

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Thursday, October 11, 2001

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:03 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Maria R. Cirincione, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, and Mr. James R. Sasiadek. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, was present.

Mr. Sasiadek immediately moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters, to consult with counsel, and to discuss 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 Ms. Ettinger and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Grimsley reviewed the two appointments on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Hayden, Mr. Teplitzky, and Dr. Hayman entered the room at 5:08 p.m.

At 5:10 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board adjourn the closed session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Arnold reminded the Board it needed to approve the student member's participation in discussion regarding negotiations.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board voted to permit the student Board member to participate in negotiations discussions.

At 5:11 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board go into closed session to discuss matters relative to negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508 (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Ms. Ettinger and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINTUES

Mr. Grimsley reviewed the negotiating teams for this school year. He also briefly described potential negotiations issues.

Dr. Hairston informed Board members of a matter which could result in litigation.

Mr. Walker entered the room at 5:23 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Board members expressed the need for additional information to which Ms. Saffran-Brinks responded. Staff will provide Board members with appropriate information prior to the next Board meeting.

Mr. Arnold informed Board members about another matter dealing with potential litigation. He stated the administration is preparing information to be provided at a later date. Board members were asked if they had any questions they wished to ask so responses could be included in the administration's report. Several Board members provided questions to staff.

Due to the late hour, Ms. Saffran-Brinks advised the Board that a matter dealing with a proposed settlement would be brought back at the next meeting.

On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board voted to adjourn the closed session.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Arnold asked Board members to be prepared to discuss the activities of three recent conferences at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Arnold asked Board members to contact Ms. Zepp with their date preference for a November retreat which will focus on accessing websites dealing with student achievement.

At 6:38 p.m., Dr. Hayman moved to adjourn the open session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:31 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Maria R. Cirincione, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzynski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools; staff members; members of various civic, employee, and community organizations were present as was the media.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by Kevin Limbaugh and Jamie Bowman, Boy Scouts from Troop 729, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston recognized Robert Kemmery, Principal of Eastern Technical High School, as a regional winner of the Association of Career and Technical Education/McDonald's Outstanding Career and Technical Education award. Mr. Kemmery will attend a December meeting in New Orleans where the national winner will be announced.

Dr. Hairston announced that as part of the National Pledge of Allegiance, our system will be led by student Board member, Maria Cirincione. The pledge will be aired over Comcast Channel 73 for the system's schools and offices.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kennedy asked if staff would be looking at the impact of the enrollment figures in the short-term and long-term with respect to adding schools in the Northwest Area, to which Ms. Burnopp replied affirmatively.

Mr. Sasiadek suggested we begin lobbying state officials with respect to the inclusion of money in the state capital budget for enclosing open space areas in our schools.

On motion of Mr. Teplitzky, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2003 State Capital Budget request in the amount of \$26,911,632.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Report on September 30th Enrollment—Ms. Flynn reported that as of September 30th, there were 107,322 students enrolled in Baltimore County Public Schools, which is an increase of 189 students over last year and reflects an accuracy rate of 99.96%. She briefly described the information reflected in the exhibit.

Mr. Kennedy was extremely pleased with the accuracy of the projections.

- B. Report on Special Revenue Fund Grant Expenditures—Ms. Burnopp noted the purpose of this report was in response to public concern over a statement in the MGT report with respect to funds that weren't spent and to provide Board members information regarding the flow of grants within the system.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Ms. Burnopp stated that MGT did not take into account that some of the school system grants roll over and some have different ending dates. She stated that for fiscal years 1999 and 2000, unspent funds totaled \$186,398 and \$130,044, respectively. Those figures amount to .4% and .2%, respectively, of the entire budget. Ms. Burnopp noted that the school system manages between 250-300 grants yearly, and some of the balances returned ranged from 3¢ to \$36,000. She explained why money is returned.

Mr. Boone thanked Ms. Linda Cassell for developing the flow chart for the grant life cycle. He noted that some grants are competitive, and some are non-competitive. Mr. Boone also stated that some grants have a life period of one or two years, while some may be reauthorized by Congress.

Mr. Arnold complimented Ms. Burnopp and Mr. Boone for the information provided. He also complimented staff for very good fiscal management.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Teplitzky, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, 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. Teplitzky, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved items 1-5.

1. Audio-Visual Equipment Repairs
2. Networking Closet Electronics
3. Paper: Dual Purpose
4. Supply Contract: Various Belts for HVAC and Mechanical
5. Contracted Services: Kitchen Installation and Post-Construction Clean-Up (Emergency Work)

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-4. Mr. Kennedy noted an editorial change on Exhibit I. On the bid summary under Alternate 1, the first word should be "include" instead of "exclude." The Board approved these recommendations. Mr. Hayden abstained from discussion and voting on item 3.

1. Boiler Replacement – Overlea High School
2. Reconditioning of Tennis and Multi-Use Courts – Battle Grove Elementary School, Battle Monument School, Charlesmont Elementary School, and Orems Elementary School
3. Fee Acceptance – Consultant Design Services for Renovations to Behavioral Management Resource Rooms – Various Schools
4. Consultant Design Services for Recreation ADA Modifications – Various Elementary Schools

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT

Mr. Teplitzky moved approval of the School Resource Officer Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy.

Dr. Mohler introduced the two original school resource officers who were in attendance, Officer Donald Bridges and Officer Joseph Goralczyk.

Mr. Teplitzky voiced his overwhelming support of this program and stated the school resource officers have made a big difference in the schools where they are assigned.

Ms. Jung also shared her support of this program and noted the superior caliber of the officers.

Dr. Mohler recognized Ms. Holmes' support of this program since its inception.

Mr. Teplitzky thanked the County Police Department and the County Executive for their support of this program.

The Board approved the continuation of an agreement between the Baltimore County Police Department and the Baltimore County Public Schools, which places officers in every Baltimore County high school, and beginning this year, pending grant approval, will place officers in selected Baltimore County middle schools.

PROPOSAL TO CANCEL BID REQUEST

Mr. Boone explained why the Board was being asked to approve this request and the alternate proposal.

Ms. Ettinger moved approval of the request. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion.

In response to a question by Ms. Jung, Mr. Boone stated he would come back to the Board with a proposal for expenditures. He noted the outcomes of the Special Education Advisory Committee would come back to the Superintendent and Board.

Dr. Hayman shared his concern about the disproportionate number of minority students in Special Education and asked that particular attention be given to the number of African American males in Special Education.

The Board voted to cancel a bid request for focus groups for special education.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Monday, October 15, 2001, the Central Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget hearing at Dumbarton Middle School at 7:30 p.m.
- On Tuesday, October 16, 2001, the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget hearing at Sollers Point/Southeastern Technical High School at 7:00 p.m.
- On Wednesday, October 17, 2001, the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget hearing at Woodlawn Middle School at 7:00 p.m.
- On Thursday, October 18, 2001, the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget hearing at Owings Mills High School at 7:00 p.m.
- On Friday, October 19, 2001, schools will be closed for students so teachers may participate in Professional Development Day activities and the MSTA Convention.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2001, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at 5:00 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Teresa LaMaster, Chair of the Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked staff for answering the question on the returned grant funds in a public meeting. With regard to the enrollment data, she expressed hope that this data will be used to look at the placement of various Special Education cluster programs as it relates to the capacity of schools and their enrollment. Ms. LaMaster shared her group's excitement about the work group proposal. She stated that the group may come back to the Board in a few years and request an audit.

Ms. Laura Nossel, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, thanked Dr. Hairston and staff for the manner in which the Hawthorne Elementary School situation was handled. Noting sparse attendance at a recent pre-budget meeting, Ms. Nossel asked Board members to encourage citizens to attend the pre-budget meetings. She also asked principals to encourage attendance at these meetings. Schools were asked to be creative when scheduling parent-teacher conferences. The superintendent was asked to report on the activities of the Academic Intervention Team. Ms. Nossel noted the successful start-up of the PTA Council's web site and asked for Board members' input.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, noted that there were some rough starts to the school year, but thanks to Facilities, the Distribution Center, and other offices, most buildings undergoing renovations were functional. He noted with the support of the superintendent, the deputy superintendents, and building administrators, teachers met students in a "somewhat prepared manner." On behalf of teachers, Mr. Beytin requested that classrooms be ready when teachers report next August. TABCO questions the lowest bid process and is seeking responsible solutions.

Mr. Arnold announced no one signed up to address the proposed revisions to Policy 1230 and Policy 1280. Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, stated she did not receive her copy of the proposed changes to Policy 1230 until yesterday and felt it was not fair for advisory council members to have so little chance to comment. Mr. Arnold reminded Ms. O'Hare that the Board would not be voting on the changes until November and there would be one additional opportunity for public comment.

Ms. O'Hare commented on the previous evening's pre-budget meeting and recognized the Board members, staff, advisory council members, and others who attended. She summarized the concerns of the speakers. With respect to the Hawthorne community meeting, Ms. O'Hare stated she was unaware of the meeting, and had she known about it, she would have been in attendance to offer her support.

Mr. Arnold reminded the audience to refrain from discussing personnel or issues that could come to the Board in the form of an appeal at a later date.

Ms. Emily Wolfson shared her distress over remarks made at a previous meeting criticizing staff and, by implication, the people who served on the Boundary Committee for the

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

New Town Elementary School. She noted there are 117 relocatables at 44 Baltimore County elementary schools. Ms. Wolfson stated New Town has no greater claim to a school able to house its school population without resorting to relocatables than the other 44 elementary schools, some of which are adjacent to New Town. She stated under the current funding structure, the State requires that students be in place, not projected. She further stated that there needs to be an acceptance of relocatables or a re-evaluation of the source and the requirements of funding new buildings as well the re-evaluation of the source of funding for auxiliary housing for students.

Ms. Nancy Murray, a Sussex Elementary School parent, reported that lead paint and asbestos caulk still remain on the outside of Sussex's windows. She stated that at the August Building Committee meeting, Mr. Kennedy was reassured by Facilities that the children could not come in contact with the lead paint. Ms. Murray stated this is false. She also informed the Board the renovations taking place in the school are disruptive. There are cold classrooms and dust. Ms. Murray requested replacement of the windows at the school.

Ms. Kathy Beard, a Sussex Elementary School parent, noted that \$450,00 has been awarded for windows and questioned waiting until 2002 for window replacement.

At 8:33 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer