

## TENTATIVE MINUTES

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:56 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Ms. Francesca Cirincione, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. James Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- Mr. Grzymiski would be inducted in the “Hall of Fame” at Kenwood High School on Friday, October 24, 2003
- Mrs. Ettinger and Dr. Hairston would be honored at the AIMMS Minority Achievement Awards ceremony on Wednesday, November 5, 2003.
- Mr. Arnold would be recognized at the Seventh Annual “Service Above Self” Community Awards on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Sasiadek advised Board members that the NFUSSD Conference would be held in Baltimore, Maryland in the spring of 2005.

At 5:28 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) and (a)(8). The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Grimsley reviewed with board members appointments to be considered this evening.

Ms. Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq. provided information to Board members on a matter dealing with potential litigation.

At 5:40 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved by the Board.

### OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:29 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Ms. Francesca Cirincione, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. James Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by Chad Hall, Towson State University student, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the open and closed session minutes of August 12, 2003 and the open and closed session minutes of September 9, 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 described a meeting that had taken place the previous week at New Town High School at the request of Senator Hollinger, constituent groups of Senator Hollinger's, and parents where Dr. Nancy Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools made a presentation. Dr. Hairston announced that Catonsville High School would be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, October 25 and the public is invited.

### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. Sasiadek presented to Ms. Cirincione and Ms. Shillman their Commission from Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr.

### RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FROM OCTOBER 9, 2003

Mr. Grimsley recognized the administrative appointments and advisory council appointments approved at the October 9, 2003 meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **Public Charter Schools**

Mr. Kennedy asked whether items presented at the public hearing by the League of Women Voters were taken into consideration. Ms. Bailey responded that the policy and rule are similar with the items brought out by the League of Women Voters.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mrs. Ettinger, the Board approved proposed Policy 1600, Public Charter Schools (Exhibit B).

### **Policy 5450**

On motion of Mr. Grzymiski, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved Proposed Policy 5450 – Services to Students- Accident Insurance (Exhibit C).

Ms. Jung entered the room at 7:40 p.m.

### **Waiver Report**

Mr. Grimsley stated this is the third reading of the Waiver Report. He noted some changes were made to the document, which reflect input from stakeholders. The revised version was distributed to Board members.

Dr. Hayman inquired if candidates are given the option to be referred to a Title I school or select another school. Mr. Grimsley responded the school system will be looking to assign newly hired highly qualified teachers to our Title I schools first before filling vacancies elsewhere.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the Waiver Report for Conditionally Certified Teachers (Exhibit D).

## REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Woodholme Elementary – Dr. Donald Krempel introduced the Project Manager, Mr. Kurt Butler, Head of Engineering, and Mr. David Strang, Vice President of Grim & Parker Architects. Through a PowerPoint™ presentation Mr. Strang reviewed the proposed elementary school, which is Baltimore County's fifth prototype school. This prototype expansion adds eight classrooms to accommodate a state-rated capacity of 720 students in a 82,000 square foot, two-story building. The plans call for 24 standard classrooms, five kindergarten and two pre-kindergarten classrooms. The school will have a media center, computer lab, science and art classrooms, and a music department.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Kennedy inquired if any adjustment would be made to the library. Mr. Strang responded there were some modifications made to the prototype for the library, however, the library area was not increased. Mr. Kennedy asked if an elevator was added for handicap accessibility. Mr. Strang stated an elevator has been added and would comply with ADA regulations. Mr. Kennedy asked if the school would have a flat roof. Mr. Strang responded there is no flat roof.

Mrs. Ettinger asked if any adjustments have been made to the prototype over time regarding technology, education requirements, and building code. Mr. Strang stated concepts developed today are the same as developed in the original prototype. The main changes are separating the cafeteria and gymnasium and centralizing the media center so it is readily accessible to both floors. He noted the building would comply with IBC-2000 code. He also stated technology learned from previous prototypes and projects are being incorporated into this plan.

Mrs. Ettinger asked what the state-rated capacity was from the original prototype school. Mr. Butler stated the capacity began at 600 and has changed to 550. Mrs. Ettinger expressed concern with media and library having the same square footage with a larger school population. Mr. Strang stated they are working on reconfiguring some of the areas to more efficiently use the space.

Mr. Walker inquired as to the rationale for building a new school without an auditorium. Mr. Strang responded that typically in elementary schools we don't see auditoriums anymore. He stated the concept is to determine how much the space will be utilized for the cost to build it. Mr. Strang showed where an operable partition (acoustic barrier) would be placed to separate the gymnasium and cafeteria.

Mr. Grzymiski asked if any adjustments would be made in the cafeteria to serve the 720 students. Mr. Strang stated the cafeteria and kitchen were increased in size. Mr. Grzymiski asked how they came up with 137 parking spaces. Mr. Strang responded zoning requires one parking space per 10 students and one parking space per staff member.

Mrs. Ettinger asked if the gym was an elementary or middle school size gymnasium. Mr. Strang stated the gymnasium is as large as a middle school gymnasium.

Dr. Hayman asked how New Town High School differs from this proposed school plan. Mr. Strang stated New Town High was a site-specific design and footprint with particular grading considerations.

Ms. Jung asked if the square footage requirements meet the needs of the library staff. Dr. Krempel responded that it does meet their needs. Ms. Jung inquired if a capacity increase was made to the restrooms. Mr. Strang noted that increase was made to the restrooms on the second floor to meet building code requirements.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Sasiadek commented that the school system has tremendous support from the County Executive.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Grzymiski, 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.)

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved items 3-6. Ms. Ettinger separated items #1 and #2.

3. Curriculum Software Management Performance Series—Scantron, Extension
4. Latitude Communications Meeting Place Software
5. STARLAB Portable Planetarium
6. Supplies Contract: Various Floor Tile Supplies

Item #1

Mrs. Ettinger asked where BCPS supervision and accountability comes into play with the performance of this contract. Mr. Tom Stengel responded supervision comes from the Infant and Toddler Team Leaders assigned to the various sites and the administrators from the agencies listed in the contract.

Mrs. Ettinger expressed her concern regarding the accountability for the provision of services done for the school system and assurance we are monitoring and satisfied with the services provided. Mr. Stengel stated we went through a monitoring process this past year with the State Department of Education and the private agencies involved.

Mr. Kennedy asked if the contract Team Leaders are required to attend team meetings. Mr. Stengel responded Team Leaders are not required to attend, however, they are required to provide written or verbal input.

Item #1 (cont)

Ms. Jung inquired as to the number of children involved in the program and the cost of the program over the last five years. Mr. Stengel stated in 1991 there were 250 children. Last year's data count was 800-850 children with an annual count of approximately 1,350. In terms of the cost, Mr. Stengel noted grants are received from the State and Federal government, which include approximately \$400,000 of service from the Baltimore County Health Department.

Ms. Jung asked whether the impact of the school budget has increased over time. Mr. Stengel responded there are approximately 30 positions either funded by the school system or through grants.

Mr. Walker asked who conducts the child find and makes the referrals to the agency. Mr. Stengel stated the referrals are primarily received from parents; 40% of the referrals are recommended by the child's physician.

Ms. Shillman asked if the medical community and the parents are aware of this program. Mr. Stengel responded a public awareness plan is submitted to the State on an annual basis of how the school system will outreach to the community.

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved item 1.

1. Early Intervention Services

Item #2

Mrs. Ettinger asked what would it take to have grant-writing capability within the school system instead of going outside the system. Mr. Gay stated each curriculum area or department would identify the requirements and provide those requirements to purchasing so an outside resource can be obtained.

Mrs. Ettinger commented that it is important for this school system to have a grant writing experience on staff to perform this function.

Dr. Hayman commented that the Board has consistently asked for a full time grant person on staff and have been denied the position. He suggests the school system provide justification in terms of dollars gained and lost in this area and consider adding a FTE in the budget. Dr. Hayman commented that the county is losing a lot of money that could come our way.

Ms. Jung expressed concern of overworked staff members who write grant applications in their spare time.

Item #2 (cont)

Mr. Grzyski inquired about the number of people involved with this particular grant. Ms. Bailey stated there would be a Lead Consultant and six other individuals. Mr. Grzyski suggested looking at next year's budget and evaluate whether there could be one staff person or contracting a team of people.

Mr. Walker commented that this contract appears to be very specific to writing an application for the magnet school grant. Ms. Rita Fromm noted that the school system has a Grant Specialist, Ms. Lynn Wheeler, which performs the functions brought to the Board this evening.

Mrs. Ettinger requested an update regarding Ms. Wheeler's activities as to how the position is being utilized, what impact the position is having, and whether she needs additional assistance.

On a motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Grzyski, the Board approved item 2.

2. Grant Development Consultant FY 2004 USDE Magnet School Assistance Program

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-5 (Exhibits L through P). The Board approved these recommendations.

1. Change Order – Systemic Renovation Middle River Middle School
2. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project Winand Elementary School
3. Request to Declare – Surplus Property at Chapel Hill Elementary School
4. Request to Negotiate – Design Services for Systemic Renovations at Middle River Middle School, Dumbarton Middle School and Sparrows Point Middle School
5. Consideration of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan – Fiscal Year 2004

Dr. Krempel provided an overview on the comprehensive maintenance plan (item 5), which must be submitted to the State on an annual basis. Dr. Krempel noted that the plan is available in schools and libraries.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE 2003-04 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mr. Doug Neilson provided an overview of missed school days during Hurricane Isabel. Dr. Nancy Grasmick, State Superintendent, has granted a one-day waiver for all schools for Friday, September 19, 2003. Therefore, schools would need to make up two days of instruction to meet the 180-day State requirement. It is recommended that the Board approve using a Professional Development day scheduled for February 13, 2004 and one snow day to meet the State requirement of 180 days.

Mr. Alonza Williams briefly discussed the process of meeting with the stakeholders and members of last year's Calendar Committee.

Mr. Sasiadek expressed concerns that a committee was never convened to ensure all viewpoints were brought to the table. He recommended remanding this item to the Calendar Committee.

On a motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously agreed to have this item revisited by the Calendar Committee to return to the Board for voting at a later date.

Board members expressed the importance of utilizing the Committee to suggest changes to the school calendar.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. New Rule 1600 – Public Charter Schools

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- On Wednesday, October 22, 2003, the Northwest Area Advisory Council will conduct their pre-budget meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at New Town High School.
- On Thursday, October 23, 2003, the PTA will host their annual PTA Council Reception and Fall Workshops beginning at 6:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at New Town High School.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- On Monday, October 27, 2003, the Office of Special Education and the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Special Education have scheduled three concurrent community forums to gather public input into the current Special Education Staff Plan for 2003-2004. They will be held at Ridge Ruxton, Dogwood Elementary, and Essex Elementary schools from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 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.

### STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Mr. Sasiadek reminded speakers to refrain from discussing any matters that might come before the Board in the form of an appeal, as well as any personnel matters.

Ms. Vicki Schultz-Unger, Area Advisory Council Coordinator, reported on the school-board select forum with an attendance of over 50 people. She met with area directors to ensure support to the area advisory councils. There will be meetings in November with elected officials to discuss education issues and ways to work together. Ms. Schultz-Unger invited the Board and community to attend the Thornton forum scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2003 at the Carver Center.

Ms. Jan Thomas, representative for the Central Area Advisory Council, thanked those who attended the pre-budget hearing. One issue brought up by PTA president at Dumbarton was the ESOL Center. Ms. Thomas noted that while Baltimore County's enrollment has increased 1%, the ESOL enrollment has increased about 74%. Additionally, children are spending a tremendous amount of time on the bus and cannot participate in before and after school programs. She would like to see more information on ESOL funding, composition, and performance.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Northeast Area Advisory Council Chair, thanked those who attended the northeast pre-budget hearing. She noted one speaker at the pre-budget hearing spoke on behalf of raising salaries for nurses within the school system. Ms. O'Hare spoke on behalf of teachers' salaries comparative to other counties within the state. She announced the Hall of Fame at Kenwood High School on Friday, October 24, 2003.

Mr. Michael Behrens, PSNA President, thanked those who attended the pre-budget hearing. He noted the nurses of PSNA ratified the new contract. He stated one underlying theme is the new expenses with the new health care plan.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (cont)

Ms. Marilyn Ryan, representing the PTA Council expressed her disappointed that the high school enrollment study committee is meeting on the same night as the PTA Reception and Fall Workshop.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, TABCO President, noted many teachers and staffs were present at tonight's meeting. She stated their message is that teachers and all education employees need a significant salary increase. Ms. Bost remarked that the Board requested a 3% increase last year; however, it was denied in the county executive's budget. She also thanked Dr. Hairston and members of Human Resources for working with TABCO to find common ground regarding the waiver report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jimmy Jackson, parent of a student attending a school in the Southeast area, expressed concern with the content of the Parental Consent Form for Wellness Center. Mr. Jackson remarked his child was treated for a condition without his knowledge. He recommended the form be rewritten and reviewed with parents, perhaps at back-to-school night.

At 9:30 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer

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