

## TENTATIVE MINUTES

### BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:35 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, 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 announced that an Expenditure Review Committee to operate through the end of the fiscal year is being created. Expenditures between now and the end of the year will be monitored. Mr. Walker noted a neighboring school district's large deficit and voiced his agreement with the Superintendent's move to monitor expenditures.

Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 4:37 p.m.

Ms. Ettinger noted she has received increasing numbers of questions with regard to the special education information and stated her belief that there are significant areas of misunderstanding about how these decisions are made, who is being served, and why.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 4:39 p.m.

Mr. Kennedy announced that he asked Dr. Krempel to make a report at a future Building Committee meeting with regard to the school system's agreement with the County for assisting with snow removal and to the wear and tear on system equipment.

Mr. Arnold noted the absence of Dr. Hayman due to a death in the family.

At 4:48 p.m., Ms. Ettinger moved the Board go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and unanimously approved by the Board.

### CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Dr. Hairston discussed a possible personnel change for the Board's comment and consideration.

At 5:00 p.m., Ms. Ettinger moved the Board come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Walker moved that the student Board member be permitted to participate in negotiations discussions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Murray and approved by the Board.

At 5:01 p.m., Mr. Walker moved that 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 approved unanimously by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Ms. Burnopp reviewed with the Board items included in the proposed operating budget that were part of negotiations.

At 5:05 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Arnold noted several upcoming events and asked Board members to contact the appropriate staff person if interested in attending.

Dr. Hairston was asked by President Arnold to have staff submit workshop proposals for the 2003 MABE boards of education conference. Suggestions were made by Mr. Sasiadek and Mr. Arnold.

Board members discussed the possibility of allowing Cabinet members direct access to Board members via email. Dr. Hairston and Mr. Arnold cautioned the Board about placing non-public information on their computers.

Mr. Hayden asked Board's counsel to provide guidance on the issue.

Mr. Arnold announced that beginning next school year, invitations sent to constituent groups for dinner will include a request for discussion topics ahead of time, as well as the need to limit certain topics.

Mr. Arnold announced the rescheduling of one dinner meeting and the scheduling of another.

Board members decided to conduct a public hearing on the proposed New Town High School boundaries on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The time and location will be announced.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

Dr. Hairston discussed with Board members a recent news article about his rumored possible departure from Baltimore County Public Schools. He indicated he has not been contacted by the search firm or by the particular board of education.

At 5:42 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the open session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Teplitzky and approved by the Board.

The Board hosted the PTA Council of Baltimore County for dinner.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:35 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. Grzynski, 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; 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 Ms. Sarah Adams, a student attending Towson University, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

MINUTES

Hearing no corrections or additions to the open and closed session minutes of January 28, 2003, and the Report of the Public Hearing, January 30, 2003, Mr. Arnold declared the minutes and report approved as presented on the web site.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston recognized the efforts of 22 Baltimore County Public Schools' truck drivers who worked 120 hours non-stop during the recent snowstorm. These drivers then spent additional time to clear school and bus lots. He expressed his personal thanks and appreciation to Deputy Superintendent Robert Haines, Dr. Krempel, and his staff.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Cont.)

Dr. Hairston announced a new program sponsored by First Financial Credit Union aimed at attracting outstanding teacher candidates to Baltimore County Public Schools. The program offers new teachers an interest-free loan of up to \$2,000 for up to 12 months. It also supplements an existing program that allows new teachers to borrow up to \$1,000 interest-free. In past years, First Financial has donated more than \$200,000 for educational technology for individual schools. Present from First Financial Credit Union were President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Windsor and J. Wesley Bone, Chair of the First Financial Board of Directors.

Dr. Hairston recognized Chadwick Elementary School for receiving a \$10,000 grant from Toyota and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics to implement the HIP program. This program is expected to raise the math achievement of fourth grade African American males.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Burnopp briefly reviewed the summary information for the budget contained in Exhibit B.

Mr. Kennedy moved approval of the proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2004. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ettinger and approved by the Board.

In response to a question by Mr. Teplitzky, Ms. Burnopp stated that the adopted operating budget will now go to the County Executive for his approval. The budget then goes to the County Council in April, who will give final approval in late May.

Mr. Arnold thanked staff for its time and effort in preparing the budget.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Report on the Proposed Boundaries for New Town High School – Through a Power Point™ presentation, Dr. Gehring reviewed the charge to the Boundary Committee, the composition of the group, results of the community forum, the committee's recommendations, the Superintendent's recommendation, and projection and enrollment data for Scenario B.

Mr. Grzyski voiced his concern that with the recommended proposal, Owings Mills High School will remain over capacity. Dr. Gehring stated there are programmatic issues that could be considered to help relieve overcrowding at Owings Mills.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Mr. Walker shared his concern about continued overcrowding at Randallstown High School. Dr. Gehring stated that the initial greatest relief would be felt by Randallstown. He also noted that relocatables would become a non-issue.

Mr. Teplitzky asked for information regarding the percentage of walkers for each school. He also asked for information about feeder patterns and the impact on students attending grades K-12 with the same people.

Mr. Arnold announced the Board would conduct a public hearing on the proposed boundaries on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The time and location will be announced in the near future.

Dr. Gehring recognized Barbara Walker, Ghassan Shah, Chris Brocato, Charles Herndon, and Rita Fromm for their work and time spent on the boundary process.

Ms. Fromm updated the Board with respect to DeJong and Associates. The next initiative for the group will be to conduct a countywide analysis of high school boundaries, looking at enrollment projections, capacity issues, and program placement.

Mr. Hayden requested that the County be kept closely connected with this study.

Mr. Grzynski thanked Dr. Hairston and Ms. Fromm for the decision to look at high school boundaries systemwide.

Ms. Bormel inquired about the time frame of the study. Ms. Fromm responded that it is hoped that DeJong's recommendations can be presented early next school year.

Mr. Teplitzky reinforced Mr. Hayden's suggestion regarding the importance of keeping the County administrative officials involved in this study so that at the end of the analysis, the results are credible and believable. Ms. Fromm stated that since the Office of Strategic Planning has been fully staffed, they have worked on a regular basis to develop a relationship with County officials. Ms. Fromm assured Mr. Teplitzky that County officials will be advised throughout the process.

Ms. Ettinger asked if any attention would be paid to feeder patterns, to which Ms. Fromm responded affirmatively.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Mr. Walker inquired if there were any measures in place to prevent a student population explosion as occurred with the opening of New Town Elementary School. Dr. Gehring and Ms. Fromm stressed that a cushion has been built into each of the proposed scenarios. Ms. Fromm shared her confidence that a repeat of what happened at New Town Elementary School will not occur with the new high school.

- B. Report on the National Science Foundation Grant – Ms. Johns described the partnership between the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) with regard to the National Science Foundation grant totaling \$13 million. The project will improve student achievement in math and science K-12 while also engaging students in technology and engineering. Ms. Johns thanked Dr. Dezmon and Dr. Lee for their time and energy in pursuit of this grant. Ms. Johns reviewed the initial partnership with UMBC that started in the 2001-02 school year. The purpose was to recruit, prepare, and retain high quality teachers in high needs schools.

Mr. Boone and Ms. Grabarek highlighted the key points of the grant through a Power Point™ presentation. The grant establishes six science, technology, engineering, and math academy schools in three elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. In each school, there will be one or two high tech learning labs that will be the center of highly engaging, differentiated math and science curriculum.

Ms. Grabarek explained that the partnership addresses the stability of teaching staff in schools where teacher turnover is high. The grant will also address the procurement of highly qualified, well-trained teachers in math and science and addresses the use of state-of-the-art technology for teaching and learning.

The first two academies to be established during the next school year will be Dogwood and Hebbville. They will be followed by Featherbed Lane Elementary and Southwest Academy in Year 2 and by Woodlawn Middle and High Schools in Year 3.

Ms. Ettinger asked how initiatives such as AVID, CollegeEd, and STEM Project will interface with existing curriculum development activities or staff development activities. Ms. Johns stated meetings have taken place

with the first phase of schools to review the programs within their building and where the system is with other partnerships in those buildings to make

### REPORTS (Cont.)

certain there is no duplication or contradiction. With regard to the specific programs mentioned by Ms. Ettinger, Ms. Johns stated staff will look at those, dialogue with the Superintendent, and make recommendations.

Ms. Murray noted that most of the schools selected to participate in this project are from the same area and asked if there were additional reasons why they were selected other than the general criteria. Mr. Boone stated the schools chosen have fairly young faculties with a large turnover, and they are priority schools that have student achievement issues.

### PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

### CONTRACT AWARDS

Mr. Teplitzky pulled item 2, and Mr. Kennedy pulled item 6. On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Grzymiski, the Board approved items 1, 3, and 7. Items 4 and 5 were deferred. Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on these items.

1. Computer Software and Training
3. Contracted Services: Travel Agency Services
7. Stationery (Office) Supplies

#### Item 2

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved item 2. Mr. Teplitzky and Mr. Arnold abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

2. Contracted Services: On-Call Microbial Remediation Services (Extension)

CONTRACT AWARDS (Cont.)

Item 6

Mr. Kennedy inquired how the effectiveness of this program is evaluated. Dr. Savage stated there are pre- and post-tests, self-tests from participants, and statements about the impact on participants' interactions with other people. He also noted that first-year money for this program is provided by a grant, and for the second year, the money may come from the Maryland State Department of Human Resources.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved item 6. Mr. Arnold abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

6. Participation and License Agreement Between the Best Friends Foundation and the Board of Education of Baltimore County

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1 and 2.

1. Interior Lighting Upgrades – Lansdowne Middle School
2. Change Order – Science Room Renovations – Owings Mills High School

BUDGET SUPPLEMENT AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFER –  
PRIVATE PLACEMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2003 OPERATING BUDGET

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board approved a budget supplement in the amount of \$3,347,441 and a budget appropriation transfer in the amount of \$1,400,000 to fund a projected shortfall in private placement costs.

BUDGET SUPPLEMENT – HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS –  
FISCAL YEAR 2003 OPERATING BUDGET

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved a budget supplement in the amount of \$2,969,071 to offset increased costs for employee health insurance.

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

On motion of Mr. Teplitzky, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board voted to support HB 22 Public Schools – Specialists – Stipends.

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### SCHOOL LEGISLATION (Cont.)

Dr. Poff updated the Board on SB 32 – Education – Children in Out-of-County Living Arrangements – Informal Kinship Care. He noted the sponsor of the bill and the committee accepted the recommendations of the Board. The bill has passed by the Senate and is now being considered by the House. Ms. Ettinger asked if the educational decisions referenced in Dr. Poff's summary included IEP situations. Dr. Poff indicated that area is unclear, and he will seek clarity on that issue.

Dr. Poff noted that SB 66 – Sales and Use Tax-Annual Back-to-School Tax-Free Week – was withdrawn. He also noted that SB 81 – County School Board - Authority to Remove County Superintendents – received an unfavorable report.

On motion of Mr. Teplitzky, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board voted to support HB 611 (SB 27) – Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems – Reemployment of Retired Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board voted to oppose SB 620 – State Board of Education – Graduation Requirements – Student Service.

With regard to HB 778 – Education – Baltimore County – Public School Employees – Dr. Poff noted the Board's amendment was accepted by the Baltimore County House delegation and will move to a full hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee.

On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Ms. Murray, the Board voted to support HB 1087 – Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems – Reemployment of Retired Teachers – Sunset Extension.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- ⌚ On Wednesday, March 5, 2003, 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, March 11, 2003, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at 4:30 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. The

Board will host the Minority Achievement Advisory Group for dinner on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

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### 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.

Mr. Teplitzky reminded everyone of the public hearing on the proposed New Town High School on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The time and location will be announced in the near future.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, a representative of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Special Education, shared her concern and the concern of other parents of special education children regarding the increase in private placement costs. She noted that 525 students will receive \$31.4 million and that a large majority of these placements are for emotionally disturbed students. Ms. Shriver noted that IDEA amendments set forth requirements that IEP teams must address and develop behavior intervention plans for students with disabilities such as those severely emotionally disturbed, where behavior issues play a crucial part in that student's ability to learn. In data from the Maryland State Improvement Grant Performance Report, Ms. Shriver reported that Baltimore County has the greatest number of special education students with long-term suspension rates. She stated that in 2000, Baltimore County did not conduct any behavior assessment plans, and in 2001, conducted 46 behavior assessment plans and implemented 26. This is significantly lower than in other counties of similar size. Ms. Shriver asked what is being done to lower the costs of private placements.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, voiced her pleasure at the inclusion of a 3% COLA in the 2004 Operating Budget. All council members and Board members were reminded of the joint council meeting to be held March 13<sup>th</sup> at Greenwood. There will be an update on the implementation of all the recommendations made to the Board. The evening's main focus will be on an overview of the adopted 2004 Operating Budget.

Mr. Mark Beytin, speaking on behalf of Ms. Marcella Kehr, President of the Baltimore (County Instructional) Assistants and Clerical Employees (BACE), relayed BACE's appreciation to the Board for the proposed salary increases and for funding the reclassification.

Mr. Rodger Janssen, a representative of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, expressed the Council's support of the adopted budget, but shared the wish of the PTA Council to support a budget that adequately meets the needs of students. He read a portion of a letter sent out by a Baltimore County school requesting parents to purchase a vocabulary textbook. Mr. Janssen stated that schools are not adequately funded when parents are asked to purchase books for

essential curriculum. Mr. Janssen shared his excitement about the STEM project, even though he has questions.

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PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, reported on the PTA Council's recent Legislative Night in Annapolis. With regard to charter schools, Mr. Franklin reported the national PTA supports charter schools under certain guidelines; the Maryland PTA opposes both bills. Mr. Franklin inquired if arrangements could be made to present the report on the National Science Foundation Grant to the Southwest Area Advisory Council. Finally, Mr. Franklin reported the sudden death of a young teacher at Deer Park Elementary School.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, thanked the Board for adopting the 2004 Operating Budget under the current economic conditions. He stated everyone should work together to educate the County Executive and County Council on the importance of passing the budget to ensure the future of Baltimore County's children. Mr. Beytin further stated that unfunded federal and state mandates face extreme accountability measures without funding. Finally, on behalf of Baltimore County's teachers, Mr. Beytin thanked the Board for its genuine concern for its employees.

No one signed up to speak to the proposed revisions to Policies 4006 and 6166.

At 9:43 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY'S PUBLIC  
HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR NEW TOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, March 10, 2003  
Deer Park Middle Magnet School

The public hearing was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Barbara Walker, Assistant to Dr. Scott Gehring, Executive Director of Schools for the Northwest Area. The following Board members were in attendance: President Donald L. Arnold, Ms. Sarah D. Bormel, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker.

Ms. Walker reviewed the boundary process to date.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 7:09 p.m.

The following citizens addressed the Board:

1. Ms. Jeanette Key shared her concern that with the recommended scenario, New Town High School will not be as racially balanced as the neighborhood it serves, nor will Owings Mills High School. She also requested the Board to fund the curriculum at the school.
2. Mr. Len Tyner, a representative of the White Hurst community, noted that his community would not be affected by Scenario A or B. He did share his community's concern that New Town High School would experience overcrowding, as does New Town Elementary School.
3. Ms. Emily Wolfson stated Scenario A would provide greater relief to Owings Mills High School. She noted that the formula for determining capacities is flawed. Ms. Wolfson stated that the use of a building should be determined by the needs of the student population. She urged the Board to discuss the issue of school capacity.
4. Mr. Jose Anderson, a member of the Boundary Committee and a resident of the Village of 12 Trees, voiced his appreciation of how the process tried to take many groups into consideration. He was pleased that in both scenarios older, more settled communities were included and that the new school will not serve only new communities.
5. Ms. Diane Banks shared her concern about the lack of notice for this hearing. She was also concerned about the racial diversity at Randallstown and New Town High Schools. Ms. Banks stated the racial diversity at New Town is not indicative of the neighborhood. Finally, Ms.

Report of the Public Hearing – Page 2

Banks urged more stringent verification of addresses of students attending New Town to prevent overcrowding.

Mr. Arnold announced that a vote on the proposed boundaries would take place on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The audience was urged to contact any member of the Board with additional comments.

The hearing was concluded at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise Zepp  
Administrative Assistant