

## TENTATIVE MINUTES

### BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:00 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, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Dr. Hairston informed Board members of the items he will mention during the "Superintendent's Report" this evening.

Mr. Arnold welcomed new Board member, Janese Murray.

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board approved the participation of the student member in discussions related to negotiations.

At 5:03 p.m., Mr. Walker moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to discuss matters relative to negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1) and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and unanimously approved by the Board.

#### CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

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

Mr. Grimsley briefed Board members on an issue to be brought to the negotiations table of one of the employee groups. After discussion, Board members advised Mr. Grimsley to proceed.

Ms. Jung entered the room at 5:32 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved the Board come out of the closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Teplitzky and approved by the Board.

#### OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Arnold reminded the Board of the discussion at tonight's meeting about recent conferences attended by several Board members.

At 5:46 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved that the Board go into closed session to obtain legal advice from counsel pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(7). The motion was seconded by Mr. Teplitzky and unanimously approved by the Board.

### CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Ms. Saffran-Brinks advised Board members of how a particular legal issue should be addressed.

At 5:48 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Teplitzky and approved by the Board.

Mr. Hayden requested additional information on the "Site Bank Survey."

Dr. Hairston distributed information relating to his update on minority achievement this evening.

The Board hosted members of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group for dinner.

### OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:40 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Maria R. Cirincione, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Michael Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools; staff members; and 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 Mr. Thomas Raybon, President of the Baltimore County Student Councils, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in Baltimore County Public Schools.

Ms. Ettinger, Ms. Jung, Mr. Kennedy, and Ms. Murray entered the room at 7:42 p.m.

### MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the open and closed session minutes of November 6, 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 in the afternoon.

Mr. Arnold informed the audience Board members were now using laptops to view material related to the Board meeting.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston shared with the audience his recent attendance at a program at Pikesville High School honoring outstanding alumnus. He noted the broad range of contributions of Pikesville High School graduates. In particular, Dr. Hairston noted Judge Jamey Weitzman was

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Cont.)

honored at this ceremony. Judge Weitzman, who is the Drug Court Judge in the Circuit Court of Baltimore City, is the founder of the Circuit Court drug program in Baltimore City.

Dr. Hairston asked Mr. Boone and Ms. McMahon to share information about a grant award. Ms. McMahon stated that Baltimore County Public Schools has been awarded a Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Center Grant. This grant will allow a "Judy Center" to be opened at Campfield Early Childhood Learning Center. Ms. McMahon explained Judy Centers are designed to help families prepare their children for school by incorporating a comprehensive set of services for children and parents. The services begin at birth and go through age 6. It was noted that ten (10) other school systems in Maryland have been awarded Judy Grants.

The Judy Center at Campfield will receive \$644,000 beginning January 2002 and continue through June 2003. The grant will be renewed annually through June 2005. The Center will include programs for three-year olds, prekindergarten, all-day kindergarten, child care, special education, and Head Start.

Mr. Boone noted that efforts to construct the grant application started in the summer and involved parents and representatives from Baltimore County Public Schools, the YMCA of Central Maryland Head Start, Baltimore County Infants and Toddlers, Baltimore County Public Library, Baltimore County Even Start Adult Education, The Family Tree, Inc., The Abilities Network, Towson University, Child Care Links, Baltimore County Government, and Playkeepers, Inc. He also stated that Baltimore County Public Schools would provide a modular classroom/office unit that will function as a home base for the Judy Center at Campfield.

Dr. Hairston shared that the United States Department of Education has awarded a \$1 million dollar grant to Baltimore County Public Schools to improve American history curriculum in elementary, middle, and high schools. The superintendent congratulated Ms. Estelle Collins, Mr. Rex Shepard, and the Office of Social Studies.

The Hereford High School Bulls were congratulated by Dr. Hairston for winning the State II-A football championship.

FOLLOW-UP TO MINORITY ACHIEVEMENT INITIATIVE

Referencing Dr. Dezmon's presentation on the Minority Achievement Initiative at the last Board meeting, Dr. Hairston stated that closing the minority achievement gap is a national issue. He provided a Power Point™ presentation to show where Baltimore County is and where the system is headed with regard to this issue.

Dr. Hairston stated that at the recent Education Summit, the Achievement Initiative for Maryland's Minority Students Council introduced a structure, "The Matrix," which identifies and positions multiple actors that will make a contribution to the education of children. "The Matrix" identifies the areas of effect, the areas of intervention, and the actors/agencies. It provides the school system with a clearly defined set of accountabilities for every actor and

FOLLOW-UP TO MINORITY ACHIEVEMENT INITIATIVE (Cont.)

agency. There are clearly identified areas of intervention and specific areas of effect. Dr. Hairston also noted there are policy implications. He noted that information about “The Matrix” had been recently shared with principals.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Grimsley recognized Dr. Maggie Caples and Ms. Victoria Cofield-Aber, whose appointments to the Office of Family Studies and the Office of Social Work Services, respectively, were approved at the November 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board re-approved Policy 8130 – Internal Board Policies–Organization.

REPORT

The Board received the following report:

Report on Conferences by Board Members—Mrs. Ettinger and Mr. Walker briefly spoke about the recent State conference and the National Federation of Urban and Suburban School Districts (NFUSSD) conference, respectively.

Ms. Ettinger complimented former Board member Carolyn Ross-Holmes, who co-chaired the State conference. She briefly described two sessions that may have possibilities for our system—The School-Based Literacy Team and Home ‘n School Grant Program--and two sessions that may be considered for discussion at a Board retreat—Data Driven Decision Making and Budget Funding.

Mr. Arnold noted that on the session dealing with decision-making, there was information on how to access data on state and national web sites.

Mr. Sasiadek also commended Ms. Ross-Holmes on her excellent job as co-chair of the conference. He also thanked Ms. Ettinger for chairing a session. Mr. Sasiadek noted the format of the session was different than previously used and proved to be very successful.

Mr. Walker spoke of the five (5) strands that ran through the 2001 NFUSSD Conference in Kansas City. He also spoke of school visits that focused on a successful reading recovery program in a school with a large minority population, a school with a senior (citizen) exchange program, and a new school that was

REPORT (Cont.)

under capacity which housed some of the district's programs. Mr. Walker announced that at the business meeting, Board President Arnold was elected to serve on the executive board of NFUSSD.

Mr. Arnold noted one of the key advantages of attending the various conferences is to share ideas with fellow board members in other districts.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Teplitzky, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits C, D, E, and E-1. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Teplitzky, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved items 1-9.

1. Allied Health and Fitness Lab Equipment – Eastern Technical High School
2. Contracted Services: On-Call Elevator Maintenance and Repair
3. Contracted Services: Venetian Blinds Services
4. Food Service: Ice Cream Products
5. Food Service: Paper Products
6. Food Service: Produce
7. Food Service: Snack Products
8. Stationery Supplies – Second One-Year Extension
9. Supplies Contract: HVAC Filters

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-12. The Board approved these recommendations. Mr. Hayden abstained from discussion and voting on items 7, 11, and 12.

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

1. Systemic Renovations – Deep Creek Middle School
2. Request to Negotiate – Consultant Design Services for Systemic Renovations – Various Middle Schools
3. Fee Acceptance – Consultant Design Services for Fire Alarm System Upgrade – Catonsville Middle School, Dundalk High School, Owings Mills High School, Southwestern Academy, and Woodlawn High School
4. Fee Acceptance – Consultant Design Services for Auditorium/Stage Lighting Upgrade – Dumbarton Middle and Parkville Middle Schools
5. Fee Acceptance – Inspection Services of Reroofing Project – Catonsville Middle School
6. Change Order – Sitework – Package 2B – New Town High School
7. Change Order – Science Laboratory Improvements – Eastern Technical High School
8. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School
9. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Dundalk Elementary School
10. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Orem Elementary School
11. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Sussex Elementary School
12. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Villa Cresta Elementary School

REVISED FISCAL YEAR 2003 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET

In response to a question by Mr. Hayden, Mr. Haines stated that \$459,176 in State funding and an equal amount of County funding had been removed from the request.

Mr. Haines responded to Mr. Kennedy as to how the window replacement projects for Jacksonville, Seven Oaks, and Joppa View Elementary Schools were placed on the list. He noted that window replacements for these schools could be an issue in about 20 years.

REVISED FISCAL YEAR 2003 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET (Cont.)

Ms. Ettinger and Mr. Kennedy asked that the respective school communities be informed of the removal of the projects and the reason for removal.

Mr. Teplitzky asked if other worthwhile projects, which were not included in the original request, could now be placed in the request. Mr. Haines responded that it would not be possible to add items at this point in the process. He noted that we are in the appeal stage for items that are already on the list and that the State would not look favorably on adding items at this time. Mr. Teplitzky suggested that in the future, perhaps staff could take a closer look at possible projects for inclusion on the request early in the process so that the best effort is made to fund projects that are critical.

Mr. Sasiadek inquired about the inclusion of walls for open space schools. Mr. Haines responded that Facilities did not recommend to the Superintendent the inclusion of any of the wall projects. The priorities for the State Budget Request were to keep children warm and dry. Mr. Haines noted that all projects—boilers, windows, stages, walls, etc.—have to be prioritized.

Mr. Grzymiski expressed concern about the process that indicates a project for a particular school, and then the project is removed later on because it isn't needed. He also shared his concern about the school and community's reaction to projects being removed.

Ms. Jung agreed with Mr. Grzymiski on the importance of windows. She, too, suggested reviewing projects earlier so we aren't in the position of withdrawing them later on in the process. Ms. Jung also suggested a long-term proposal from staff for windows and walls.

Mr. Walker commended staff for seeing that the Perks-Reuter recommendations were checked.

Mr. Kennedy suggested that once the Perks-Reuter recommendations have been addressed, perhaps a staff report on the wall issue in open space schools could be provided to the Board.

Mr. Teplitzky questioned the difference in cost of the boiler for Old Court Middle School. Mr. Haines will double-check the cost for replacing the boilers at Old Court and report back to Mr. Teplitzky and the Board.

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved a revised state capital budget request for fiscal year 2003 in the amount of \$26,452,456, subject to the confirmation of the boiler costs. State capital funding for window replacements at Jacksonville, Joppa View, and Seven Oaks Elementary Schools was removed due to further review of the condition of the existing windows.

### INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. New Rule 8130 – Internal Board Policies: Organization
- B. Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council Minutes
- C. Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council Pre-Budget Meeting Minutes.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Wednesday, December 12, 2001, the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Perry Hall Middle School at 6:30 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, December 18, 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.

Mr. Arnold introduced newly-appointed Board member Janese Murray, who was sworn in yesterday afternoon.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Arnold reminded speakers to refrain from discussing personnel matters or any other matters that might come before the Board as an appeal.

Mr. Thomas Raybon, President of the Baltimore County Student Councils, noted that executive board members had received copies of “Communicating with the Board.” He shared his enthusiasm over the successful Middle School Leadership Conference held last month, and he reviewed a few upcoming events.

Miss Brittany Alexander, a student at Old Court Middle School, shared with the Board her belief that there is not a Gifted and Talented program at Old Court Middle School. She also commented about the lack of an Algebra I teacher.

Ms. Laura Nossel, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Communications audit. She noted the upcoming meeting of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council and suggested the other Executive Directors of Schools might want to plan a similar meeting in their respective areas.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Nossel shared the concern of parents in the Perry Hall area about the impact of a new road on student safety at Joppa View Elementary School.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, welcomed Ms. Murray to the Board. He also congratulated the school system on the grant awards announced earlier this evening. With regard to Dr. Hairston's update on the Minority Achievement Initiative, Mr. Beytin stated principals, assistant principals, and all other administrators in the school system must be trained to ask, "What must I do to keep teachers in our classrooms? In our school system?" On the issue of rigorous curriculum, Mr. Beytin shared his concern of dumbing down the curriculum to meet the narrow confines of mandated testing. He voiced his concern about teaching to the test while restraining our quality teachers from using their creativity and professional judgment to make their lessons superior. Mr. Beytin commented on teachers not being able to access the data they need and the importance of prekindergarten for all students. Finally, Mr. Beytin reminded Board members of TABCO's legislative breakfast this weekend.

Mr. Carl Klein, Director of Forensics at Catonsville High School, described the costs incurred by the County's forensics teams to attend tournaments, many of which are out of the area. He spoke of the time and effort put forth by team members to prepare for the tournaments. Mr. Klein asked Board members to support the proposed allotment of \$5,000 to each high school with a Speech and Debate Team, nine (9) in all.

Ms. Samantha Waters, a member of Catonsville High School's Speech and Debate Team, talked about Catonsville's team and described how team members prepare for a tournament and the different forms of debate. She explained how involvement on the team has been to her benefit.

At 9:07 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer