

APPROVED MINUTES – 08/11/09

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in closed session at 5:34 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. James E. Coleman, Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Mr. David Uhlfelder, and Miss Jacqueline Z. Camp. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Ms. Murphy reminded Board members of community functions and Board of Education events scheduled in July and August.

Mr. Coleman commended the Superintendent and staff on the success of the principals' academy and encouraged Board members to attend next year. Ms. Murphy distributed allocation information to Board members who were unable to attend the principals' academy.

Mr. Janssen informed the Board that the Calvert County Board of Education asked the Maryland Association of Boards of Education's Resolution Committee to amend its Charter School Resolution to address the disposition of property acquired by a public charter school with public funds.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Articles, §§10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), and (a)(9) and upon motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:47 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:47 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. James E. Coleman, Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Mr. David Uhlfelder, and Miss Jacqueline Z. Camp. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and the following staff members were present: J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff; Mr. William Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, Northwest Area; Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent, Southwest Area; Ms. Barbara Walker, Assistant Superintendent, Central Area; Ms. Jennifer Mullenax, Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, Southeast Area; Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Mr. Daniel Capozzi, Staff Relations Manager; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esquire, General Counsel; Edward J. Novak, Esquire, Associate General Counsel; Ronald M. Miller, Esquire, Knight, Manzi, Nussbaum & LaPlaca, P.A.; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Miss Camp exited the room at 5:48 p.m.

Mr. Capozzi advised Board members on upcoming negotiations with collective bargaining units.

Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 5:51 p.m. Miss Camp re-entered the room at 5:51 p.m.

Dr. Peccia reviewed with Board members personnel matters to be considered on the evening's agenda.

Mr. Nussbaum provided legal advice on five (5) summary affirmances to be considered this evening with Board members.

On motion of Ms. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board adjourned its closed session at 6:05 p.m.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:00 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. James E. Coleman, Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Mr. David Uhlfelder, and Miss Jacqueline Z. Camp. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by Miss Jacqueline Camp, new student Board member, followed by a period of silent meditation for those who have served the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Dr. Hairston removed item VIII, Special Order of Business, from the agenda. Hearing no exception to this change, the agenda stood as corrected.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Open and Closed Minutes of June 9, 2009, Ms. Murphy declared the minutes approved as presented on the Web site.

Ms. Murphy informed the audience of the sessions in which Board members had participated earlier in the afternoon.

SELECTION OF SPEAKERS

After collecting completed sign-up cards, Ms. Murphy announced the names of persons who would be speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting as well as the order in which the persons would be called.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Ms. Nancy Ostrow, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, reported on the PTA Council's leadership training on June 11 at Loch Raven High School. She noted that all local PTA/PTSA leaders are encouraged to attend the state PTA training to be held on July 18. Ms. Ostrow stated that the national PTA has renamed the annual back-to-school kit, "PTAs Big Box of Possibilities."

Ms. Abby Beytin, a representative of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, brought greetings from TABCO and announced that she would be TABCO's vice president as of August 1, 2009.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston reported to the Board that the division of curriculum and instruction has been working diligently to create alignment and that he expects a great instructional year.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, recognized the administrative appointments from the June 9, 2009 Board meeting.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>STEPHEN B. BENDER</u> (Effective July 1, 2009)	Assistant to the Area Assistant Superintendent, Southeast Area Office of the Superintendent	Principal Logan Elementary School
<u>CHRISTINE L. DAVIS</u> (Effective July 1, 2009)	Teacher/Classroom Carney Elementary School	Assistant Principal Gunpowder Elementary School
<u>MELISSA E. DIDONATO</u> (Effective July 1, 2009)	Specialist, Public Placement Office of Special Education	Assistant Principal White Oak School
<u>CRAIG T. REED</u> (Effective July 1, 2009)	Teacher Baltimore City Public Schools	Assistant Principal Patapsco High School

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS (cont)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>JULIE A. SOMERS</u> (Effective July 1, 2009)	Teacher/Resource Office of Social Studies	Assistant Principal Pikesville Middle School
<u>JASON R. BARNETT</u> (Effective July 1, 2009)	Assistant Principal Dogwood Elementary	Principal Woodbridge Elementary
<u>BARBARA C. BISSET</u> (Effective July 1, 2009)	Director Department of Professional Professional Development	Executive Director Department of Development
<u>VERLETTA B. WHITE</u> (Effective July 1, 2009)	Executive Director, Professional Development Department of Professional	Area Assistant Superintendent

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010

Dr. Hairston, who presided during the election of the president of the Board of Education of Baltimore County, opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Pallozzi nominated Ms. JoAnn Murphy. Mr. Parker seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Dr. Hairston closed the nominations for the office of president. The motion to elect Ms. Murphy was passed (favor-10). Ms. Murphy abstained from voting.

Ms. Murphy assumed the chair and solicited nominations for the office of vice president of the Board of Education. Ms. O'Hare nominated Mr. H. Edward Parker. Mr. Pallozzi seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Ms. Murphy closed the nominations for the office of vice president. The motion to elect Mr. Parker as vice president of the Board of Education was passed (favor-10). Mr. Parker abstained from voting.

Board member, Ms. Valerie Roddy, entered the room at 7:14 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Education Policies

The Board Policy Committee, represented by Ms. O'Hare, recommended approval of seven (7) policies. This is the third reading.

Ms. O'Hare thanked Ms. Harris for her remarkable work on the Board and with the policy review committee.

OLD BUSINESS (cont)

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the following proposed policies (favor 12):

- Proposed Changes to Policy 1220 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement-Citizens Advisory Committees
- Proposed Changes to Policy 1500 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Zoning Information
- Proposed Changes to Policy 1600 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Public Charter Schools
- Proposed Changes to Policy 4001 – PERSONNEL: General-Drug-Free Workplace
- Proposed Changes to Policy 5550 – STUDENTS: Conduct-Disruptive Behavior
- Proposed New Policy 5580 – STUDENTS: Conduct-Bullying
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6501 – INSTRUCTION: Evaluation of the Instructional Program

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Board of Education Policies** – Ms. O’Hare stated that the Board of Education’s Policy Review Committee (PRC) had met to consider the policies presented this evening, and that the committee recommends approval of these policies. This is the first reading.
- Proposed Changes to Policy 1270 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement-Parent/Guardian and Family Involvement
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 2352 – ADMINISTRATION: Administrative Operations-Accidents/Medical Emergencies – Ms. Johnson expressed concern about the adequacy of the policy. Ms. Michele Prumo, Executive Director of Planning and Support Operations, stated that the policy language has been streamlined and that more specific administrative direction had been added to the superintendent’s rule. Ms. Johnson asked whether Policy 2352 could be modeled after Howard County’s, and whether the school system should place more detail in the policy and less in the rule. Mr. Janssen commented that the goal of the PRC is to simplify the policies and permit the Superintendent and

REPORTS (cont)

staff to administer the specifics through the rules. Ms. O'Hare also noted that the PRC wants the "how" to be the responsibility of the Superintendent.

Ms. Johnson asked that the PRC revisit the language in Policy 2352. Ms. O'Hare asked Ms. Johnson to inform the PRC of what changes she would like to see made to this policy.

- Proposed Deletion of Policy 3430 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Transportation Services-Procedures for Emergencies
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 4007 – PERSONNEL: General-Health and Safety
- Proposed Changes to Policy 4131 – PERSONNEL: Activities-Professional Growth
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 4132 – PERSONNEL: Activities-Support for Professional Activities
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 4147 – PERSONNEL: Compensation and Related Employee Benefits-Maryland State Retirement and Pension Systems
- Proposed Changes to Policy 4250 – PERSONNEL: Compensation and Related Employee Benefits-Retirement (renumbered to 4010)
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 5421 – STUDENTS: Services to Students-Life-Threatening Medical Emergencies
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 6001 – INSTRUCTION: Grouping
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 6305 – INSTRUCTION: Released Time – Religious Instruction
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6306 – INSTRUCTION: Prayer and Bible Reading
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6401 – INSTRUCTION: Gifted and Talented Education Program – Ms. Johnson asked why the language in section C was being deleted. Ms. Sonja Karwacki, Executive Director of Special Programs, PreK through 12, explained that the language is being transferred to the superintendent's rule.
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6702 – INSTRUCTION: Extracurricular Activities –Intramural, Informal, and Interscholastic Athletics

REPORTS (cont)

- B. **Fiscal Year 2011 Operating and Capital Budget Schedules** – Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Chief Financial Officer, outlined the FY 2011 operating and capital budget schedules for the upcoming school year. Ms. Burnopp noted that the FY 2010 Adopted Operating Budget is available on the Board of Education’s Web site. A hard copy of the budget book will be available to Board members in August.

- C. **Report on the Proposed Naming of the Parkville High School Football Field (first reading)** – Mr. William Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, Northwest Area, provided to Board members some history about the school, and the significance of the name selected: “Joseph Anthony Yates, Sr. Field.”

Mr. Pallozzi moved to waive the three-reading process on this item. Mr. Coleman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved waiving three readings on exhibit X.

On motion of Ms. O’Hare, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board approved naming the Parkville High School football field to the “Joseph Anthony Yates, Sr. Field” (favor-12).

- D. **Report on the New Signage for Red House Run Elementary School (first reading)** – In accordance with Board Policy 7330, Mr. Lawrence shared with Board members that the purchase of a new sign for Red House Run Elementary School is being privately funded.

Mr. Pallozzi moved to waive the three-reading process on this item. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved waiving the three readings on exhibit Y.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board approved the purchase of a new sign for Red House Run Elementary School (favor-12).

- E. **Report on Imagine Discovery Charter School** – Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent, Southwest Area, and Ms. Sonja Karwacki, Executive Director, Special Programs, PreK-12, provided to Board members information regarding Imagine Discovery, Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) first and only public charter school. Imagine Discovery opened on August 26, 2008, with 465 students in Grades kindergarten through 4. In addition to classrooms, the facility includes a health suite, multipurpose room utilized as a cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium, and a media center. Dr. Rodriguez and Ms. Karwacki divided their report into the following categories:

REPORTS (cont)

- Enrollment
- Faculty and Staff
- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- Parent Involvement and School Climate
- Professional Development
- Business Services
- Facilities
- Support Services

Dr. Rodriguez noted that Board of Education Policy 1600 requires Imagine Discovery to administer the same short-cycle and benchmark assessments given to students in other BCPS elementary schools. Student achievement at Imagine Discovery in third and fourth grade reading has been monitored through the administration of the BCPS' reading benchmark assessment; however, the school has not administered any of the other BCPS' short-cycle or benchmark assessments in mathematics, science, or social studies.

Dr. Rodriguez stated that the Core Knowledge sequence employed at Imagine Discovery differs from BCPS' curriculum. The basis of the Imagine Discovery curriculum is the Core Knowledge sequence. Science and social studies are taught through the integration of Core Knowledge into a variety of units and kits from Delta Science and Pearson History and Geography. The absence of any concrete curricular support materials for teachers combined with the lack of alignment with BCPS' curricular materials and assessments presents the greatest challenge to the school system.

Ms. Karwacki explained that Imagine Discovery is responsible for the fiscal management of its annual allocation of funds. In FY 2009, its allocation of approximately \$4.3 million was based on the September 30, 2008, enrollment of 465 students.

Ms. O'Hare expressed concern over student achievement. She also expressed concern that there is no alignment on assessments. Ms. Karwacki stated that BCPS will receive the Maryland State Assessment (MSA) results and benchmark assessments. The area assistant superintendent has met with the principal and with Imagine Schools, and the appropriate benchmarks will be implemented for the next school year.

Mr. Parker expressed concern with the report and how Imagine Discovery is performing.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Janssen asked whether the “modest” collection of books in the school’s media center met ALA or ALSA standards. Ms. Karwacki responded that Imagine Discovery made the final choice for its library. Mr. Janssen asked what the minimum number of books by grade level is. Ms. Karwacki responded that, at this time, the books are in the school as an internal resource for students. Mr. Janssen asked what BCPS would do if the charter school does not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Dr. Rodriguez responded that, depending on grade level and content area, interventions would be put in place to address the deficiencies. Mr. Janssen asked why the 2009-2010 projection for first grade was 88 students with students on the waiting list. Ms. Karwacki responded that enrollment is based on staffing; there are 22 students per class in Grade 1.

Ms. Roddy asked how student achievement at Imagine Discovery compares to the students’ previous home schools. Ms. Karwacki responded that Imagine Discovery only serves Grades K through 4. The school system needs to wait until the MSA results are available to make any comparisons. Ms. Roddy asked whether a majority of students came from a particular zoned school or schools. Ms. Karwacki reminded the Board that presently the only comparable benchmark assessment is in reading.

Mr. Uhlfelder asked whether the school system has reviewed the fiscal expenditures to ensure that monies were spent appropriately. Ms. Burnopp responded that last year BCPS processed all Imagine Discovery’s payments. In the upcoming fiscal year, and in accordance with the contract, BCPS will be sending Imagine Discovery the funds and expenditure forms. Ms. Burnopp noted that the school system did not make qualitative judgments on the charter school’s purchases. Mr. Uhlfelder asked are there any additional grade levels to be incorporated. Ms. Karwacki responded that a grade level will be added each year up to Grade 8.

Ms. Johnson asked whether the curriculum meets the state standards. Ms. Karwacki responded that Imagine Discovery must demonstrate its alignment with the voluntary state curriculum (VSC). The Core Knowledge curriculum, and its listed objectives in the core curriculum guides, are aligned with the VSC. The lack of curricular support materials has impacted the school and the teachers to function optimally in the classroom. Dr. Rodriguez stated that, while the curriculum may be aligned with the VSC, the instructional climate was not optimal: 21 first-year teachers; and the school’s climate was not structured to allow teachers to provide proper instruction to establish interventions to address the objectives that students are deficient in.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Pallozzi asked whether the school system has verified residency to ensure all students are Baltimore County residents. Ms. Karwacki responded that the Department of Student Support Service's staff spent three Saturday's last year enrolling students in the charter school. Since that time, the school has been enrolling students without assistance. Mr. Pallozzi asked how many students are outside the southwest district. Ms. Karwacki responded that, as part of the allocation, students who live outside the five mile radius must provide their own transportation.

Ms. Murphy asked how many students have Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Dr. Renard Adams, Coordinator of School Support and Compliance, responded that Imagine Discovery cannot deliver self-contained services. As parents are choosing to enroll their students, the Office of Special Education monitors IEPs to ensure that only students with disabilities, whose IEP could be implemented in regular education or in a combination setting, would be enrolled in the charter school. At the end of the school year, 22 students with disabilities attended Imagine Discovery. Half of those students received speech services. The Office of Special Education has visited the charter school more than 36 times to ensure that IEPs are implemented. Dr. Adams noted that Imagine Discovery has one full-time paraeducator and two full-time paraeducators, far exceeding its special education staffing plan.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on exhibits AA, BB, CC, DD, EE, FF, and GG (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes).

PROPOSED BCPS ORGANIZATION FOR 2009-2010

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board unanimously approved the proposed Baltimore County Public Schools' organization, as presented in exhibit HH (Copy of the exhibit is attached to the formal minutes).

CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

The Curriculum Committee, represented by Ms. Johnson, recommended approval of the following curriculum (exhibit II):

- Mathematics Grade 6
- College Algebra
- Trigonometry with Analytic Geometry
- High School Physics
- Advance Placement (AP) World History

On motion of Mr. Pallozzi, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board approved the Mathematics Grade 6, College Algebra, and Trigonometry with Analytic Geometry curriculum (favor-12).

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the High School Physics curriculum (favor-12).

On motion of Mr. Pallozzi, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board approved the Advance Placement (AP) World History curriculum (favor-12).

HEARING EXAMINERS' RECOMMENDATIONS

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Ms. O'Hare, the Board affirmed the hearing examiner's opinion in case #09-10 (favor-11). Miss Camp did not vote on this item.

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board affirmed the hearing examiner's opinion in case #09-16 (favor-11). Miss Camp did not vote on this item.

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board affirmed the hearing examiner's opinion in case #09-18 (favor-11). Miss Camp did not vote on this item.

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board affirmed the hearing examiner's opinion in case #09-19 (favor-11). Miss Camp did not vote on this item.

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board affirmed the hearing examiner's opinion in case #09-20 (favor-11). Miss Camp did not vote on this item.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS

The Building and Contracts Committee, represented by Mr. Pallozzi, recommended approval of items 1-17, and 19-26 (exhibit JJ). Mr. Pallozzi removed item 18 from the agenda. Ms. Johnson separated item 19 for further discussion. Mr. Janssen abstained from voting on item 26, and Ms. Harris abstained from voting on items 3 and 4.

The Board approved items 1 through 17.

1. Contract Modification: Food Service Equipment
2. Contract Modification: Maryland's Tomorrow/AdvancePath Academy
3. Contract Modification: Printing, Copying, and Reproduction Services
4. Contract Modification: Printing – Student Handbooks, School Calendars, Letterheads, and Envelopes
5. Contract Modification: Vehicle Parts
6. 2009-2010 PSAT/NMSQT
7. Administrative Meeting Space
8. Board of Education Hearing Examiner
9. Cohort – M.A. in Administration and Supervision
10. Cohort – Post Master's Administration and Supervision
11. Hazardous Substances – Clean-up, Disposal, and Other Associated Services
12. Disposal Services – Science Chemicals and Chemicals Wastes
13. HVAC Repair and Replacement Parts
14. Kennedy Krieger Institute Early Intervention Services
15. Lease Renewal – Southwest Area – Infant and Toddler Program
16. New Lease – Southwest Area – Infant and Toddler Program
17. Consultant Prequalification: Construction Management Consultants

Item #19

Ms. Johnson asked whether there were any plans to retain part of the old Carver Center building. Mr. Michael Sines, Executive Director of Physical Facilities, responded that there has been no discussion of incorporating any portion of the old facility into the new facility. Mr. Sines stated that staff could explore the concept with the design team before the demolition package is presented to the Board.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

The Board approved items 19 through 26.

19. Construction of a New School – George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology High School: Package 1D – Waste Management
20. Construction of a New School – George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology High School: Package 2A – Site Work Phase I
21. Replacement of Windows, Blinds, and Doors – Hebbville Elementary School
22. Addition of Steam Bay Canopy – Kenwood Truck Center
23. Replacement of Windows, Blinds, and Doors – Logan Elementary School
24. Replacement of Concrete Sidewalks and Curbs – Middle River Middle School
25. Exterior Door Replacement – Perry Hall Middle School
26. Construction of a New School – 8A Storefront, Curtin Wall, and Windows – West Towson Elementary School

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Financial Report for Months Ending May 31, 2008 and 2009
- B. Board of Education Policies Scheduled for Review in School Year 2009-2010
- C. Policy Editing Conventions
- D. New Superintendent's Rule 1500 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Zoning Information
- E. Revised Superintendent's Rule 1600 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Public Charter Schools
- F. Revised Superintendent's Rule 4001 – PERSONNEL: General-Drug-Free Workplace
- G. New Superintendent's Rule 5580 – STUDENTS: Conduct-Bullying

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Murphy made the following announcements:

- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will be meeting to conduct a retreat on Saturday, August 8, 2009, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at Greenwood. The meeting is open to the public.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 5:00 p.m. The Board will then adjourn to meet in closed session. The open session will reconvene at approximately 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome to all open sessions.

Ms. Murphy stated that public comment is one of the opportunities provided so that the Board can hear the views and receive the advice of community members. The members of the Board appreciate hearing from interested citizens and will take their comments into consideration, even though it is not the Board's practice to take action immediately. When appropriate, the Board will refer concerns to the superintendent for follow-up by his staff.

While the Board encourages public input on policy, programs, and practices within the purview of this Board and this school system, this is not the proper avenue to address specific student or employee matters, or to comment on matters that do not relate to public education in Baltimore County. The Board encourages everyone to utilize existing avenues of redress for complaints. Inappropriate personal remarks or other behavior that disrupts or interferes with the conduct of this meeting are out of order.

Ms. Murphy also asked speakers to observe the light system, which lets the speaker know when their allotted time has ended. She asked speakers to conclude their remarks when they see the red light.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board to amend the 2010-2011 calendar to include the Muslim holidays.

Mr. Muhammad Jameel asked the Board to add the Muslim holidays to the school calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business, the Board adjourned its meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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