

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, December 2, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:31 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Ms. Francesca Cirincione, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Ms. Janese Murray, 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.
- ⌚ The National Science Foundation SUPER STEM education project will be unveiled on Wednesday, December 17, 2003. Board members were asked to contact Ms. Stiffler regarding this function.
- ⌚ Upcoming events in December and January 2004.

Dr. Hairston distributed to Board members a memo from the Maryland State Department of Education regarding Maryland High School Assessments. He informed Board members that the State Board of Education would vote on December 3, 2003 the proposed framework to restructure graduation requirements by incorporating the High School Assessments.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Hayden expressed his concern that local school boards seem to have no voice in the decision process. He believes the high school assessment is valuable; however, it should not be a graduation requirement.

Mrs. Ettinger concurred with Mr. Hayden. She was astonished that the Board had no opportunity to review and discuss this issue prior to its vote. She asks that the local Board attempt to address its concern to the legislature. She was disturbed that the State would view the Maryland diploma for only those students who had passed the high school assessment.

Mr. Hayden remarked that the local Boards receive information more quickly than the State Board. He believes local Boards should be the administrators of the program.

According to Mr. Arnold, State Board believes MABE and local school Boards have not provided adequate feedback. Input from local school Boards is needed. Mr. Arnold stated it is important that this Board is heard at the State level. He stated the importance of having an assessment process for graduating students.

Dr. Hairston will attempt to meet with principals and teachers to get feedback regarding the proposed graduation requirement restructuring.

Mr. Sasiadek remarked that Dr. Hairston had only received the information an hour before the start of the Board meeting.

Mrs. Ettinger stated the local school Board must receive information in advance. She states the lack of process concerns her and has implications for this decision and all future decisions. Mrs. Ettinger recommends communicating to the State Board our concern with the speed that this proposal is moving and that local Boards do not have time to review and discuss critical issues.

Mr. Grzynski stated it would be appropriate for the State Board to consider getting input from local school Boards, communities, and constituent groups.

Mrs. Ettinger requested that a letter or an electronic mail message be sent to the State Board President asking the State Board to postpone or table the vote until January 2004. This local Board needs time to express its concerns to the State Board.

Mr. Sasiadek stated the Board would generate a letter expressing Baltimore County's Board of Education concerns regarding the process and request remanding this item until January 2004.

At 6:07 p.m., Ms. Jung moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and discuss negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1) and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Randy Grimsley, Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members the advisory council appointment 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 6:35 p.m., Mr. Grzynski 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 7:34 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Ms. Francesca Cirincione, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzynski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Ms. Janese Murray, 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 Coastas and Krystalla Scordalez, 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 October 21, 2003; and Open and Closed Session Minutes of November 4, 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

There were no items for the Superintendent's report.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Ettinger, the Board adopted a resolution honoring Geraldine "Geri" Hastings, who was named by the National Council for Social Studies as one of the nation's outstanding high school social studies educators for 2003.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2003

Mr. Grimsley recognized the administrative appointments approved at the November 19, 2003 meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO 2003-2004 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mr. Doug Neilson, Chief Communications Officer, introduced Mr. Alonza Williams, Director of Communications. Mr. Williams provided an overview of missed school days during Hurricane Isabel. He noted individuals that were not able to attend the October 28 meeting had the opportunity to attend the November 13 meeting and provide input on possible calendar change. Mr. Williams stated it was the consensus of the Committee to make no changes to the existing 2003-2004 school year calendar. The Committee's decision was based on the fact that when the Board adopted the current calendar, it included seven "snow" or inclement weather days. The Committee felt that, if and when the seven "snow" days were used, any additional days needed to comply with the State's mandated 180 days of classroom instruction time could

PROPOSED CHANGES TO 2003-2004 SCHOOL CALENDAR (cont)

be made up at the end of the school year. By following the Calendar Committee's recommendation, the system would have five (5) inclement weather days available for use during the remainder of this school year.

Mr. Sasiadek remarked this is the second year for the MSA's and that teachers have a growing understanding for students' success. His personal recommendation would be to take the one Professional Day on February 13, 2004 and one "snow" or inclement weather day.

On motion of Mr. Hayden to make no changes to the 2003-2004 school year calendar, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the recommendations of the Calendar Committee. Mr. Sasiadek opposed the decision.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Grzymiski, seconded by Mrs. Ettinger, the Board approved items 1-2 (Exhibit G).

1. Library Magazines and Periodicals, Extension
2. Paging Services and Equipment

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- ⌚ On Wednesday, December 3, 2003, the Central Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its annual "Meet and Greet" forum, sponsored jointly with the PTA Council of Baltimore County. Featured speaker will be Ms. Esther Parker, Maryland PTA President as well as local elected officials. The forum will take place at Dumbarton Middle School from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.
- ⌚ On January 26, 2004 at 6:00 p.m., the Coalition for Public Schools Funding, which includes the PTA Council of Baltimore County, TABCO, and CASE, will hold a rally in Annapolis to support the full funding of Thornton for fiscal year 2005.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- ⌚ The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 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, announced the upcoming high school leadership conference to be held at Perry Hall High School on December 6, 2003. Dr. George Poff will be speaking at BCSC's general assembly on Tuesday, December 9th about his experiences in Annapolis. She noted that a program shown on Maryland Public Television had a representative from the Citizens Outreach of Baltimore County who stated 80% of canned goods donation to the County every year come from Baltimore County Public Schools. She noted Perry Hall Middle School and Towson High School were among the largest donators of canned goods.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, representative for the Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked Baltimore County Public Schools for hiring Dr. Lou Barber as a consultant to work with the special education department. Ms. Shriver stated the Committee is looking forward to Dr. Barber's recommendations in his report.

Ms. Christine Beard, Vice President of TABCO, recognized all the teachers who came to this evening's meeting. She noted the number one issue is salaries. Ms. Beard announced the Thornton rally to be held at Annapolis on January 26, 2004. She thanked Dr. Hairston for arranging bus transportation to the rally and asked that all principals, teachers, Board members and community members be there.

Mr. Michael Franklin, PTA President, stated that the PTA's top priority is fully funding Thornton. He stated education must be a priority in this state. A letter to all of the local PTA presidents will go out today urging everyone to attend the Annapolis rally.

Mr. Michael Behrens, PSNA President, supported all bargaining units in endorsing the "Bridge to Excellence" Act. He noted PSNA would stand beside those at the rally in Annapolis.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rodger Janssen remarked that the retired/rehired policy in Baltimore County Public Schools is not in compliance with law.

Ms. Sherry Becker, Executive Director of Pikesville Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern over the traffic issues that the proposed Woodholme Elementary School would generate. She stated traffic issues must be reviewed and discussed before any other action is taken. She believes a traffic study should be done before the construction of the school. She stated that the Pikesville Chambers of Commerce would oppose the construction of the school until this issue is resolved.

Mr. David Ingle, Patapsco High School teacher, commented on increasing teachers' salaries. He requested the Board consider salary increases for teachers.

Ms. Cathy Hruz, Fullerton Elementary teacher, asked the Board to support teachers by increasing their salaries.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:08 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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