Chairman, Community Advisory Council (CAC), presented a Memorial Day Tribute in honor of veterans and their families and friends.

## **Public Forum**

Ms. Sharon Maneki, Chairman of the Legislative and Advocacy Committee of the National Federation of the Blind, spoke about the importance of providing blind and visually impaired students with access to appropriate technology that will enable them to participate fully in their academic programs.

## **Approval of Agenda**

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Item 8.B. IFAS Quarterly Status Report – Change from Report to Information Item.

- Move Item 10. Appointment – Citizens Advisory Committee Monthly Report from the evening session to the end of the afternoon session.

General consent agenda includes Regular Meeting minutes of April 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 (7/0).

### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Sportsmanship Award**

*Presenter:* Mr. Mike Williams, Athletics Coordinator.

Mr. Williams explained that this award has been presented annually since the 1994/1995 school year to the school displaying outstanding sportsmanship. The sportsmanship cup honors the philosophy and mission of the school system's interscholastic athletic program.

Mr. Williams presented the 2009 HCPSS Sportsmanship Award to Glenelg HS, which was accepted by Athletics and Activities Manager John Davis. Honorable mention was also given to Atholton and Oakland Mills high schools as runners up.

### **Music Educator of the Year Award**

*Presenter:* Mr. Rob White, Instructional Facilitator for Music.

Mr. White introduced June Kerger of the Howard County Parents for School Music, who presented the group's Music Educator of the Year Award. This year's recipient is Shelley Williams, band director at Mount View MS.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Cousin reported on the annual In Honor of Excellence Ceremony held on May 19. He also congratulated the following individuals:

- Jamie Murphy, home-hospital teacher, for receiving the 2009 Shirley R. Mullinix Award for Home and Hospital Teacher of the Year
- Athletic and Activities Managers Mike Senisi of Atholton, John Davis of Glenelg, and Rick Lloyd of River Hill high schools for earning Athletic Administrator certification from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

## **Student Representative's Report**

There was no Student Representative present to report to the Board.

## **Board Members' Reports**

Mr. Cohen reported on his attendance at a dance program at Hammond HS—another outstanding performance by HCPSS students. In addition, he attended a fine arts celebration at Wilde Lake HS and remarked on the quality of the programs in the county's schools.

Mrs. Giles spoke about the Elementary Festival Chorus, who performed an amazing concert, in addition to the HCPSS Employees' Chorus.

Dr. Siddiqui reported on her attendance at the Healthy Howard Second Annual Healthy Schools Innovation Awards Ceremony. Awards are given to schools that have an original schoolwide program that demonstrates a positive impact on school health in the categories of physical activity, nutrition, mental health, safety, and environmental health. Nine middle schools and 15 elementary schools received awards.

Ms. Bademosi spoke about the recent HCASC meeting where elections were held and students prepared for next year. She noted that HCASC looks forward to working with the Board and with Josh Manley, Student Member of the Board elect next year. In addition, Ms. Bademosi reported on her attendance at the Conexiones Convocation Ceremony and the expansion of the program in reaching more students in different categories of achievement.

Mrs. French stated that Conexiones received over 72 applications for various scholarships. The organization was able to provide monetary awards to half of the applicants, and no student had a GPA lower than 3.2. She also noted that she and Dr. Siddiqui were judges at recent Simulated Congressional Hearings at West Friendship ES.

## **Consent Agenda (Restricted\*)**

### Bids and Contracts and Donations

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of the Restricted Consent Agenda. 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	<b>ROOF REPLACEMENT AT ATHOLTON HIGH SCHOOL, PHASE II</b> Simpson of Maryland, Inc.	\$919,000
P-2	<b>VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT</b> SSI Surveillance System Integration	\$92,320

<u>Action</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Vendor/Agency/Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PR-1	HVAC Indefinite Quantity Contract	Maryland Department of General Services Indefinite quantity contract for HVAC services and related work – Emjay Engineering and Construction, Inc. Expires: April 11, 2011 Savings: Timely repair of boilers and related pipe work at Talbot Springs ES and Dunloggin MS.	\$800,000 approx.
PR-2	Oracle Technical Support Services	GSA contract No. GS-35F-0009T Oracle Database Enterprise Edition To support the various software programs utilizing the Oracle database system Expires: March 30, 2010 Savings: \$1,801 over other distribution systems	\$43,212.37

Donations – Approved by the Board.

The following donations have been received:

Manor Woods ES: General Mills, Box Tops for Education, in the amount of \$1,236.80, designated for the purchase of a color printer for the media center.

PTA, in the amount of \$550, designated for a cultural arts program given by the Kinetics Dance Theatre.

- Atholton HS: PTSA, in the amount of \$2,000, (\$1,000) designated to assist with the end of the year expenses for senior activities and celebrations, and (\$1,000) designated for a cultural arts presentation by Karen Gaffney.
- Centennial HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$750, designated for the after prom party.
- Allegis Group Foundation, in the amount of \$2,500, designated for the after prom party.
- Glenelg HS: Anonymous Donor, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the R. P. Connor Scholarship Fund.
- Boosters, in the amount of \$5,000, designated for the purchase of the following: tennis balls, baseballs, softballs, basketballs, lacrosse balls, scorebooks, fees for lacrosse tournaments, track and field meets and uniforms for the softball team.
- Howard HS: Music Boosters, in the amount of \$8,172.50, designated to assist with expenses for the spring trip.
- Long Reach HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$1,500, (\$500) designated for the purchase of Drama costumes and (\$1,000) designated for the purchase of equipment for the boys' lacrosse team.
- Marriotts Ridge HS: Eun's Inc., in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the purchase of pull up bars, peg boards and team head gear for the wrestling team.
- Gourmet Express Catering, a donation of food for the Administration and Team Leaders retreat, valued at \$555.
- Mt. Hebron HS: Backers, in the amount of \$1,250, designated for the purchase of (2) 10x15 tents for the athletic department.

Reservoir HS: Raytheon Solypsis, in the amount of \$12,000, designated to support the Project Community retreat.

River Hill HS: PTSA, in the amount of \$10,265.40, designated for the after prom party.

Boosters, in the amount of \$1,766.25, (\$566.25) designated for the purchase of varsity cheerleading uniforms, and (\$1,200) designated for the purchase of lacrosse gloves for the boys' lacrosse team.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 30, 2009, and Final Legislative Report/2009 General Assembly.

The Final Legislative Report/2009 General Assembly was pulled for discussion.

#### Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 30, 2009

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 30, 2009. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

#### Final Legislative Report/2009 General Assembly – Accepted by the Board.

Mr. Brown presented information related to the summary of legislation that the governor has signed into law. He spoke about the following potential pieces of legislation that failed this year but will probably reappear in the next session:

- State Aid Funding Formulas
- Retirement Cost Shift
- Maintenance of Effort
- Collective Bargaining

Mr. Brown noted that he will be working with the Board's Legislative Committee to begin development of the legislative platform for the year 2010.

**Bridge to Excellence: Environmental “Green” Initiatives**

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

Mr. Roey provided a comprehensive overview of the school system’s instructional and operational green initiatives. The school system promotes a Green School strategy that integrates efforts, including the incorporation of Leadership in Energy Efficiency in Design (LEED) standards into new construction and renovations to existing buildings where possible. A Resource Conservation Report has been developed to help communicate the wide range of academic and facility-based initiatives within the school system that support a more sustainable environment.

Mr. Roey noted that 18 Howard County schools have achieved Green School certification from the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education, including eight this year. The Science and Gifted and Talented Curriculum offices are leading the way in helping school-based staff integrate sustainable practices into the classroom environment.

Some of the most visible systemwide efforts include comprehensive plans to reduce energy use through improved system design, ongoing maintenance, and user awareness.

Recycling policies encourage reuse of natural resources and are gaining momentum. In 2008, Waste Management recognized HCPSS as first among all school systems in the Baltimore area in recycling volume, with over 1,000 tons recycled. Earlier this month, Howard County amended their existing trash and recycling contracts to standardize school and community recycling programs and reduced costs by over \$60,000 in the first year.

Presentations were given by the Oakland Mills HS, Burleigh Manor MS, and Centennial Lane ES, which provided information on each school’s green initiatives.

Mr. Roey stated that he would continue to provide progress reports on green initiatives annually.

*Discussion:*

Appreciation was expressed by the Superintendent and Board members to the teachers, students, and other staff members for their efforts in helping the school system be environmentally responsible.

It was noted that collaboration with the County Council and County Executive has also produced great results with regards to green initiatives and environmental concerns.

It was suggested that HCPSS also look into exchanging best practices and ideas with other counties nationwide.

**Process Improvements for the Bridge to Excellence (BTE) Master Plan**

*Presenters:* Dr. Terry Alban, Chief Operating Officer, and Mrs. Sue Mascaro, Director, Staff Relations.

Dr. Alban and Mrs. Mascaro reported on process improvements for the development and execution of the school system's Bridge to Excellence Master Plan.

*Highlights of Revised Planning Efforts:*

- Inclusion of all HCPSS divisions/offices.
- Common, systemic high leverage strategies.
- Alignment with the Superintendent's goals.
- Identification of efficiencies and process improvements.
- Emphasis on reflection and continuous improvement (PDSA cycle).

*Future Direction/Next Steps:*

- Expand role of the Cross Functional Team.
- Refocus the District Planning Team.
- Involve the Board early in the process.
  - Seek input on items to include in the plan.
  - Continue monthly updates.
- Gather input from HCPSS Advisory Committees.

*Discussion:*

Board members expressed support for the proposed process improvements and the involvement of the Board in the early stages of the plan.

Dr. Alban noted that staff also plans to be more proactive in soliciting ideas from advisory committees as well.

**Proclamation: Recognition of Custodial, Maintenance, Grounds, and Warehouse Personnel**

*BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY*  
**PROCLAMATION**  
IN APPRECIATION  
OF  
CUSTODIAL, GROUNDS, MAINTENANCE &  
WAREHOUSE PERSONNEL

**WHEREAS** the Custodial, Grounds, Maintenance and Warehouse personnel of the Howard County Public School System serve the staff, students and community with dedication and commitment; and

**WHEREAS** the Custodial, Grounds, Maintenance and Warehouse personnel play a vital role in maintaining our schools, offices and grounds in a highly efficient and safe manner; and

**WHEREAS** the Custodial, Grounds, Maintenance and Warehouse personnel consistently respond to the needs of the school system and individual schools by providing a safe and nurturing learning environment for our students; and

**WHEREAS** the Custodial, Grounds, Maintenance and Warehouse personnel are often the unsung heroes of the Howard County Public School System; and

**WHEREAS** the end of the 2008-2009 school year provides an opportunity to recognize the numerous contributions made by these dedicated employees;

**THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Board of Education of Howard County supports efforts to express appreciation to the Custodial, Grounds, Maintenance and Warehouse personnel of the school system; and

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that this declaration be adopted by the Board of Education of Howard County in recognition of and appreciation for the dedication and high quality of service provided by our Custodial, Grounds, Maintenance and Warehouse personnel in their support of the Howard County Public School System.

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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:* Mrs. Giles moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bademosi and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

### **2009/2010 Recommended School Opening/Closing Times**

*Presenter:* Mr. David Drown, Director of Transportation.

Mr. Drown presented the final school opening and closing times for the 2009/2010 school year. The schedule includes only two changes to the current schedule. Veterans ES will change from a 9:10 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. schedule to a 9:25 a.m. - 3:55 p.m. schedule. Mr. Drown estimates that this change will save the school system approximately \$340,000 next year. The other change involves the nonpublic St. Augustine School, which receives student transportation through the public system. St. Augustine's schedule will change from 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. to 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

The Pupil Transportation office staff will continue to monitor recommended opening and closing times during the first two weeks of the school year. Final adjustments of ten minutes or less may be necessary based on school bus arrival times during the first week.

#### *Discussion:*

Board members thanked Mr. Drown for keeping schools and the community informed of these changes. They also expressed appreciation for his explanation of the rationale behind the changes, noting that many concerned parents from Veterans ES had contacted the Board.

It was also noted that approximately 50 percent of HCPSS elementary schools have the same hours as the new schedule for Veterans ES.

### **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Monthly Report**

Mr. Chris Wertman, CAC Chairman, provided the Board with a copy of the CAC's budget testimony that was presented to the County Council. He also provided a copy of CAC's bylaws, which were recently reviewed and updated. In addition, Mr. Wertman announced the new officers for next year's CAC.

**Recess** – The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 6:25 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

## **Public Forum**

Teacher Pamela Benya, Lisbon ES, spoke about the importance of continuing to fund stipends and scholarships for National Board Certified teachers.

## **Public Hearing on FY 2010 Operating and Capital Budgets and FY 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program**

No testimony was presented.

## **Public Work Session - FY 2010 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets and FY 2010-2015 Capital Improvement Program**

The Board reviewed the final versions of the FY 2010 Capital and Operating budgets. Mr. Brown reviewed the changes to the Capital Budget.

In approving the county's capital budget, the County Council approved the Board's request to use an additional \$2 million in state funding for technology. The County Council also approved the transfer of \$1 million from systemic renovations to facilities modernization and \$4 million from full-day kindergarten and the Mt. Hebron HS project to systemic renovations. The County Council denied a request for restoration of \$3.7 million of the funds cut by the County Executive from the Board's capital request.

Budget Officer Woody Swinson reviewed adjustments made to the Board of Education's requested operating budget to address the \$7 million shortfall in revenue for next year. After adjustments, the Operating Budget for FY10 totals \$656,694,110.

The Board will take action on both budgets at 9:00am on Monday, June 1, 2009.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned by Board consensus at 7:56 p.m.

## **Information Item**

IFAS Quarterly Status Report

\*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.