

## TENTATIVE MINUTES

### BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:42 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. Grzyski, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, was present.

Copies of the Board's calendar for the balance of the school year were distributed. Board members were asked to review the calendar and contact Ms. Zepp with any functions that should be included.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 4:44 p.m.

Board members considered the possibility of scheduling a time for public comment on the MSPAP issue but decided against it until a decision has been made on the possible fiscal impact. The Board also felt it may be more productive to schedule a public hearing when future accountability testing is being considered.

Ms. Murray entered the room at 5:05 p.m.

At 5:05 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved the Board go into closed session to consult with counsel about legal advice pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(7). The motion was seconded by Ms. Ettinger and unanimously approved by the Board.

### CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Ms. Saffran-Brinks reviewed with Board members the implementation of a settlement agreement.

Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 5:25 p.m.

Ms. Saffran-Brinks advised Board members with respect to a legal compliance issue.

At 5:50 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Teplitzky and approved by the Board.

The Board hosted members of the Department of Recreation and Parks 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: Ms. Maria R. Cirincione, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, 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; 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 a junior from Towson University, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

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

### MINUTES

Hearing no corrections or additions to the open and closed session minutes of February 12, 2002, and the Report of the Work Session, February 20, 2002, Mr. Arnold declared the minutes approved as presented.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston announced that Hereford Middle School's Future Farmers of America Horticulture Club's project highlighting the agriscience program was awarded first place in the Educational Exhibits at the recent Maryland Home and Flower Show. Mr. Fred Doepkens is Hereford's FFA faculty advisor.

Christine Cheuk, a student at Perry Hall High School, was recognized for her selection as Young Woman of the Year by the Baltimore County Commission for Women. Christine also volunteers on the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board and several youth and government programs.

Dr. Hairston recognized Mr. Joe Giordano and Ms. Bonny Boto of the Carver Center by the Maryland State Department of Education. Mr. Giordano had five students who were finalists in the Arts Recognition and Talent Search Awards. Ms. Boto was recognized for having nine student winners in the Arts Recognition and Talent Search Competition.

### REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Plaque Recognizing Allfirst Bank-Mr. Mark Furst, President of the Greater Baltimore Allfirst Bank, accepted a plaque from Mr. Arnold. For several years, Allfirst Bank has sponsored the 24 Challenge Tournament and provided Savings Bonds to winning students. Ms. Booth, Coordinator of Secondary Mathematics Programs, was also recognized.
- B. On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board adopted a resolution proclaiming March 2002 as Professional Social Work Month. Ms. Vicki Cofield-Aber, Specialist in Social Work Services, and Ms. Mayaugust Finkenberg, School Social Worker at Woodlawn Middle School, accepted the Board resolution.
- C. Report on Policy (6162.5) 6500 – Research and Testing - Ms. Flynn reviewed the proposed changes.

Mr. Arnold recognized students in the audience from Towson University and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

- D. Maryland School Performance Assessment Program Update – Ms. Flynn reviewed recent events with regard to MSPAP testing. Mr. Boone advised that until negotiations regarding waivers occur between the Maryland State Department of Education and the United States Department of Education, the question of funding remains unresolved.

Mr. Arnold announced that the letter developed by the Curriculum Committee and presented for consideration at the last Board meeting would be temporarily placed on hold until state and federal officials reach a decision. He also noted approximately \$23 million may be at risk.

### PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

### CONTRACT AWARDS

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

1. Class School Rings, Division I – Three-Year Bid

CONTRACT AWARDS (Cont.)

2. Contracted Services: Carpet and Installation
3. Contracted Services: Sanitary Drain Cleaning and Video Services – Three-Year Bid

PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES

The Budget and Audit Committee, represented by Mr. Teplitzky, recommended approval of a contract for professional auditing services. The Board approved this recommendation.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-6. The Board approved these recommendations.

1. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Padonia Elementary School
2. Kitchen Shelving for Major Maintenance Renovation Projects – Various Elementary Schools
3. Multi-use Court Resurfacing – Fifth District Elementary and Hebbville Elementary Schools
4. Fee Acceptance – Consultant Services for Feasibility Study – Windsor Mill Middle School Site
5. Request to Negotiate – Design Services for Performance Center – Carver School of Arts and Technology
6. Request to Negotiate – Design Services for Science Room Renovations – Franklin and Patapsco High Schools

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

On motion of Ms. Murray, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board voted to support SB751/HB1294 – Education-Financing-Aid to Education.

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board voted to support SB856/HB1329 – Thornton Bill: Adequate and Equitable Funding for Public Schools Act.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Wednesday, March 13, 2002, the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Parkville Middle School at 6:30 p.m.
- On Tuesday, March 19, 2002, the Board will conduct a work session on secondary class size at Greenwood at 6:00 p.m.
- Also on Tuesday, March 19, 2002, the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Seneca Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- On Wednesday, March 20, 2002, the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Westchester Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- Also on Wednesday, March 20, 2002, the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Summit Park Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2002, 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.

Speakers were reminded to refrain from discussing personnel matters or any other matter that might come before the Board in the way of an appeal.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. JoLynn Chadwick, Chair of the Advisory Committee for Gifted/Talented Education, invited the Board and the public to a meeting this week where middle school transition meetings and educational planning through high school will be discussed. With regard to MSPAP, Ms. Chadwick shared the views of a number of parents who feel the entire MSPAP process has not been helpful to the gifted child. The parents claim MSPAP detracts from the school experiences of gifted children. On a personal note, Ms. Chadwick voiced her opinion that MSPAP has served its purpose, and its elimination as a testing tool should be hastened.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, a representative of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, spoke about the meeting earlier in the day with the County Executive. The County Executive was urged to support the school system's proposed operating budget request. Ms. Shriver thanked Mr. Ruppertsberger for his support of special education over the last two years and recognized Ms. Dianne Gilbert, the County Executive's Education Liaison, for her efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

The advisory committee has been working with Mr. Boone and his office to develop a plan to improve Baltimore County Public Schools in the area of special education. With regard to the possible fiscal impact of the suspension of MSPAP testing, Ms. Shriver stated that in her years involved with special education, the federal government has never withheld Title I funds, even in a case of non-compliance.

Ms. Mary Pat Kahle, a representative of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, announced the committee will send a letter to the Maryland State Department of Education urging them to include differentiation in the writing of middle school curriculum. Ms. Kahle expressed her desire for the Board to send a similar letter to the State Department of Education urging them to adapt curriculum for special education students throughout the state. Ms. Kahle also voiced her hope that the Board would send a letter to the State Department of Education regarding the suspension of MSPAP and include language in the letter that urges the suspension of the Independence Mastery Assessment Program (IMAP) testing. (IMAP is Maryland's alternative assessment program used to measure the performance of a relatively small number of students with disabilities who are unable to participate in the regular state assessment program, even with accommodations.)

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of Area Educational Advisory Councils, spoke of the Coalition's meeting with County officials this afternoon. The Coalition urged full funding of the 2002-03 Operating Budget. In this afternoon's meeting, areas where the budget has fallen short were noted—beginning teachers' salaries, technology for teachers, and hardware and software needs. The Coalition also requested that any additional funds be used to support this year's operating budget. Finally, Ms. Kennedy asked the Board to consider allowing public comment about the future direction of accountability testing.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, noted the presence of former Governor William Donald Schaefer at the meeting with the County this afternoon. Ms. O'Hare offered her thoughts on the Middle School Task Force. She also would like the system to find ways to manage the few disruptive children who prevent an entire class from learning. Ms. O'Hare stated there is a need to make certain the average child is successful.

Mr. Boyd Crouse, Chair of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, praised the developing partnership between the Board, Superintendent, County officials, and stakeholder groups with regard to the budget process. He recognized Maggie Kennedy as the driving force behind the Coalition. Mr. Crouse noted that at his council's next meeting, he would urge members to go out as a community and lobby state representatives to defeat the issue of public money for non-public institutions.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Paula Simon, President of the Council of Administrative and Supervisory Employees (CASE), spoke of a recent academic retreat dealing with closing the minority achievement gap. She shared her concern about leading her office and the CASE organization to close the minority achievement gap, especially where policy decisions can have a far-reaching impact.

Ms. Laura Nossel, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, thanked the County Executive and Dianne Gilbert for the opportunity to meet with them. She encouraged the school system and the business community to come up with creative ways to fully utilize resources. Ms. Nossel thanked Sharon Norman and her office for their efforts to educate and utilize volunteers. She urged the Board to contact members of the Senate delegation regarding HB 1010. As events move forward with regard to MSPAP, Ms. Nossel asked the Board to consider giving the public an opportunity to share its views. In an effort to educate parents, Ms. Nossel requested information with regard to guidelines on how to best protect children when custodial issues are involved.

Mr. Michael Franklin, Vice President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, spoke of recent presentations by Ms. Copple, Principal of the Academic Intervention Team, and Mr. Boone, Executive Director of Federal and State Programs. He also urged a rapid move to an effective accountability test that will provide clear information to parents on their child's achievement.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, discussed a commentary that appeared in the February 20<sup>th</sup> issue of *Education Week* entitled, "Test-Based Accountability; Making it Work Better." He stated that any new testing tool must be valid and reliable so that all stakeholders have confidence in the results.

Ms. Erica Cohn, former student Board member, shared how her education in Baltimore County Public Schools provided her with an excellent start in her freshman year in college. With regard to MSPAP, she shared comments from others that the test should be aligned with the curriculum so that teachers are not teaching to the test.

At 8:50 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cirincione and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer