

TENTATIVE MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Thursday, February 20, 2003

The special meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by President Donald L. Arnold. In addition to President Arnold, the following Board members were in attendance: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, and Mr. James R. Sasiadek. Also present were J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, staff members, and the media.

Mr. Hayden immediately moved the Board go into closed session to discuss matters regarding 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 MINUTES

Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Capozzi reviewed the status of negotiations with Board members.

Mr. Walker entered the room at 6:48 p.m.

At 7:24 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grzymiski and approved by the Board.

Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 7:24 p.m.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:45 p.m. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: 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, J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, staff members, and the media were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools, particularly in memory of T. Bayard Williams, who served on the Board of Education from 1956 to 1978.

Mr. Arnold stated the purpose of tonight's meeting was to briefly discuss matters to go into the budget book for Board consideration on February 26th. He emphasized the Board would not be adopting the budget at this meeting.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Kennedy recommended a 3% COLA be included in the operating budget request, noting that we are competing with other LEA's for the best and brightest teachers.

Mr. Sasiadek clarified with Mr. Kennedy that the 3% COLA he is requesting is for all employees, not just teachers. He recognized that all employees play a special role in keeping education in Baltimore County at the highest level.

Mr. Hayden agreed with Mr. Kennedy's recommendation. He noted that negotiations continue toward a final contract and that it's important in conjunction with Mr. Kennedy's suggestion that the system move in the direction of continuing to try and obtain savings in the health insurance area.

Mr. Teplitzky agreed with Mr. Hayden's comments, noting that the inclusion of a 3% salary increase is long overdue and should become part of the budget. He made clear to the Superintendent and the staff that the system needs to act responsibly. Mr. Teplitzky also urged staff to look earnestly at areas in which to find funds and where we might be able to share additional funding with the staff and negotiating units.

Mr. Grzynski offered his support of the 3% COLA adjustment and comments voiced by his colleagues. He stated that not only is the Board recommending this adjustment for the good of the staff and students, but for the future of Baltimore County.

Ms. Ettinger noted the Board's responsibility of stewardship for the school system, for students, and the community.

Mr. Walker expressed concern about staff going to other counties because of better salaries being offered.

Ms. Ettinger shared some concerns regarding the CollegeEd program. She questioned how CollegeEd would be integrated into the existing middle school program, since the program is currently in the pilot stage and is proposed to be placed in all middle schools next year. Ms. Ettinger stated she is unhappy about approving expansion of this program without a track record. She had questions about monitoring the program, evaluating its performance, and asked for a follow-up report regarding its effectiveness or ineffectiveness.

Ms. Grant stated that since the work session, a training session has been held. There has also been dialogue with principals and others who implement programs. CollegeEd will be aligned with the following content strands-- Family Studies, Technology Education, and with the guidance program. Ms. Grant assured Ms. Ettinger that the 12 CollegeEd lessons would not take away from the instruction in those content areas because they are aligned with what they've been matched to and are linked to a content strand that is already offered.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

Ms. Ettinger asked Ms. Grant to explain how the impact on students will be assessed. Ms. Grant stated there will be periodic meetings with principals. At the end of the year, there will be a meeting to assess what worked, what didn't work, and to make adjustments in the program before the start of next year. Ms. Grant also noted for Ms. Ettinger that the College Board will provide training for teachers.

Mr. Kennedy inquired about how the increase in non-public placement is determined. Ms. Burnopp stated that Baltimore County Public Schools is overbudget in that area this year by \$5.1 million. She also stated that staff estimated the population based on this year's figures and projections for next year.

Ms. Ettinger commended Dr. Hairston and the staff for including funds and programs that specifically target student achievement.

Mr. Arnold summarized the Board's recommendation of a 3% COLA for all employees and the instruction to staff to look at any savings in the budget via negotiations on health care costs and other areas.

Mr. Arnold stated the Board has spent much time listening to various groups and individuals about what they would like to see in the school system. He noted the difficult economic times and spoke of the Board's one main concern throughout its discussions—that being for school system employees, particularly with *No Child Left Behind*. He recognized the difficult financial issues facing the county and the state. Mr. Arnold expressed the hope that the citizens of Baltimore County, the Board of Education, the County, and the State could work together to provide the most appropriate budget by looking at all the different issues again and to determine where we might be able to achieve the greatest for our students and employees. He noted the Board's concerns that some employees have not received increases for several years and, also, that currently Baltimore County ranks 15th in the state for teachers' salaries.

At 8:12 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved adjournment of the open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ettinger and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Robert Haines, Esq.
Deputy Superintendent
Business Services