

TENTATIVE MINUTES**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Thursday, November 20, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:45 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, 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 reviewed the following housekeeping items with Board members:

- ⌚ African American Gala to be held on Thursday, December 11, 2003 at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall with the pre-event reception beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- ⌚ Upcoming events on the November and December calendar.

At 6:01 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to discuss matters related to the negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1) and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Randy Grimsley, Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members the administrative appointments to be considered this evening.

Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Dan Capozzi, Manager of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members matters relating to upcoming negotiations with the Board's bargaining units.

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ettinger and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:47 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, 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 Ms. Sandra Owens, Deer Park Middle School Teacher, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Dr. Hairston noted one adjustment to the agenda for this evening's meeting. He respectfully requested to move item IX, New Business, after item V, Superintendent's Report. Adjustment was made to agenda and unanimously approved by the Board.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Open and Closed Session Minutes of October 9, 2003; and Public Hearing and Work Sessions Minutes of October 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 reported on Monday's celebration of the arts education program at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall with the county choir, orchestra, and band including the dance group from Carver. He noted there were representatives from the State Superintendent's office as well. Dr. Hairston also reported that Carroll Manor Elementary School would receive the Maryland State Blue Ribbon of Excellence.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits D, E, F, and G. (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 1-2 (Exhibit H).

1. Equipment Contract: Housekeeping
2. Reconditioning of Football Equipment

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-5 (Exhibit I through M). The Board unanimously approved these recommendations.

1. Award of Contract – Boiler/Chiller Replacement at Pinewood Elementary
2. Award of Contract – Running Track Replacement at Sparrows Point High School
3. Fee Acceptance – Design Services for Systemic Renovations at Sparrows Point Middle School
4. Change Order – Design Services for Stabilization Project at the Farmland Tenant House
5. Increase Contingency Authorization – ADA Upgrades at Elmwood Elementary School

Mrs. Ettinger departed at 8:05 p.m.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. Geraldine “Geri” Hastings, teacher at Catonsville High School, was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Therefore, the resolution will be presented to Ms. Hastings at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

RECOGNITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FROM NOVEMBER 4, 2003

Mr. Grimsley recognized the advisory council appointments approved at the November 4, 2003 meeting.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Results Report Follow-Up** – Dr. Gwendolyn Grant, Executive Director of Secondary Programs, introduced Dr. Gary Brager, Supervisor of Accountability, Research, and Testing, and Mr. Dale Rauenzahn, Director of Student Support Services, who will present a brief follow-up on the results reports. Dr. Brager presented revised graphs on Performance Indicator for Goal 1.8. He noted that in the fall of 2002 38% of BCPS students in grades 2-6 (combined) met or exceeded grade level standards. However, in the spring of 2003 the school system was running 61% on or above grade level. This is an accelerated growth of 23% from fall 2002 to spring 2003. Dr. Brager reviewed the results by program:

REPORTS (cont)

- ESOL students - gain of 29.6%
- FARMS students – gain of 22.8%
- GT students – gain of 11.8%
- Special Ed students – gain of 15.0%

Dr. Brager reviewed student achievement by gender and race. He noted results were stable across the grades.

Mr. Rauenzahn provided a comprehensive explanation of the criteria for identification “Persistently Dangerous Schools” in accordance with *No Child Left Behind* mandate as well as Performance Goal #4, which requires all schools to have a safe learning environment. Mr. Rauenzahn noted that goals 4.1 and 4.3 will be collected in the data warehouse for 2003-2004 and would be available within two months. Other key information being collected during this school year include:

- Fire drill performance
- Suspensions/expulsions at BCPS schools
- Number of BCPS schools and sites with emergency plans posted on BCPS intranet
- Number of schools and sites that practice required security drills
- Number of BCPS schools participating in the Safe Schools Conference

Mr. Rauenzahn reviewed Performance Indicators 4.2 and 4.3, which measure baseline data for the percentage of staff, students, and parents who are aware of students’ rights and responsibilities; and the percentage of staff, students, and parents who are aware of school learning environment.

Mr. Rauenzahn reviewed the criteria for identification of “Persistently Dangerous Schools” under the *No Child Left Behind* Unsafe School choice option. He noted the criteria for identification as “Persistently Dangerous” is:

- 2.5 percent of a school’s September 30th enrollment is long-term suspended or expelled for more than 10 days
- The school must make the list three consecutive years to be labeled as “Persistently Dangerous.”

Mr. Rauenzahn noted that no Baltimore County Public School exceeded the 2.5% threshold in the 2002-2003 school year. Mr. Rauenzahn stated two alternative schools did exceed that number, however, MSDE exempts alternative schools from the process.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Kennedy recommended enlarging and printing the graphs on paper. He noted some of the information on the on-line graphs were difficult to read. Mr. Kennedy stated he would like some time to digest the information and have the opportunity to call staff should there be any questions relating to the revised graphs.

Regarding Performance Goal 4, Mr. Kennedy asked when teachers and parents would be surveyed about their perceptions of safety in the schools. Mr. Rauenzahn responded students and parents are part of the awareness survey currently in the developmental phase, and teachers could be part of the survey.

Mr. Kennedy asked if data is captured at the end of a school year regarding students and safe schools. Mr. Rauenzahn responded this would be one of the questions on the awareness survey. Mr. Kennedy suggests include the awareness survey in the performance goal to ensure students, parents, and teachers are all part of the survey.

Regarding “Persistently Dangerous Schools,” Mr. Walker commented he was pleased that no Baltimore County Public School was on the State’s list.

Mr. Kennedy asked if information on student suspension could be obtained to determine problem areas. Dr. Grant responded additional data is being collected in the data warehouse and will be disaggregated and presented to the Board at a later date.

With regards to Special Education, Mr. Walker asked if a student’s behavior was directly related to his or her handicapping condition, and if the student would be excluded from suspension. Mr. Rauenzahn stated if the nature of the suspension or expulsion was related to guns or drugs, the student could be suspended for up to 45 days regardless of the handicapping condition.

- B. **DeJONG High School Study Report** – Ms. Fromm briefly discussed the last six months of work with DeJONG Inc. and the Steering Committee to review our high school capacities and develop recommendations of how to handle the conditions in our overcrowded high schools. The Steering Committee was comprised of staff, school-based administrators, parents, PTA Council, Advisory Councils, Baltimore County Government, and TABCO. Ms. Fromm noted the binders distributed this evening are a combination of the Committee’s activities as well as a final report and recommendations from DeJONG. She remarked that overcrowding conditions exist in nearly 80% of our high schools, the average age of our buildings is 42 years, and there are no high school properties in the BCPS site bank. Ms. Fromm noted high school levels are difficult because we provide our students with the availability to choose which high school they would attend. BCPS offers a wide variety of academic programs through a variety of high schools and many of our high school students take advantage of this opportunity.

REPORTS (cont)

Through a PowerPoint™ presentation, Ms. Carolyn Staskiewicz, Project Director from DeJONG, Inc. provided an executive summary of the report with potential solutions and recommendations to control the overcrowded conditions in BCPS high schools.

Ms. Staskiewicz defined overcrowding by entity and as a percentage of State capacity:

- Board of Education, BCPS 90%
- State of Maryland 95%
- Baltimore County 115% (moratorium on development)

According to current projections, by the year 2007-2008 the overall high school enrollment in BCPS will be 33,904 or 98% capacity if students were evenly distributed. Ms. Staskiewicz noted that capacity has increased by 8,000 students over the past ten years, with a projected increase of 1000 students, and only one new high school has been built.

In 2007, six high schools will have significant overcrowding based on current projections. They are:

- Milford Mill Academy
- Perry Hall High School
- Kenwood High School
- Towson High School
- Pikesville High School
- Sparrows Point High School

The following proposed recommendations were presented to Board members:

- New Construction - Construction of one new high school to alleviate overcrowding in both the Central and Northeast Areas
- Boundary Shifts/Limited Redistricting - Smaller scale boundary shifts in the Northeast and Southeast Areas, coupled with other strategies could provide short-term relief for a limited number of schools
- Alternative Recommendations
 - □ Relocatable Classrooms
 - □ Alternative Spaces and Programmatic Solutions
 - □ Creative Scheduling Options (year-round school)

REPORT (cont)

Mr. Arnold asked if DeJONG, Inc. has included future construction projects and potential apartments into the projection numbers. Ms. Staskiewicz responded DeJONG used the system's enrollment projections. She noted on page 9 of Exhibit C, DeJONG, Inc. has included the most recent list from May 2003, which indicates the number of multi-family, single-family detached, and single-family attached for a total of 1,570 units approved for development.

Mr. Kennedy asked why New Town High School was not listed on page 9 with the other high schools. Ms. Staskiewicz stated the report has 2002-2003 data before New Town High was opened. Mr. Kennedy inquired if New Town High School affects the figures. Ms. Staskiewicz responded the capacity of New Town High was taken into consideration. Looking on page 7 of the exhibit, the top table shows that Owings Mills and Randallstown High Schools would be overcrowded. New Town High School would relieve the overcrowding issues in the Northwest area.

With regards to the Northwest area and page 13 of the exhibit, Ms. Shillman inquired about the impact of future construction. Ms. Staskiewicz responded that should a new high school be built in this area, a boundary adjustment would need to occur at the eight high schools in the area. Ms. Staskiewicz also noted that Pikesville High School's boundary was not adjusted when New Town High School was built.

Mr. Kennedy asked how the school system plans to disseminate this information. Dr. Hairston responded that this is a fact-finding process, and we are a long way from a decision.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- ⌚ The Operating Budget Public Hearing originally scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2004, has been rescheduled to Wednesday, January 28, 2004. The public hearing will be held at Ridge Ruxton School beginning at 7:00 p.m. Sign-up for public comment will begin at 6:00 p.m.
- ⌚ The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 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 and 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 matters that might come before the board in the form of an appeal, as well as any personnel matters.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Ms. Amethyst Danesie, Baltimore County Student Council President, stated the Middle School Conference held on November 15th was one of the largest conferences with 150 students registered. The workshop's theme this year was centered around music. Ms. Danesie announced BCSC would host its first High School Leadership Conference at Perry Hall High School on December 6, 2003. At BCSC's last general board meeting, some items discussed included requiring MSA test for graduation, allowing seniors to take more courses at community colleges and possibly two different sessions during the school day. Regarding school safety, Ms. Danesie noted that students are concerned with fighting, drugs, and weapons. She stated more students would like to see cameras in the schools. Ms. Danesie announced the BCSC general board would meet on Tuesday, December 9, 2003.

Ms. Karen Yarn, Advisory Committee for Gifted/Talented Education Chair, briefly reported on the session at Parkville High School "Parenting the Gifted Child from 12th grade and Beyond." She noted the session touched on fully funding Thornton. Ms. Yarn announced the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Gifted Education would meet on January 14, 2004 to discuss the middle school task force.

Ms. Abbey Beytin, Northwest Area Advisory Council Chair, reported on the group's most recent meeting. The top issues discussed included: full Thornton funding, necessity for a middle school in the Northwest area; and parental involvement (which was discussed at length).

Mr. Michael Behrens, PSNA President, requested better salaries for school nurses. He announced his departure from BCPS effective December 12, 2003. He stated that Ms. Cindy Rupper, PSNA Vice President, would take his place in the interim.

Ms. Jan Thomas, PTA Council Representative, provided an overview of the pre-budget meetings. She noted the capital issues outweigh the operating budget issues. Thirty-five percent of the speakers spoke about capital budget concerns. Ms. Thomas suggested the capital budget meeting in June 2004 be well advertised. She noted top issues for the operating budget were salary increases for teachers and school staff and reduction in class size. Ms. Thomas suggested that BCPS have a Facilities person at every pre-budget hearing. She expressed her disappointment that Baltimore County elected officials and their representatives were not at the pre-budget hearings.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, TABCO President, acknowledged Mr. Behrens work with BCPS. Ms. Bost also acknowledged the students' hard work in preparing for the Meyerhoff Symphony concert on November 17th. She visited several schools this week and was appreciative of the highly specialized staff in Baltimore County. Ms. Bost advocated for an increase in teachers' salaries. She stated we must work together to see that Thornton is fully funded.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Nadine Weinstein, President of the Cobblestone Homeowners Association (HOA), stated that the homeowners in the area are not opposed to building of Woodholme Elementary School, but are opposed of a school on this site. The HOA feels this is not an appropriate site because the Northwest Regional Park would address every issue that the Woodholme site does not.

Mr. David Marks, Perry Hall Improvement Association President, was pleased with the recommendations provided in the DeJONG report. Mr. Marks thanked those who were on the Steering Committee that assisted in developing the report. Recommendations report only the beginning. PHIA outlined some suggested steps: county and staff should begin looking for property sites, Baltimore County needs to demonstrate to the State they can raise a large part of the money to support the construction, and Baltimore County Council should place limitations on new home construction until the school overcrowding issue is resolved. Mr. Marks stated the PHIA pledges to work with all officials at the state and local level to ensure a suitable solution to this problem.

Mr. Jerome Kadden, Associated Director of Ner Israel Rabbinical College, expressed concerns about the traffic issues and dangerous intersection at the proposed Woodholme Elementary School site. He stated that until the traffic situation is resolved, this project should not go forward.

At 9:19 p.m., Mr. Arnold moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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