

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:15 p.m. at Loch Raven High School. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Ms. Joy Shillman and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

The Board entertained oral argument in Hearing Examiner's Case #03-30. The case was heard in closed session.

In addition to the above listed Board members, also in attendance were the Appellant; the Appellant's mother and advocate Mrs. Cleo Stewart; Ms. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Merle Audette, Chief of Staff; Mr. William Lawrence, Executive Director of Schools, Northeast Area; Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esq., Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; Carol Saffran-Brinks, Esq., Assistant County Attorney; Mr. C. Robert Loskot, Assistant County Attorney; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education.

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

Mr. J. Robert Haines, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, entered the room at 4:46 p.m.

The Board deliberated on the case.

Mr. John Hayden entered the room at 5:07 p.m.

The hearing was concluded at 5:24 p.m.

At 6:15 p.m., Mr. Walker moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7) and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

At 6:44 p.m., Mr. Walker moved that the Board adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:37 p.m. at Loch Raven High School. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Ms. Francesca Cirincione, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzynski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Ms. Joy Shillman and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members 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 Derreck Tooth, Towson University student, 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 closed session minutes on September 14, 2003, Mr. Sasiadek declared the minutes approved as presented on the website.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston discussed dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel. One hundred fifty-three (153) out of 163 schools will be opened on September 24th. Dr. Hairston named the 10 schools that will be closed on Wednesday, September 24th. Dr. Hairston received information from Baltimore County's transportation office to confirm conditions in the Hereford area including power outages and lines hanging on trees. He stated the goal is to have all schools open by the end of the week. Dr. Hairston expressed his appreciation for the overwhelming support and generosity of personal time and commitment of employees of the Baltimore County Public Schools.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Sasiadek extended his deepest appreciation to Dr. Hairston and all employees who did so much to assist.

Dr. Hairston acknowledged and thanked Ms. White, Principal of Seneca Elementary School and the staff for set out into the community and provided information regarding the school's status even though the school was closed.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. Sasiadek presented a framed plaque to Mr. Donald L. Arnold, who was selected to take part in the Seventh Annual Oxford Round Table held at St. Anthony's College at the University of Oxford in England.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Grimsley recognized the advisory council and administrative appointments approved at the September 9th meeting.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Waiver Report for Conditionally Certified Teachers - Mr. Grimsley reviewed the purpose of the waiver request, which offers a one-year waiver of the teacher quality requirement that is allow under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act*. This waiver provides Title I schools a one-year extension to allow them to continue their recruiting efforts in order to meet the required criteria. Mr. Grimsley reviewed the information and form within the packet (Exhibit B). He is purposing that we provide the community an opportunity to comment on the report at the next scheduled board meeting.

Mr. Hayden expressed his concern with the timeliness of the report that we will be into our sixth-week of school by the time this waiver is approved. In response to Mr. Hayden's questions on timeliness, Mr. Grimsley stated no date was set specifically in the document.

Mr. Walker noted that all the schools listed are in the Southwest area and wanted to know if there would be a separate list for each area. Mr. Grimsley responded that the acronym SW stands for School-Wide initiative.

Dr. Hayman express his concern that Title I schools and highly qualified teachers should be a priority and not a waiver. He suggested there be a public hearing on this issue instead of public comment. On the second page of the packet, item 1, Dr. Hayman asked how we are going to monitor where the non-certified teachers are going to be placed. Dr. Hayman suggested language be strengthened as well as strengthening our relationship with higher education institutions.

Mr. Sasiadek asked if the report only covers teaching staff or if it also covers the instructional assistants. Mr. Grimsley responded the waiver focuses on the hiring of teachers in the Title I schools only. Mr. Sasiadek commented there needs to be a highly qualified staff on the instructional assistants' level, and he would like to see this information throughout the year.

REPORTS (cont)

Dr. Hairston clarified that the highly qualified teacher requirement speaks of the individual who is the keeper of the record.

Dr. Hayman suggested we look at this holistically, focusing to have highly qualified teachers in all schools.

- B. FY05 Proposed Capital State/County Budget - Barbara Burnopp provided a preliminary introduction to the state/county budget that will be discussed at the work session on Thursday, September 25, 2003.
- C. Report on Proposed Board Norms - Ms. Ettinger brought forward a list of Board norms for review. The Board norms are reflective of the Boards' existing practices and values in which the Board believes.

Mr. Grzynski emphasized these norms are a point of reference for future appointees to the Board.

Ms. Ettinger read the Board norms out loud to constituent groups and the public.

On motion of Mr. Grzynski, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the proposed Board Norms (Exhibit D).

- D. Report on Proposed Policy 5450 – Services to Students- Accident Insurance (First Reading) – Ms. Fromm reported on the changes to proposed Policy 5450, which was first adopted in 1968. She noted the changes are to bring the language and the policy in line with current practices.

Dr. Hayman expressed concern with the language not being consistent within the policy. He proposes exploring requirements since language currently suggested in the policy would deny students the opportunity to participate. Ms. Fromm stated she would investigate this issue. Mr. Belinko stated the school works with the parents to ensure the student can participate in the program. Ms. Fromm commented that the student could choose to participate in the program through the Board of Education or through private insurance.

In response to Dr. Hayman's question, Ms. Fromm stated that a student must have insurance either through the Board of Education or through private insurance.

Dr. Hayman inquired if the school system has paid the insurance cost in the past. Mr. Belinko responded that up to the mid-1980's the system paid the cost. However, the cost has escalated and the policy was changed. He stated the school system has a voluntary program for students at a reasonable cost for those who do not have insurance.

Mr. Kennedy recommended the word "voluntary" be removed from the second paragraph of the policy.

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. Jung inquired as to how is the system balanced as far as individual students meeting the requirements. Mr. Belinko responded that there has been no problem at this point. In response to Ms. Jung's question, Mr. Belinko stated that very few students are kept out of the sports program due to lack of funds. Ms. Jung asked if this was for all sports with Ms. Fromm and Mr. Belinko acknowledging yes.

Ms. Ettinger expressed her concern about communities and their resource and economic situations. She suggested we continue to be sensitive of the situation.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

NEGOTIATIONS

On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the negotiated master agreements as presented on Exhibit K. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board approved items 1-5 (Exhibit L).

1. Assistive Technology Equipment
2. Contracted Services for On-Call Inspection and Repair of Physical Education Facilities and Equipment
3. Contracted Services: Maryland Online Technology Assessment for Teachers
4. Office Supplies
5. Telephone Repair and Maintenance

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-4. The Board approved these recommendations (Exhibit M through P). Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on item 3 (Exhibit O).

BUILDING COMMITTEE (cont)

1. Fee Acceptance – Design Services for Science Room Renovations at Randallstown High School
2. Fee Acceptance – Design Services for Window Replacement at Riverview Elementary School
3. Change Order – Design and Construction Administration Services at Woodholme Elementary School
4. Increase in Contingency Authorization for Boiler Replacement at Southwest Academy

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Revised Policy 4157 – Vacations (Second Reading)
- B. Revised Rule 4157 – Vacations

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcement:

On Thursday, September 25, 2003, the Baltimore County Board of Education will conduct a work session on the proposed FY05 capital state/county budget. The meeting will take place at the ESS Building located on the Greenwood campus at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

On Thursday, September 25, 2003, the Educational Advisory Councils will meet to discuss the Board of Education nominating process. The meeting will take place at Cockeysville Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2003, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at 5:00 p.m. The Board will adjourn 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. Sasiadek 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.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Ms. Amethyst Danesin, Baltimore County Student Council President, noted the first executive board meeting will be Wednesday, October 8, 2003. She stated students would be out collecting pledges, with names and telephone numbers, asking adults to exercise their right to vote.

Ms. Karen Yarn, Advisory Committee for Gifted/Talented Education Chair, thanked Board members for approving the gifted and talented education policy. Ms. Yarn thanked Ms. JoLynn Chadwick for her dedication to the committee and to children.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, Advisory Committee for Special Education representative, informed the Board the Advisory Committee has met with the auditor for Special Education.

Ms. Lora Williams, AFSCME President, noted that on September 17th the membership ratified the contract. She asked that improvements be made to the second and third shift nighttime differentials. Ms. Williams also requested any kind of improvement to bus drivers' salaries.

Mr. Stephen Crum, Southeast Area Advisory Council Chair, commented on the damage some of the schools have incurred due to Hurricane Isabel. He hopes that necessary adjustments are made to take care of the schools affected by the storm.

Mr. Clifford Collins, Minority Achievement Advisory Group Chair, expressed his concern to enrollment of agency-based youth in the school system. A public hearing was held with a variety of issues surfacing. Mr. Collins recommends that the Baltimore County Board of Education, in cooperation with appropriate state and local agencies, establish a temporary transitional program within the Baltimore County Public Schools that will immediately and effectively address the educational, psychological, physical health, and social needs of agency-based youth.

Ms. Vicki Schultz-Unger, Area Advisory Council Coordinator, noted their first joint meeting will be Thursday, September 25, co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters with the topic being "Putting the Public in Public Education, A Forum on School Board Selection." Ms. Schultz-Unger stated that the findings from the meeting would be brought back to the Board.

Mr. Roger Jansen and Ms. Butler, on behalf of the PTA Council, expressed their concern over the lack of adequate air conditioning within the school system. Ms. Butler stated that most HVAC systems are in need of repair or renovating. The PTA Council respectively requests the renovation or installation of new air conditioning systems at every school within Baltimore County.

On behalf of the PTA Council, Mr. Jansen thanked Dr. Hairston and his staff for their hard work during Hurricane Isabel. Mr. Jansen expressed concern that the current capital budget does not meet the needs of the students, noting that costs from this natural disaster need to come from somewhere. Mr. Jansen requested that the Board stay focused on Perks-Reutter and the timeline set forth in the document.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (cont)

Ms. Cheryl Bost, TABCO President, thanked the school system and employees for their many hours during Hurricane Isabel. Ms. Bost stated that through Kid-Care, TABCO is giving vouchers to those in need. Ms. Bost thanked the Board for adopting the proposed negotiated master agreement with TABCO tonight.

Mr. Michael Behrens, PSNA President, thanked the Board for adopting the proposed PSNA master negotiated agreement tonight.

At 8:51 p.m., Mr. Grzymiski moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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