

## TENTATIVE MINUTES

### BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, May 27, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:00 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Board members inquired of Dr. Hairston the status of the relief plans for New Town Elementary School. Mr. Arnold indicated he was under the impression that after the New Town hearing, staff would be coming back to the Board with additional recommendations. Dr. Hairston stated that letters have already been mailed to parents who may be impacted by the annexation plans. Dr. Gehring noted that only four (4) parents have contacted his office. Dr. Hairston stated staff would come back to the Board by June 10<sup>th</sup> so parents and the community will know what plans are to be implemented for the next school year.

With regard to the recommendations for Dogwood Elementary School, Dr. Hairston stated a committee has been formed. Ms. Ettinger referenced a letter from an advisory council chair with regard to the movement of special education students. She also stated there is discussion going on in the community with regard to that aspect of the recommendations.

Ms. Bormel and Mr. Hayden entered the room at 5:08 p.m.

In response to a question by Mr. Arnold about the need for a work session prior to a vote on the recommendations on June 10<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Hairston stated these items do not require a Board vote.

Ms. Ettinger stated that discussion needs to take place about the long-term problem of overcrowding in these areas. The current overcrowding issues are not individual school problems, but area problems and need area solutions, not individual school solutions.

Dr. Gehring reminded Board members of the report on the DeJong study this past fall which recommended boundary changes for the Northwest as a short-term solution and construction of new schools as a long-term solution. He agreed that parents of children scheduled for annexation should be informed in the near future so they can make plans. He also stated that there is currently no plan to move approximately 300 students so that the enrollment at New Town can be capped at 707. Dr. Gehring stated that his office did not receive any complaints from the parents of students who were annexed to Franklin or Glyndon Elementary Schools this year.

Mr. Hayden agreed with Ms. Ettinger and stated the continuing pattern of growth in the northwest and northeast areas of the county cannot be ignored. Over the next several years, the system will need new schools or a significant reorganization to address the issue of overcrowding.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

Mr. Haines stated that this fall, the Board will receive the recommendations of DeJong on high school overcrowding, and with those recommendations will probably come many changes. He acknowledged that annexing provides only temporary relief. Mr. Haines also commented that staff is working very diligently to start construction of a new school and obtain another site for a second school. He stated there are no other sites available for construction within ten miles of New Town.

Dr. Hayman stated several misconceptions were expressed by parents the night of the hearing. He agreed that a decision needs to be made soon by the administration so that Board members and parents are informed. Dr. Hayman agreed with Mr. Hayden on the need to develop a long-range plan.

Dr. Hairston suggested that the relief recommendations for New Town and Dogwood be placed on the June 10<sup>th</sup> agenda. He noted that the current plan presented is the least disruptive.

Ms. Ettinger shared Mr. Kennedy's concern about the movement of special education children at Dogwood.

At 5:55 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to allow Ms. Bormel to participate in negotiations discussions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Teplitzky and approved by the Board.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to discuss matters relative 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. Sasiadek and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Grimsley reviewed the appointment recommendations on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Capozzi updated the Board with regard to a salary issue for one of the employee groups.

At 6:18 p.m., Dr. Hayman moved the Board adjourn the closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grzymiski and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Arnold reminded Board members of the June 8<sup>th</sup> retreat at which time there will be a presentation on Boardmanship from Ms. Kitty Blumsack of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, as well as information presented on the Education Foundation.

### OPEN SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

At 6:19 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to adjourn the open session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and approved by the Board.

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:28 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, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky. 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. Monica Anderson, a student at the Carver Center for Arts and Technology, 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 April 22, 2003, and April 30, 2003, Mr. Arnold declared the 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 announced that on April 30, 2003, the Government Finance Officers Association awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Baltimore County Public Schools' Department of Fiscal Services. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Dr. Hairston also reported that Eastern Technical High School has been selected to receive the 2003 Career and Technology Education Outstanding Secondary CTE Program Award of Excellence from the Maryland State Department of Education.

### RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Grimsley recognized the administrative appointments that were approved at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved the Special Education Staffing Plan for 2003-2004.

Dr. Hairston noted the presence of Mr. Thomas Evans, whose appointment was approved at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

### REPORT

The Board received the following report:

Middle School Task Force Recommendations—Through a Power Point™ presentation, Dr. Gwen Grant, Executive Director of Secondary Programs, provided information on the Task Force Members, data and parent survey indications, and Southern Regional Educational Board Recommendations. The seven (7) recommendations include consistent rigorous curriculum; daily 45-minute periods in English, mathematics, science, and social studies; additional focus on improving students' skills to help prepare them for the more challenging high school courses; and providing a CollegeEd program to provide students and their families with early college awareness.

Ms. Bormel and Ms. Ettinger expressed concern about the time allocated to arts.

Mr. Sasiadek inquired about the number of surveys sent out and returned, as well as if a student survey was considered. Dr. Brager stated that about 500 surveys per area were sent out, with a return rate of about 20%, which he attributed to the length of the survey. He also stated that a student survey was not considered. Dr. Grant commented that it would be considered for next year.

Mr. Sasiadek concurred with the recommendation to bring middle school teachers who aren't fully certified up to the new standard of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. He noted the need to work with local colleges and universities to provide in-depth training.

Ms. Ettinger inquired about the opportunity for Board and community response to the recommendations. Dr. Grant stated comments can be emailed to her, and the task force will consider them and try to incorporate them into the report.

### REPORT (Cont.)

Ms. Ettinger noted a brief mention of special education in the presentation and no mention of Gifted/Talented (G/T). Dr. Grant stated the G/T program is already in place and will continue. The enrichment program is the bridge between the G/T program and students moving into the G/T program. She also noted that the focus on special education will be to have special needs students fully included in all school programs.

Ms. Ettinger also requested fiscal and policy implications of the recommendations.

Dr. Hayman requested information on the student support services aspect of the recommendations. He also suggested articulation between elementary and middle and middle and high school teachers be mandated. Dr. Hayman asked how the consistent vision, mission, and goals fit into the various focuses of the magnet school program. He asked that an invitation be extended to Board members to attend the summer training sessions.

Ms. Ettinger asked if there was discussion among the task force about lengthening the school day or changing configurations of grades served in the middle school. Dr. Grant stated there were strong feelings among task force members for supporting a minimum 45-minute period for CORE subjects so that time would not be lost in these areas. She also stated there were fiscal and contractual implications in considering lengthening the school day.

When asked about the next step in the process, Dr. Grant indicated the recommendations will go back to the Planning Committee for refinement. Ms. Ettinger expressed her desire for stakeholder groups to have an opportunity to hear Dr. Grant's presentation and offer feedback.

### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board adopted a Resolution honoring Ms. Bormel for her service as student member of the Board for 2002-2003. She was presented with the Resolution, flowers, and a gift from her colleagues on the Board. Sarah's parents and grandmother were present for the recognition.

### PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

Mr. Teplitzky noted the recent death of Mr. Jerry Miller, a teacher at Pikesville High School since 1969.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Mr. Kennedy pulled item 1 for further discussion. Mr. Teplitzky pulled item 3. On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved items 2 and 4-7.

2. eCatalog Contracts
  - a. Art Photo Supplies
  - b. Art Supplies
  - c. Audio-Visual Supplies
  - d. Classroom/School Office Supplies
  - e. Elementary Instructional Media
  - f. Elementary School Textbooks
  - g. Family Studies Supplies
  - h. High School Textbooks
  - i. Instructional Materials for Technology Education 2003-2004
  - j. Interscholastic Athletic Supplies and Equipment
  - k. Library Instructional Media
  - l. Medications and First Aid Supplies and Equipment
  - m. Middle School Textbooks
  - n. Music: Instrumental Supplies
  - o. Music: Vocal Supplies
  - p. Physical Education Supplies and Equipment
  - q. Science Supplies
  - r. Secondary Instructional Media
  - s. Secondary Math Supplies
  - t. Special Education Instructional Media
  - u. Special Education School Textbooks
4. Printing: BEBCO Forms
5. Selection Process for Algebra II Textbooks for 2003-2004
6. Selection Process for Grade 11 U.S. History Textbooks for 2003-2004
7. Universal Virus Protection System for BCPS

Item 1

Mr. Kennedy asked how much money was realized by the resale of books. Mr. Dent of the Distribution Center advised that the last time this was done, about \$145,000 was generated. In response to another question by Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Dent indicated that the system does not have to pay to get rid of the books; we are guaranteed a certain price per ton.

Item 1 (Cont.)

On motion of Mr. Grzyski, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved item 1.

1. Book Wholesaling/Recycling Services

Item 3

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved item 3. Mr. Teplitzky and Mr. Arnold abstained from voting.

3. Financing: Cars, Trucks, and School Buses

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-4, 7-19, and 22-26. Items 5, 6, 20, and 21 were deferred. Mr. Kennedy asked Dr. Krempel to comment on the Woodholme Elementary School Site exhibit.

Dr. Krempel stated the 20-acre site was purchased and approved by the Board in 1969. The reason it appears on tonight's agenda is because State rules and regulations require Board approval of a site within five years of construction.

Mr. Hayden pulled items 4, 7, and 22. The Board approved items 1-3, 8-19, and 22.

1. ADA Modifications – Baltimore Highlands and Riverview Elementary Schools
2. ADA Modifications to Health Suite – Lansdowne Middle School
3. Boiler Replacement – Dulaney High School
8. Chalkboard and Tackboard Replacement – Six Elementary Schools
9. Chalkboard and Tackboard Replacement – Five Elementary Schools
10. Exterior Lighting – Dulaney High School
11. Exterior Lighting – Glenmar Elementary School
12. Exterior Lighting – Woodlawn Middle School
13. Parking Lot Improvements – Chatsworth School
14. Parking Lot Improvements – Glyndon Elementary School

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

15. Parking Lot Improvements – Fullerton Elementary School
16. Parking Lot Improvements – Pot Spring Elementary School
17. Parking Lot Improvements – Relay Elementary School
18. Parking Lot Improvements – Woodbridge Elementary School
19. Systemic Renovations – Dundalk Middle School
23. Fee Acceptance – Construction Inspection Services for Science Room Renovation Project – Patapsco High School
24. Change Order – Design Services and Construction Administration – Reroofing Project – Golden Ring Middle School
25. Change Order – Design Services – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Chapel Hill Elementary School
26. Approval of Property – Woodholme Elementary School Site

ADJUSTMENT TO SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS, 2003-2004

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved an adjustment to its meeting schedule for 2003-2004. The October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be changed to Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, due to a conflict with a national conference.

BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board approved a Budget Appropriation Transfer in the amount of \$1,565,789.

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

It was brought to Mr. Arnold's attention by counsel that the Board had not voted on the three items separated from the agenda by Mr. Hayden. As recommended by the Building Committee, the Board approved items 4, 7, and 22. Mr. Hayden abstained from voting.

4. Boiler Replacement – Lansdowne High School
7. Boiler Replacemenet – Woodlawn High School
22. New Gas Service – Dulaney High School

### INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

Revised Rule 5560 – Suspension or Expulsion.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- ⌚ The Board will hold a retreat on Sunday, June 8, 2003, at the Marshy Point Nature Center from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a presentation by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education on “Boardsmanship,” as well as a presentation on the Education Foundation.
- ⌚ The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 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.

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 personnel matters.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, a representative of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, voiced her dismay at a misleading statement in a document from the Office of the County Auditor which states, “As of December 1, 2002, 68% of special needs students at Baltimore County Public Schools receive services in the regular classroom and/or in a resource room.” Ms. Shriver noted that the figure in this statement includes students who receive only speech/language services. If students receiving speech/language services only are removed, the figure drops to 36%. Ms. Shriver stated that speech only students are always served in the regular classroom. She asked for consistency in reporting the data.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, noted that we need to provide disaggregated data to funding authorities so they have an accurate picture. She suggested an independent, outside audit of Special Education be undertaken, particularly in light of the implementation of the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, thanked parents who attended the recent County Council work session. As a result of that meeting, many parents were able to make contact with their Councilmen, and an invitation was extended by Councilman McIntire for the group to meet with the Council annually. Ms. Kennedy noted that several Council members sent representatives to the recent *No Child Left Behind* presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

The advisory councils, in cooperation with other advisory groups and the Coalition, will begin to look at the structure of how Board members are appointed. A community forum will probably be held at the end of June. Ms. Kennedy will report back to the Board in the future. With regard to the calendar process, Ms. Kennedy noted the process runs smoothly and there was a great deal of community input.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, shared her hope that the County Council would not cut the school system's budget. She reported that at the last Parkville High School Improvement Team meeting, an idea was suggested to help students improve their study skills. With regard to the Middle School Task Force Recommendations, Ms. O'Hare asked the Board to remember the average student, who in Ms. O'Hare's opinion, is not being challenged in the areas of reading, writing, and math.

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, announced that Baltimore County received its first national PTA Unit of Excellence Award—Cromwell Valley Regional Magnet School. He also recognized various schools and staff members who received awards at the PTA Council's Annual Awards Ceremony.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, congratulated Sarah Bormel for an excellent job this past year. He referenced an article that appeared in a recent issue of "Education Week" about the paper work issue. Mr. Beytin noted that the governor recently vetoed the law passed this year to set up a commission to review education paper work. He expressed his concern over the County Executive's failure to fund a 2% COLA for employees in return for employees assuming responsibility for \$9.2 million in increased health care costs. Mr. Beytin stated that the impression left at the bargaining table was that the health care changes are non-negotiable. Other changes made by the County Executive do little to attract and retain teachers. He stated the Board must demand that it be given sufficient flexibility to deal with these issues during renegotiations. Mr. Beytin also stated the Board must take a public stance to show that it cares about its employees.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, PTA Council representative to the Calendar Committee, noted the committee's hard work to address parents' concerns about three-hour early closings by reducing that number. On behalf of the PTA Council, Ms. Shriver expressed her gratitude for the opportunity for parents to provide feedback on the proposed calendar. She also thanked Ms. Norman for her leadership.

There were no speakers to address the proposed changes to Policy 3225 – Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment.

There were no speakers to address the proposed changes to Policy 5550 – Disruptive Behavior.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Mr. David Greene, a Ridgely Middle School parent, spoke positively of the afternoon programs at Ridgely.

Ms. Joanna Donaldson, a student at Western School of Technology, addressed the Board about the leadership change at Western. She expressed her feelings that the change will have a detrimental effect on the school and lower the morale of the students.

Ms. Kelli Nelson shared her concern about the change in criteria for the four-year-old program. She stated the new criteria doesn't take into consideration some of the children in the three-year-old program. Some of the three-year-olds will not meet the new criteria and will be out of school for a year before returning for kindergarten. Ms. Nelson asked the Board and staff to grandfather in three-year-olds currently being served.

Ms. Evelyn Anderson, President of the Williamsburg Association and a Bedford Elementary School parent, referenced a petition with 200 signatures of parents who wish the current principal to remain. She stated her belief that the decision to change leadership at the school was not in the best interests of the children. Ms. Anderson requested the current principal be allowed to remain.

Ms. Ruth Sheffey shared her belief that there was inadequate community input regarding the decision to replace the current principal. She spoke of the positive effect the principal has had on students and staff. Ms. Sheffey asked the Board to reconsider its decision.

Ms. Bonita Sheffey-Strong, a Bedford Elementary School parent, and Christina Strong, a Bedford Elementary School student, asked the Board not to change the leadership at Bedford.

Mr. Michael Behrens, a nurse at Chadwick Elementary School, spoke of the effect of the County Executive's adopted budget on employees, particularly nurses.

At 9:33 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grzymiski and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer