

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, January 23, 2001

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:08 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Mr. H. J. Jack Barnhart, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Carolyn Ross-Holmes, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Ms. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, was present.

Mr. Walker immediately moved that the Board go into executive session to conduct a hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

In addition to the above listed Board members, the following people were also in attendance for the hearing: Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; J. Robert Haines, Esquire, Legal Counsel to the Board; the appellants; and their attorney.

Dr. Hairston entered the room at 4:38 p.m.

The proceedings of the hearing were recorded by a court reporter. The hearing concluded at 4:58 p.m.

At 4:58 p.m., the Board approved a motion from Mr. Barnhart and seconded by Mr. Walker to come out of the closed session. The Board deliberated on Case #00-17 in executive session.

Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 5:05 p.m.

At 5:42 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board reconvene the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnhart and approved by the Board. Mr. Kennedy immediately moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters, consult with counsel, and to consult with staff about potential litigation pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7) and (a)(8). The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Ms. Johns reviewed the appointments and transfers on tonight's agenda.

Ms. Howie responded to a Board member's question regarding current litigation.

Ms. Johns briefed the Board on a matter dealing with potential litigation.

Mr. Haines and Ms. Johns discussed with Board members contract language for a particular vendor.

Mr. Haines briefed Board members on the status of current litigation.

At 6:42 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to end the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnhart and approved by the Board.

The Board hosted former Board Presidents Dunbar Brooks and Paul Cunningham and their wives for dinner.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:37 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Mr. H. J. Jack Barnhart, Ms. Erica A. Cohn, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Carolyn Ross-Holmes, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Sanford V. Teplitzky. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools; staff members; members of various civic, employee, and community organizations were present as was the press.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by former Board President Paul Cunningham, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the open and closed session minutes of January 9, 2001, Mr. Arnold declared the minutes approved as presented.

Mr. Arnold informed the audience of the various sessions in which Board members had participated earlier that afternoon.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Formal portraits of former Board Presidents Dunbar Brooks and Paul Cunningham were unveiled. Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Cunningham were presented with flowers for supporting their husbands during their tenure on the Board of Education.

Mr. Cunningham introduced his son, Paul. He stated that he enjoyed his time on the Board of Education. Mr. Cunningham recognized his former colleagues and noted the tremendous amount of energy and time Board service requires. He suggested that all former Board members be honored perhaps with a plaque or photographs in the Board room.

Mr. Brooks stated it was a privilege and an honor to serve on the Board. He also thanked his wife for her help and support during those years. Mr. Brooks noted that at critical times, the Board and the school system came together for the good of the students of Baltimore County Public Schools. He stated that because of the people that surrounded him, the school system was in better shape when he left than when he was first appointed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston noted an initiative being piloted in Baltimore County Public Schools, "Study Circles." This process provides a forum for diverse community groups to explore issues impacting our schools. Baltimore County Public Schools will implement this structure as a strategy for increasing community involvement as the school system focuses on closing the minority student achievement gap. An informational meeting will be held tomorrow evening at Owings Mills High School. The public was invited to attend. Ms. Ross-Holmes noted that letters about the forum have been sent to principals, and sign-up sheets are available in schools.

Dr. Hairston noted national recognition for three Baltimore County Public Schools' graduates. Dr. Thomas Jones and Mr. Robert Curbeam are two of five astronauts who will be aboard the space shuttle Atlantis when it is launched in early February. Dr. Jones is a graduate of Kenwood High School, and Mr. Curbeam is a Woodlawn High School graduate. Another Woodlawn High School graduate, LaTonya Phillips, is featured on the cover of the current issue of *Jet* magazine. Ms. Phipps is the first legally blind person to pass the Maryland Bar examination.

Finally, Dr. Hairston informed the audience that he was invited to the White House for the Presidential Press Conference on Education. President Bush unveiled his education agenda for the next four years. The administration's focus is "No Child Left Behind." Dr. Hairston noted that he was one of only a few educators invited to attend the press conference.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER VOTING ON PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Barnhart moved that the Board approve Erica A. Cohn as a voting member of the Board of Education for consideration of the Capital Budget-County Funds for Fiscal Years 2002-2007 in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §3-109(b)(3)(iii). The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Teplitzky expressed his dissatisfaction with the information received on the capital budget as a result of concerns voiced at the January 9th meeting. He reiterated his concerns about science laboratory upgrades/renovations that do not appear in this budget and why more aggressive action hasn't been taken with respect to labs with safety issues. Mr. Krempel assured Mr. Teplitzky that the safety and health issues at Pikesville's science labs have or are being addressed. He also stated that inspections are taking place in the other high schools with respect to life safety issues. Mr. Teplitzky asked for information explaining how science labs not included in the budget request will be addressed.

Mr. Barnes, Coordinator in the Office of Science, explained the five-year plan for renovations and the criteria used.

Dr. Hayman stated there was nothing in the follow-up information provided to Board members to tie the criteria into how the science lab renovations were prioritized. It is Dr. Hayman's hope that middle schools will not be ignored. Mr. Barnes stated that there is not a plan for middle schools in place. Dr. Hayman asked that in the future more detailed information be provided on issues requiring Board consideration.

Mr. Kennedy recalled a discussion at a Board meeting last year where he received assurance from staff that secondary schools would be considered as a group. It was also his recollection that Board members recommended this process of review. Mr. Sasiadek concurred with Mr. Kennedy and reiterated that all secondary schools need to be reviewed together and placed on the list on an as-needed basis. Mr. Kennedy asked Ms. Roddy to revisit placing some high schools that are in need of "quick fixes" on the priority list next year.

Ms. Ross-Holmes asked if there was any process in place or data that would support the recommendations. Ms. Roddy responded that staff is looking at the issues and reviewing our current processes. Ms. Ross-Holmes requested that the information be compiled into one document and include data showing how the recommendations impact curriculum, fiscal implications, etc.

Mr. Teplitzky shared his concern about the lack of a process or long-range thinking in this request. He stated that other than the Perks-Reutter report, he doesn't have confidence that there is a process in place to prioritize projects. Mr. Teplitzky shared Mr. Kennedy's recollection of considering secondary schools as a group. He also asked that in the future recommendations be tied to goals and curriculum.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Barnhart, the Board approved the Proposed 2002-2007 Capital Improvement Program – County Funds.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

A. Recognition of the Board of Education of Baltimore County by the Baltimore County School Nurses Association

A. Report on the Evening High School Study—Mr. Dapkunas, Chair of the Evening High School Study Committee, provided an overview of the committee. Mr. Rauenzahn highlighted specific recommendations:

- When Evening High School (EHS) is in session, it will be recognized

as a program, and, therefore, have priority in school use. Outside use of the facility by outside programs will be limited.

- All areas of a building will be available, i.e., science rooms, computer labs, etc.
- Recognize the need for strong leadership and communication between the day school and night school principal.
- The implications of the recommendations under “Resources” are:
 - Increase the salary for EHS teachers to \$22/hour,
 - Increase allocation for supplemental materials, supplies, and textbooks for schools that house those programs,
 - Increase in the therapeutic staff (psychologists, social workers, special education staff),
 - Provide security for Evening/Saturday High Schools through the use of SROs or “Uniformed Secondary Employment Officers”,
 - Provide additional custodial support to schools that house these programs.
 - Develop a countywide utilization plan on a ten-year cycle. During the eighth year, evaluation of the program would take place.
 - All five areas should have an Evening High School program.
 - Relocate the Catonsville and Parkville High Schools Programs in 2002.
 - Utilize middle schools, as well as high schools, for The Community College of Baltimore County’s Adult Education Program.

Dr. Hayman inquired about the budget implications of the recommendations to which Mr. Rauenzahn replied \$846,500 in FY 2002.

Dr. Hayman asked why the recommendation for a salary increase for EHS teachers did not match the current salary for Summer School teachers. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that the committee did not think it financially prudent to ask for an almost 100% increase. Also, salary is a negotiated item between TABCO and the Board.

Mr. Hayden asked how our EHS salaries compare with other counties. Mr. Rauenzahn replied that we are lower than most other counties. Mr. Hayden shared Dr. Hayman's concern about the conservative approach to salary and urged the group to aim more in the direction of drawing the highest quality teachers. Ms. Cohn agreed with Dr. Hayman and Mr. Hayden on the importance of offering competitive salaries to these teachers.

Mr. Kennedy thanked the Catonsville and Parkville communities for bringing the Evening High School issue to the attention of the Board and urged support of the recommendations.

Ms. Cohn left the room at 9:06 p.m.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Teplitzky, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits D, E, F, and G. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Barnhart, the Board approved items 1-5.

1. Diplomas, Diploma Covers, and Certificates (Extension)
2. Fuel Tank (Equipment and Services)
3. High Speed Optical Scanner
4. Library Operating Software (Data Conversion)
5. PC Training

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Barnhart, recommended approval of items 1 and 2. The Board approved these recommendations. Mr. Hayden abstained from discussion and voting on these items.

1. Major Maintenance Renovations – Featherbed Lane and Franklin Elementary Schools
2. Request to Negotiate – Professional Inspection Services – Major Maintenance Renovation Program

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

Dr. Poff briefly discussed the Governor's K-12 Education Operating Budget. He noted the budget, as presented, contains only a small portion of the Thornton Commission's recommendations. Chairman Thornton will hold an unscheduled meeting tomorrow to meet with leadership to discuss two major areas not included in the current budget—operating money for special education and funding to assist special education transportation. Dr. Poff noted that the increases in "Direct Local Aid" are built into the budget

based on formulas with the exception of \$19 million dollars for the new Governor's Early Education Initiative and \$11 million dollars for pre-K initiatives.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Barnhart, the Board voted to support HB 53 – Education–Maryland Educational Opportunity Summer Program–Establishment.

On motion of Dr. Hayman, seconded by Mr. Barnhart, the Board voted to support HB 57 – Baltimore County-Education-Wireless Communications Technology-Pilot Program.

On motion of Mr. Barnhart, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board voted to support SB 64 – State Aid for Public Education-Schools for Success Challenge Grants-Extension of Sunset.

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Mr. Barnhart, the Board voted to support SB 88 – Teachers' Retirement and Pension System-Reemployment of Retired Personnel.

Dr. Poff informed the audience that Mr. Arnold, Dr. Hairston, and a representative group of Board members would appear before the Board of Public Works on Wednesday in our final appeal for capital projects.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

A.Revisions to Rule 6130 – Magnet Schools Admission

B.Minutes of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council meeting, November 14, 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Saturday, January 27, 2001, the Board will meet in retreat at 10:00 a.m. in the Administration Building. No public business will be conducted at the retreat.
- On Wednesday, January 31, 2001, the Board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2002 Operating Budget at the Ridge/Ruxton School at 7:00 p.m. Speaker sign-up will begin at 6:15 p.m. The snow date will be Thursday, February 1.
- On Tuesday, February 6, 2001, the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Sussex Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- On Thursday, February 8, 2001, the Board will hold a work session on the proposed operating budget at Greenwood at 7:00 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2001, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at 4:30 p.m. After the Board adjourns to meet in closed session, followed by a brief dinner recess, the open meeting will reconvene at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome at all open sessions.
- The Wednesday, March 28th, Board meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 29th. This will allow time for Board members to review materials for the Board meeting after returning from a national conference earlier in the week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Meghan Kotula, President of the Baltimore County Student Councils, asked if a way can be found to make improvements at middle and high schools last longer. BCSC executive board members will be traveling to Annapolis next week to meet with members of the Baltimore County Delegation to discuss some key bills such as cell phones. Students feel they should be permitted to carry them during the school day, not necessarily use them. BCSC will continue to oppose public money for private schools. Another issue brought to Meghan's attention is the number of exams being scheduled over a short period of time and the stress it causes many students. Finally, at the last General Assembly meeting, student service learning was discussed. There was a recommendation to have service trips for the whole school or for a class.

Ms. JoLynn Chadwick, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted/Talented Education, noted the review of the proposed FY 2002 budget at the committee's last meeting. The group enthusiastically supports the following budget items:

1. Implementation of a Training Course for Teachers New to Gifted/Talented Program
2. Distance Learning Initiative for Advanced Placement
3. Training Workshops and Seminars for SAT and PSAT, Payment for PSAT, and Payment for AP Tests in Hardship Cases
4. Magnet Program Evaluation Study
5. Grant Specialist
6. Technology.

Ms Chadwick urged the Board to understand parent and community concerns in the area of technology and to keep them involved in the development of all aspects of the use of technology.

Ms. Teresa LaMaster, Chair of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Special Education, voiced the Committee's position that the special education positions in the Governor's budget should be funded. CACSE are urging parents to write the Governor urging him to adopt the Thornton Commission recommendations and place them in his budget. The group has also written letters to members of the General Assembly, and they are preparing editorials on this issue. Finally, the CACSE would like to arrange meetings with the State Senators and Delegates to have money included in the supplemental budget. She asked that the Board share their plans as to how they plan to address this issue. Ms. LaMaster offered the support of the CACSE in the Board's legislative efforts. She also urged TABCO, the PTA Council, and BCSC to make the issue of special education funding a joint message to the legislature.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of Area Educational Advisory Councils, encouraged the Board to listen to Meghan's comments. She thanked Paul and Sandy Cunningham and Dunbar and Edie Brooks for their dedication and leadership. Ms. Kennedy also recognized the importance of and the role played by school nurses and congratulated Marilyn Healy McDermott, Maryland's School Nurse of the Year, and school nurse at Mars Estates Elementary School. Ms. Kennedy noted a group of parents who have been struggling with a transportation concern for over two years and who will address the Board later tonight. She asked the Board for a timely response to their concerns.

Mr. Boyd Crouse, Chair of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, thanked Mr. Brooks and Mr. Cunningham for their service to the children of Baltimore County. He echoed a comment from Mr. Brooks

that achievement of Baltimore County children would not be possible without the cooperative effort of the Board, the people who support it, and the community. Mr. Crouse noted the upcoming February 6 council meeting, and he also asked for information about Study Circles so that he could better understand the concept and explain it to parents.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a representative of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, expressed his appreciation for the time and effort given by Mr. Brooks and Mr. Cunningham for the students and citizens of Baltimore County.

Ms. Linda Fitchett, a representative of the Council of Administrative and Supervisory Employees, noted that the group met recently with the County Council and laid out CASE's priorities and asked Council members for their support of the Superintendent's budget.

Ms. Laura Nossel, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, reminded Board members of the PTA's general meeting on January 25th. With regard to the budget, she expressed concern about some school-based teams not being involved in the development of goals as has been done in the past. Ms. Nossel also noted that she and Mr. Franklin would be reviewing the Abell Report at MSDE later this week.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers' Association of Baltimore County, thanked Mr. Brooks and Mr. Cunningham for 20 years of collective service provided to Baltimore County Public Schools. He expressed his appreciation for the Board's support of TABCO's Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration last week. Mr. Beytin informed the Board that since the creation of TABCO's Kid Care program, \$257,000 has been disseminated to provide emergency help to students. He requested that copies of the legislative exhibit are made available to the public. Mr. Beytin commended Dr. Hairston for making low performing schools a priority in the FY 2002 budget and offered TABCO's assistance in making every school "a model of success."

Mr. Tom Henning, an attorney and a Meadow Hill Court resident, addressed the Board about a transportation concern. For two years, the community has requested a bus stop for their children be moved due to safety considerations. He noted Councilman Bartenfelder's support of their request. Mr. Henning was accompanied by three other parents from the community.

Mrs. Nancy Henderson, PTSA President at Catonsville High School and a member of the Evening School Study Group, thanked the Superintendent for seeing the value of reviewing the Evening High School Program as well as addressing the concerns of the Catonsville and Parkville communities. She expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve on the committee.

At 9:55 p.m., Mr. Barnhart moved to adjourn the open meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston

Secretary-Treasurer

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