

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, April 22, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:40 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, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Arnold asked for nominations for the Maryland Association of Boards of Education's (MABE) annual Willis Award. A former Board president will be nominated.

Mr. Arnold announced MABE's Summer Leadership Conference will be held in June. Board members interested in attending are to contact Ms. Zepp.

President Arnold announced the date of the next Board retreat--Sunday, June 8th. The retreat will be held at the Marshy Point Nature Center from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Mr. Hayden and Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 4:47 p.m.

At the retreat, there will be a presentation from MABE on building strong leadership teams, and there will be a discussion about the Education Foundation.

Mr. Grzymiski inquired about a date for the Board's annual summer retreat. The dates of August 16th and 23rd will be considered.

At 4:52 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the open session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved by the Board. The Board hosted the Baltimore City School Commissioners for dinner.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:39 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: 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 Miss Cierra Batock, a student at Wellwood International School, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the open and closed session minutes of March 11, 2003, Mr. Arnold declared the report and minutes approved as presented on the web site.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston provided an update on New Town High School, noting that overall construction is 90% complete and occupancy is slated for mid-June. Textbook and instructional materials orders will be mailed this week, and the Office of Student Data is preparing a list of students based on the established boundaries. Special Transfer applications are being accepted, but none will be considered until after August 15th.

The Superintendent announced that prior to Spring Break, Dorothy Hardin, Principal of Pikesville High School, was honored as the 2003-2004 Maryland High School Principal of the Year at the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals Spring Conference. Ms. Hardin will represent Maryland in the national competition.

Dr. Hairston announced that the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technology Education awarded Susan Falcone, a Family Studies teacher at Loch Raven High School, their first CTE Star of Education Award.

Austin Davis, a fourth grader at Lutherville Laboratory, was named the Maryland grand prizewinner in the Mutual of Omaha's Kid's Summit 2003 essay contest.

Representatives from Halstead Academy, Lutherville Laboratory, and Lansdowne High School Academy of Finance attended the recent annual Magnet Schools of America Conference.

Teams from Dogwood, Edmondson Heights, Hernwood, Milbrook, Powhatan, Winfield, and Woodmoor Elementary Schools participated in the Sixth Maryland State Black Saga Competition held at the University of Maryland, College Park. Our teams made a very strong showing with Edmondson Heights moving on to the final competition round.

The Superintendent announced that the Baltimore County Commission for Women named Sara Reihl, a senior at Parkville High School as "2003 Young Woman of the Year."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Cont.)

Dr. Hairston informed the Board and audience that the Maryland Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development selected Battle Monument School for the Outstanding Program in Education Award for 2002-2003.

With regard to the County Executive's Budget Message, Dr. Hairston noted that the Board's request was fully funded and thanked Mr. Smith for his commitment to education. He also acknowledged the 3% COLA's were not appropriated at this time.

Mr. Arnold announced the County Council will hold its annual public hearing on the budget on April 28th at 7:00 p.m. at Loch Raven High School.

OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved the recommendation not to make any changes to Policy 2352 – Accidents/Medical Emergencies.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. On a motion by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board adopted a Resolution proclaiming May 4-10, 2003, as Pupil Personnel Workers Week.
- B. On a motion by Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board adopted a Resolution proclaiming May 4-10, 2003, as School Psychologists Week.
- C. Enrollment Report for Strategically Located Schools—Ms. Fromm, Executive Director for Planning and Support Operations, and Ms. Staskiewicz, a representative from DeJong and Associates, updated the Board on the work of the Office of Strategic Planning to address the overcrowding issue at New Town Elementary School and other schools in the county since the DeJong recommendations were presented to the Board in November.

Ms. Fromm noted the County Executive's proposed budget includes funding for construction of the new Woodholme Elementary School. Short-term, emergency initiatives to relieve overcrowding at New Town Elementary School have been approved by the Superintendent. New Town students residing in the Garrison Forest Apartments and some single-family homes in the area will be annexed to Glyndon and Franklin Elementary Schools. New Town students residing in the McDonogh

REPORTS (Cont.)

Township and Garrison Woods areas will be annexed to Fort Garrison and Summit Park Elementary Schools. This area includes various types of housing. In addition, students moving into Red Run II, Winterset Woods, and Brookside Common will be annexed to Reisterstown Elementary. Ms. Fromm stated there are plans to relocate the self-contained special education classes for students with emotional disabilities from New Town to Chatsworth School.

Other initiatives include a combination of full-day and half-day kindergarten programs. The system will maintain current enrollment levels of prekindergarten classes. Ms. Fromm stated that with these emergency measures, it is anticipated that when school opens in August, there will be 901 available seats in New Town Elementary and an enrollment of approximately 806 students.

At Dogwood Elementary School (in the Southwest Area), there are plans to relocate three (3) self-contained special education classes for students with emotional disabilities to Winfield. At Edmondson Heights, kindergarten enrollment will be capped at the current level, and three (3) relocatables will be added to that site. Ms. Fromm informed Board members any additional kindergarten registrations will be served at Westowne Elementary School starting in August. At Featherbed Lane Elementary School, the primary and intermediate schools will be consolidated under one administration. There will also be some facilities improvements.

Ms. Staskiewicz reviewed the process to be used to complete Phase II of the DeJong study—a review of all high school enrollments and boundaries. A steering committee will be formed. The committee will gather data, review the system profile, and look at the educational and magnet programs being offered to see how they affect overcrowding and undercapacity enrollments in high schools. Options will be developed. They may include program, boundaries, or program recommendations. Three (3) community forums will be held in various areas of the county, with recommendations being brought to the Board in September of this year.

Mr. Arnold asked that a written copy of the presentation be provided to Board members for its review.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Ms. Ettinger inquired about the impact of annexation on the receiving schools. Ms. Fromm responded that all principals of the receiving schools are comfortable with the plan and are ready to implement it. Ms. Ettinger also asked for written information on current enrollment of the receiving schools, the stated capacity, and the expected enrollment with the annexation. Ms. Ettinger also stated that if the system moves forward with this plan, it will be important to have a sense of the time line that is required to build a new school so that parents will not be under any false impressions that a new school will “pop up.”

After receiving clarification from Ms. Fromm that magnet schools will be part of the high school study only as it affects enrollment issues, Dr. Hayman requested a complete study of magnet schools.

Mr. Walker asked for the number of students who will be annexed from New Town to the various other schools.

Ms. Ettinger asked for enrollment projections for New Town and the receiving schools for 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Because of the large amount of information presented, Mr. Arnold suggested scheduling a work session on this issue. Contingent upon checking the Board’s calendar, a work session will be held on Wednesday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m. at Greenwood.

Mr. Grzynski expressed concern about the community forums being scheduled in June, noting that with the end of school, attendance at the forums may be lacking. He urged the forum dates be determined as quickly as possible so that it can be communicated to the public.

- D. Report on the Status of Field Trips and Foreign Travel—Through a Power Point™ presentation, Ms. Bailey and Ms. Farley briefly reviewed the history of the field trip and foreign travel policy since 2001 and the system’s current position.

Mr. Teplitzky voiced his support of a ban on foreign travel, but disagreed with the ban on travel in the United States. He suggested there be an individual review of each trip, especially with the lowering of the alert level. This view was supported by several board members, noting that students’ safety is the system’s first responsibility.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Mr. Kennedy asked the Superintendent and staff to revisit the issue of field trips within the United States.

Dr. Hayman shared concerns communicated to him that staff who participate in trips that are not affiliated with the school system would suffer repercussions. Dr. Hairston stated that this was a non-school sponsored activity and was isolated. He further stated that rumors of repercussion have not surfaced within the school system.

Ms. Ettinger stated that should the school system move in the direction of allowing trips within the United States after individual review, it should be made clear to students and parents that because of the volatile situation in the world, changes may occur.

- C. Summary of Key School Legislation – Dr. Poff reviewed key pieces of legislation considered by the General Assembly that affect Baltimore County.

While the Public Charter School Act bears little or no resemblance to the four proposals during the early part of the Session, it retains the objective of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education that the primary chartering authority would be local boards of education with the existing appeal process.

Children in Out-of-County Living Arrangements passed. In its final form, the legislation was amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Board.

With regard to Residential Child Care Programs, as part of the licensure of residential childcare programs, caregivers are required to meet with teachers and assist in the obtaining and delivery of information about the students as they enter school.

HB 778 – Public School Employees – passed.

Dr. Poff also reviewed the budget as it affects Baltimore County Public Schools, Thornton funding, and state aid to local governments.

Mr. Hayden noted that the Maryland Association of Boards of Education was pleased with Dr. Poff's work at this year's Session. Mr. Hayden expressed his pleasure with the State's allocation for special education transportation.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the personnel exhibits as presented on Exhibits E, F, G, H, I, and J. (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 1-8.

1. Contracted Services: On-Call Wood Floor Refinishing, Relining, and Repair for Gymnasiums, Stages, and Other Locations
2. Cosmetology Labs at Carver Center for the Arts and Technology and Western School of Technology and Environmental Science
3. Diesel Antifreeze
4. Document Printing System
5. Lubricants and Motor Oils
6. Printing: Science Lab Manuals
7. Technology Education Furniture – Workbenches
8. Various Digital Equipment: Video Cameras, Projectors, Accessories, and Others

RESOLUTION FOR FINANCING

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved a resolution for the financing of vehicles. Mr. Arnold abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-9. Mr. Kennedy asked Mr. Cassell to explain “QZAB.” Qualified Zone Academic Bonds are funds given by the State to schools that offer free and reduced lunches. These schools are given a certain amount of money to be used in the capital program. There are some qualifications and restrictions on how the money can be used.

Mr. Walker pulled item 4; Mr. Teplitzky pulled item 8. The Board approved items 1-3 and 5-7, and 9.

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

1. Chairlift Installation – Elmwood Elementary School
2. Hot Water Heater Replacement – Holabird Middle School
3. Hallway Locker Replacement – Lansdowne High School
5. Networking/Electrical Upgrades
6. Reroofing Project – Hereford Middle School
7. Reroofing Project – Patapsco High School
9. Change Order – Design Services for Systemic Renovations – Chase Elementary School

Item 4

After questioning the support of the ceiling for the fire suppression system, it was determined that Mr. Walker's question concerned item 8. Mr. Walker asked for assurance that the removal of the fire suppression system from the project was not due to finances. Mr. Cassell reassured Mr. Walker that was not the case but was due to an effort to keep the renovation project moving and with the intent to come back to it later, rather than stop work for that one issue.

As recommended by the Building Committee, the Board approved item 4.

4. Fire Alarm Replacement – Stoneleigh Elementary School

Item 8

Mr. Teplitzky inquired if there is anything about this project that would limit the school system's ability to use the building for a comprehensive school in the future. Mr. Cassell responded negatively. Mr. Teplitzky reiterated the purpose of this work is to make Campfield a totally useable building and would not limit the school system's ability to use it should the Board decide to make such a change in the future.

As recommended by the Building Committee, the Board approved item 8.

8. Change Order – Design Services for Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Campfield Early Childhood Center

SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFFING PLAN

Mr. Boone noted the approved staffing plan is due to the Maryland State Department of Education on or before July 1, 2003. He also noted that at a State meeting of Special Education directors, Dr. Baglin, Assistant Superintendent of the Division of Special Education at the State Department, referred to Baltimore County's plan as a model plan. The review process included three community input sessions.

Mr. Kennedy asked Mr. Boone if he was comfortable with the student/teacher ratio for students who are autistic. Mr. Boone stated that more information is being gathered from around the system and that there is some evidence that another ratio might be more favorable, but it was still premature to make a recommendation.

Mr. Kennedy expressed concern that the staffing ratio may be based on anticipated funding from fiscal authorities rather than on what is needed.

Ms. Ettinger inquired about the time line for achieving the goal of an 11:1 ratio for teachers and instructional assistants for inclusion. Mr. Boone was unable to provide that time line noting that over the years, Baltimore County Public Schools has consistently improved the ratio from 30:1 in the late 70's to the proposed 12.1:1. Ms. Ettinger shared Mr. Kennedy's concern regarding the staffing for children with autism.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Grzyski, the Board approved the proposed Special Education Staffing Plan for 2003-04.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- ⌚ On April 28, 2003, the County Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget at Loch Raven High School at 7:00 p.m.
- ⌚ On Thursday, April 24, 2003, the Board will hold its last Recognition Night program for the 2002-2003 school year. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Cockeysville Middle School.
- ⌚ On Tuesday, April 29, 2003, the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at New Town Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.
- ⌚ On Tuesday, May 6, 2003, the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Bear Creek Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- ⌚ On Monday, May 12, 2003, the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Special Education will meet at 7:00 p.m. at Greenwood. Two speakers from the

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

- ⌚ Maryland State Department of Education will provide an overview of the new High School Assessment requirements and what this means for students receiving special education services.
- ⌚ The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2003, 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.
- ⌚ As announced earlier in the evening, the Board will hold a work session on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. in the ESS building regarding the Enrollment Report on Northwest and Southwest Area Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Amethyst Danesie, President of the Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC), noted Baltimore County's representation at the recent state conference. She also noted that at April's General Assembly meeting, next year's officers were elected. Board members were invited to BCSC's annual Bull Roast.

Mr. Arnold announced that the vote on the proposed Special Education Staffing Plan was premature, in that the public had not been given the opportunity to comment on the proposal. On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Grzyski, the Board reversed its decision to approve the proposed Special Education Staffing Plan for 2003-2004. Mr. Arnold announced that the public would be given an opportunity to comment at the May 13th meeting, with a vote on the plan scheduled for the May 27th meeting.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, stated in response to Mr. Kennedy's concern about staffing to meet funding that we need to move away from that way of thinking. She voiced her pleasure with the public input process in the development of the proposal. With regard to federal guidelines that require all students be educated by highly qualified teachers, she stated many special education teachers may not be able to teach in the content area. With regard to the New Town Elementary School recommendations, she shared her disappointment that special education programs are being removed, especially for those students who are in their home school. She urged the Board to look at the inclusion of housing developments in the annexed areas. Ms. Nelson also voiced her opinion that there was not adequate community input in the development of these recommendations. She also stated that in order to truly alleviate the overcrowding at New Town Elementary School, more than 104 students need to be moved from the school.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, asked that “annexing” be more clearly defined. She urged the Board to keep students with disabilities in their home schools, when possible, noting that the emotionally disabled students benefit from consistent and secure settings. Ms. Kennedy noted a Coalition meeting with the County Council on April 29th to support full funding of the County Executive’s budget. She shared her disappointment with the County Executive’s failure to include raises for school system employees in his budget.

Ms. Meg O’Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, noted three schools in the Northeast Area who participated in Destination Imagination – Norwood Elementary School, Pine Grove Middle School, and Kenwood High School. The retirements of Sharon Rider, Administrative Assistant in the Northeast Area Office, and Sharon Norman, liaison to the advisory councils, were also noted. Ms. O’Hare complimented the process of the Middle School Task Force. Despite the County Executive’s failure to include a COLA for school system employees, Ms. O’Hare stated her belief that the County Executive is sincere in his support of education.

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, thanked the Board for slowing down the process regarding the overcrowding at New Town Elementary School to allow for public input. He also shared the PTA Council’s support of Ms. Nelson’s earlier comments on the issue. Mr. Franklin noted an oversight in procedure in the invitation of PTA Council representatives to the Master Plan Oversight Committee. Finally, Mr. Franklin noted the PTA Council’s Reflections Awards ceremony on April 30th at Cockeysville Middle School.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, reminded Board members of the May 6th joint Recognition/Retirement Program. He shared his disappointment with the County Executive’s budget and the lack of a COLA for teachers, noting that it is a sad day for public education.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, a parent residing in the Northwest Area, shared her disappointment at the lack of notice for public input on the New Town and Dogwood issues. The Board was encouraged to include the community in this process.

Ms. Anita Bass shared her disappointment over the continued ban on travel within the United States, particularly as it affects Kenwood High School.

Ms. Marilyn Baytop spoke of safety issues in her child’s school that have not been addressed.

Ms. Beverly Mason spoke about the lack of discipline on school buses and requested that bus drivers be provided an assistant or a school staff member to deal with discipline issues on the

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

bus. She stated she had a petition signed by 300 parents to support her position. Ms. Baytop stated the same situation exists in classes.

Ms. Joan White-McCain, Chair of the Overcrowding Committee at New Town Elementary School, shared parents' encouragement of the plans to address overcrowding at the school. She also voiced agreement of the annexation of special education classes to Chatsworth. Ms. McCain was not in favor of eliminating the enrollment cap.

Ms. Arvis Tucker, PTA President of the New Town Elementary School, noted more needs to be done with regard to alleviating the overcrowding at the school. She urged the Board to retain the enrollment cap until Woodholme Elementary School is built, noting that if the cap is removed more students will enter New Town Elementary as they move into the community.

Noting the PTA Council's awards program scheduled for April 30th, Mr. Arnold asked if Board members could attend a work session on May 1st. Several indicated they would not be able to attend and the work session remains scheduled for April 30th.

At 10:30 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer