



TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, October 22, 2002

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 3:23 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Sarah D. Bormel, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker.

In Hearing Examiner's Case #03-03, the Board entertained oral argument. The matter was heard in open session.

In addition to the above listed Board members, also in attendance were the Appellant's parents; Ms. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; J. Robert Haines, Esquire, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services; Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; Carol Saffran-Brinks, Assistant County Attorney; Ms. Risa Schuster, Superintendent's Designee; and Ms. Denise Zepp, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education.

The proceedings of the hearing were recorded by a court reporter.

Dr. Hayman entered the room at 3:27 p.m.; Ms. Murray entered the room at 4:15 p.m.

The hearing was concluded at 4:26 p.m.

Board members deliberated on the case.

At 5:10 p.m., the Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Sarah D. Bormel, 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.

Board members heard counsel's argument in Case #02-29 in open session.

In addition to the above listed Board members, also in attendance were Ms. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; J. Robert Haines, Esquire, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services; Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; Carol Saffran-Brinks, Assistant County Attorney; and Ms. Denise Zepp, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education. The Appellant was not present.

The proceedings of the hearing were recorded by a court reporter.

The hearing was concluded at 5:13 p.m.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

Board members deliberated on the case.

At the conclusion of deliberations, Mr. Arnold reminded Board members of an upcoming conference.

At 5:14 p.m., Mr. Walker moved that Sarah Bormel be permitted to participate in discussions relative to negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and unanimously approved by the Board.

At 5:15 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to discuss matters pertaining 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. Walker and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Grimsley reviewed an appointment on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Grimsley reviewed the membership of the negotiating teams with the Board. Board members will be asked to take action on the list tonight.

Mr. Grimsley clarified for Board members a phrase used in the negotiations process and explained its effect on negotiations.

Finally, Mr. Grimsley updated the Board on a meeting with an employee group.

At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ettinger and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:33 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Sarah D. Bormel, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, 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, Ms. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; 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 Christian Savage, a student at New Town Elementary School, 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 previous sessions in which Board members had participated earlier in the afternoon.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

Mr. Grimsley recognized Diane Coy, whose appointment to Assistant Principal at Parkville High School was approved at the October 10th Board meeting.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Annual Enrollment Report—Mr. Barlow, Executive Director of Technology, noted the Office of Strategic Planning achieved 99% accuracy in their enrollment projections. Mr. Harper briefly described how data is collected. He noted there were fewer children moving out of the county and more children moving into the county than expected. Mr. Harper provided statistics on the categories where student enrollment was underestimated. In total, there was an increase of 1,164 students over the 107,440 projection made last December. Mr. Brocato described the methodologies used in the enrollment projection. Ms. Fromm noted a report by DeJong, which is scheduled to arrive later in the week, would take a global look at enrollment issues, particularly in the Northwest Area.
- B. Report on the Independent Evaluation of the New Elementary Reading Series—Ms. Kathy McMahon, Executive Director of Elementary Programs, provided a Power Point™ presentation summarizing the evaluation conducted by Dr. Gilbert Austin. Information provided in the presentation included the “Objectives of the Purchase,” “Procedures for the Purchase,” “Comments About the Materials,” “Professional Development Support,” and “Plans for 2002-2003.”

Ms. McMahon described for Ms. Ettinger the “intensive service” received by priority schools. Ms. Lichter stated that professional development has taken place with special educators to help them modify the materials to meet the needs of those children. She also stated that more work needs to be done with the Gifted/Talented Office to help teachers with elementary G/T students.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Ms. Jung noted that this could be a prototype for review and implementation of new curriculum in many areas. She inquired as to how the new curriculum has been received by new teachers as well as experienced teachers. Ms. Lichter indicated first- and second-year teachers were more comfortable with the material than the veteran teachers and noted that the veterans are more comfortable with the material this year than last.

Dr. Hayman was troubled by the fact that even though verbal assurances have been given with regard to the involvement of the Office of Equity and Assurance, it does not appear in writing, as do references of collaboration with Special Education and Gifted/Talented offices.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Johns noted a number of Baltimore County students, teachers, and community members were honored recently at the Annual Excellence for Minority Achievement Awards program. A \$1,000 scholarship, in the name of Dr. Barbara Dezmon, was awarded to a Maryland student. (Dr. Dezmon is Chair of the Achievement Initiative for Maryland's Minority Students Steering Committee.)

Ms. Johns announced that at a recent program sponsored by the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities, several students and teachers, as well as Pine Grove Middle School were recognized.

It was also announced by Ms. Johns that on October 17th, the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics recognized Darnell Pecker of Hebbville Elementary School as the Outstanding Elementary Mathematics Teacher. Ms. Penny Booth, Coordinator of Secondary Mathematics, was honored as the Outstanding Mathematics Educator.

Ms. Johns noted that on October 17th State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick and former Governor William Donald Schaefer visited Cockeysville Middle School and Dulaney High School.

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.)

ETHICS REVIEW PANEL REAPPOINTMENT

On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved a reappointment to the Ethics Review Panel.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Mr. Hayden pulled item #5; Mr. Kennedy pulled item #4. On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved items #1-3.

1. Contracted Services: Evaluation of Magnet School Programs – Additional Services
2. Curriculum Software Management Performance Series – Scantron
3. Contracted Services: Video, Digital, and Audio Networking Services – Five-Year Bid

Item #4

Mr. Kennedy inquired as to how we determine what kind of paint is used and questioned if the school system was getting a quality product for the price. Mr. Gay noted that with one vendor, McCormick, products were being awarded for testing purposes only. He stated that all paints are tested extensively for environmental purposes and to be certain that it is suitable for use in schools around children. Dr. Krempel assured Mr. Kennedy the paints used are moderately priced.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Jung, the Board approved item #4.

4. Supply Contract: Interior and Exterior Paint

Item #5

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board approved item #5. Mr. Hayden abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

5. Supply Contract: Various Electrical Supplies – Three-Year Contract

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-4. The Board approved these recommendations.

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

1. Fee Acceptance – Inspection Services for Reroofing Projects – Various Schools
2. Change Order – Fine Grading Package – New Town High School
3. Change Order – Masonry Package – New Town High School
4. Increase Contingency Authorization for Concrete Slab Reinforcement - Patapsco High School

COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN – FISCAL YEAR 2003

The Board received as information the *Comprehensive Maintenance Plan - Fiscal Year 2003*.

BOARD NEGOTIATING TEAMS, 2002-2003

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved its negotiating teams with various employee groups for 2002-2003.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Wednesday, October 23, 2002, the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget meeting at Eastern Technical High School at 7:00 p.m.
- On Thursday, October 24, 2002, the PTA Council of Baltimore County will hold its annual Fall Workshop at 6:00 p.m. at Cockeysville Middle School.
- On Tuesday, October 29, 2002, the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget meeting at Owings Mills High School at 7:00 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Monday, November 4, 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 approximately 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome at all open sessions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

Mr. Arnold reminded speakers to refrain from discussing any matter that might come before the Board in the form of an appeal, as well as any personnel matters. Speakers were also reminded to observe the time limit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Amethyst Danesie, President of the Baltimore County Student Councils, noted the upcoming Middle School Leadership Conference and the annual food drive. She also mentioned planning is taking place for the Speakers Showcase in late January.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked Ms. McMahon and Ms. Lichter for their collaboration with the Office of Special Education as it applied to differentiating the new reading series. She noted a need to disaggregate data with regard to special education, particularly as it pertains to the Annual Report.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, a representative of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, shared her reasons for disaggregating special education data. MSPAP performance results indicate a substantial increase in the performance gap over time between regular and special education students across the grades. Ms. Shriver stated that regular education and special education scores are comparable in 3rd grade, start to decline in 5th grade, and plummet in 8th grade. She further stated that in Baltimore County, and in most jurisdictions, the largest disability category, K-5, is speech language impairment. This category is rarely used after 5th grade. Special education students with speech language impairment are given IEP's, even if they only receive speech therapy services. The scores are counted into the special education MSPAP scores. These students are usually the highest achieving and highest performing special education students, and their scores can help inflate and explain the comparable performance results seen on MSPAP between regular and special education students in grade 3. These students exit special education after grade 5 because they no longer need speech therapy, and this could explain the dramatic climb in special education MSPAP scores in grade 8.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, stated she has been emailing principals information to be distributed to their PTA's in hopes local units will attend the pre-budget meeting and support improved teacher and administrator salaries, as well as to have funding included for completing the technology infrastructure. She commended the Site-Based Planning Team at Parkville High School for its development of a document geared to match the *Blueprint for Progress*. Ms. O'Hare shared some statistics regarding the grades at which Gifted and Talented students take Algebra I. She also attended a professional development program on AVID.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Mr. Nicholas Aquino, a representative of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, spoke of the need for a "serious review" of the Career Connections program before it is implemented in other schools. He stated that the students taking advantage of this program at Dulaney are Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement. The program was originally provided as an opportunity for students not planning to attend college.

Mr. Nicholas Aquino, a representative of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, shared his commitment to focus on the needs of minority children living in group homes. He stated we have the data needed, and he asked the Board for its full commitment to eliminating the achievement gap now, not in the distant future.

Mr. Rodger Janssen, a representative of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, reminded Board members of the Council's Fall Workshop on October 23rd and thanked Board and staff for its support of these events. In light of the modifications to school programs and activities due to the sniper, Mr. Janssen requested that decisions made by school administrators be communicated to those impacted in a timely manner.

Delegate Robert Zirkin briefed the Board on plans for a middle school in the Northwest Area. He stated that earlier this year, State senators, delegates, and the County Executive made a formal request for a parcel of land on the Rosewood site. During the process, it was determined that the school system had not requested the land. Delegate Zirkin asked the Board to submit a request for the land to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He also noted that money was committed to hire a consultant for analysis of this property, but the money was not included in the school system's budget.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, a Northwest Area parent, noted according to the report presented at the last Board meeting, the Northwest Area has the highest number of trailers and modulars in the school system, which indicates a need for additional space. In visiting the Office of Strategic Planning, Ms. Nelson was given state rated capacity numbers indicating several schools in the Northwest are under capacity. As an example, Ms. Nelson stated that Deer Park Middle School is shown as being 78 students under capacity, but in reality, 16 teachers work off of carts.

Ms. Stephanie Wilson, a Featherbed Elementary School parent, requested the Board look into property that is for sale on the backside of the school. She stated the Board is not serious about making changes at the school. Ms. Wilson asked for additional parking and an addition for Featherbed.

Ms. Leslie Carter, a Featherbed Elementary School parent, asked the Board to investigate the property that is for sale to see if it could be used to help relieve Featherbed's overcrowding.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Sandra Fromprong, a representative of the Winfield Elementary School PTA, spoke of the need for additional staffing at Winfield. She stated classes are overcrowded due to the current staffing formula.

At 9:35 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bormel and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Johns
Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

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