

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:25 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John Hayden, Ms. Jean 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 reminded Board members of upcoming functions including:

- Commencement Schedule for 2004

Mr. Sasiadek stated that Dr. Grasmick would not be attending the Board meeting because of an urgent meeting in Annapolis.

Ms. Murray entered the room at 5:35 p.m.

Board members briefly reviewed and discussed the new diploma proposal.

Mr. Walker moved that the student Board member be permitted to participate in closed session discussions. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ettinger and unanimously approved by the Board.

At 5:55 p.m., Mr. Arnold moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to conduct 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 personnel matters to be considered this evening.

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

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:42 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Francesca Cirincione, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Ms. Jean Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, 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 Lena Shalaby, 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. Mr. Sasiadek respectfully requested to remove item VII, State Superintendent of Schools, from the agenda. Dr. Grasmick had to attend a meeting in Annapolis.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Public Hearing Minutes on Proposed FY2005 Operating Budget; and Open and Closed Session Minutes of January 28, 2004, 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.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the reappointment of the Superintendent's Contract.

Mrs. Ettinger commented that Dr. Hairston has focused on the challenging task of aligning resources, both human and fiscal, to promote achievement for all students.

Mr. Walker commented the race isn't over in our school system. But it gives him a feeling of comfort that Dr. Hairston will be at the helm for the next four years. He remarked that Dr. Hairston has always referred to BCPS as "the school system" and not "a system of schools."

Ms. Jung was pleased about where BCPS has come from and excited about where the school system is going. She thanked Dr. Hairston for bringing outstanding people into the school system to work with him.

Mr. Arnold commented that what really stood out with Dr. Hairston was his tenacity and enthusiasm for children and for doing what is right for all children. He noted that the budget process has significantly improved over the past four years.

Mr. Sasiadek remarked BCPS has taken a giant step forward from where we were four years ago. He stated that Dr. Hairston is one of the golden threads of our cloth that binds us together as a family in Baltimore County.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston expressed appreciation to Deputy Superintendents' Ms. Christine Johns and Mr. J. Robert Haines, and Chief of Staff, Ms. Merle Audette. He also thanked all Baltimore County Public Schools employees for their hard work and dedication.

Dr. Hairston announced that Ms. Kathleen Cave, Technology Integration teacher from Sparks Elementary School, was selected as 2004 Maryland Outstanding Technology User of Education.

Dr. Hairston distributed a brochure to the Board from the Superintendents' Conference in San Francisco, which shows other school systems utilizing various buildings as school sites.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Operating Budget for FY2005

Mr. Sasiadek noted the exhibit on the website had a missing page. The hard copy distributed tonight is the correct exhibit for this evening's meeting.

With regards to Mr. Kennedy's question on additional staffing in the Infants and Toddlers program, Ms. Burnopp, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, stated the budget has not changed since the work session. Mr. Kennedy recommended the comments made at the public hearing be reviewed to ensure this program is not understaffed.

Mr. Kennedy inquired whether there is a problem with copiers in schools. Ms. Burnopp responded that copier information has been supplied to the Board in the weekly Friday letter. Mr. Kennedy recommends generating a survey that provides feedback from administrative staff and teachers in schools regarding copiers.

Mr. Kennedy expressed concern over not having a dedicated fund to pay for employees on sick leave. Mr. Grimsley stated BCPS uses the central funding substitute fund in the operating budget to fill those positions. Mr. Kennedy requested figures as to how much money is spent out of the central funding substitute fund for administrators.

With regards to the Gifted and Talented program, Ms. Murray commented that the Board consider using redirected funds to go back into the program as appropriate.

Mrs. Ettinger noted the Board recognizes this is a lean budget year and the system is attempting to be responsible for the use of its funds. She believes the Superintendent has expressed a strong commitment with regards to the Gifted and Talented program.

Mr. Hayden echoed Mrs. Ettinger's comments and is a strong proponent of restoring the funds back into the Gifted and Talented program as quickly as possible.

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the Proposed Operating Budget for FY 2005 (Exhibit B).

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Revised Policy 2372 – Conduct: Tobacco** – Ms. Satterfield, Executive Director of Student Support Services and Ms. Michelle Prumo, Health Services Coordinator, stated this is the first reading of revised Policy 2372. Ms. Satterfield stated changes reflect current language and to implement a smoke-free, tobacco-free environment on schools grounds 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Mr. Kennedy asked if this would include softball and football fields. Ms. Satterfield responded affirmative. With regards to policing schools, Ms. Satterfield stated signs would be posted throughout school grounds. She noted the policy change would be communicated to all stakeholder groups as well as communities.

Mrs. Ettinger requested written information from neighboring school systems to see what their experience has been with implementing a similar policy. Ms. Prumo noted that school buildings have been tobacco-free for 10 years and organizations utilizing school buildings have adhered to this policy. She stated the Use of Facilities form would be expanded to include school grounds.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved item 1 (Exhibit J).

1. Automotive Service Technology Equipment

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1 and 3 (Exhibit K and M). Ms. Shillman pulled item 2 for further discussion. Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on item 3 (Exhibit M).

1. Award of Contract – Material Testing at Woodholme Elementary School.
3. Change Order – Design and Construction Administration Services at Woodholme Elementary School

Item 2

Mr. Hayden asked if the design cost included site work and dirt movement. Mr. Cassell responded there would be dirt movement and as well the requirement to meet fire code and ADA regulations.

With regards to Mr. Walker's question concerning the construction management course, Ms. Bailey stated 30 students are currently enrolled to begin the course next year. She noted this course is a 4-credit career completer. Mr. Walker asked if the continuation of the program is contingent upon building the pavilion. Ms. Bailey responded the pavilion is needed for large-scale construction projects. She noted this program is modeled closely to the course at Eastern Technical High School. Mrs. Bottom, Manager of the Construction Management Services, remarked usage of the pavilion would be to teach students grading and scaffolding use, ladder use, portable power tool use, and wall and ceiling framing.

Ms. Shillman asked if the construction management course could continue to be taught without the addition of the pavilion. Mrs. Bottom responded the course could be taught using scale model projects; however, the pavilion would allow students to learn the expectation in the industry and prepare them for the real world.

Mrs. Ettinger ask if this pavilion were scaled down version, would it provide the space necessary for students to benefit from the program. Mrs. Bottom responded affirmatively. Mrs. Ettinger inquired as to how many pavilions are currently in existence. Mrs. Bottom stated three: Perry Hall High, Lansdowne High, and Eastern Technical High Schools. Mrs. Ettinger commented there have been concerns over the years that BCPS has not provided the construction trade experiences that people felt were worthwhile.

With regards to Ms. Jung's question, Mrs. Bottom responded one high school currently offers the construction management course, which is Eastern Technical High School and New Town High will be the second. Ms. Jung asked if the program would be expanded elsewhere. Mrs. Bottom stated not at this time.

Mr. Walker remarked he was glad this opportunity is being offered to the students in the Northwest area.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board voted to approve item 2. Ms. Shillman voted to oppose this item.

2. Change Order – Design and Construction Administration Services at New Town High School (Exhibit L)

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Jung, the Board voted to support HB208 – Education – County Boards Of Education – Competitive Bidding.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board voted to support HB345 - (SB 245) Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act – Trigger Provision – Repeal

Mrs. Ettinger moved approval of SB 174 - (HB 741) Education – Maryland School for the Blind – Notice to Parents or Guardians of Availability of Programs. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mrs. Ettinger, the Board voted to support SB 526 - (HB 851) Education – Distressed Schools – Performance Incentive Grants.

Mr. Kennedy noted on Wednesday, March 3, there would be a Legislation Reception Day from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Miller Center Office building and all are welcome.

Mr. Sasiadek inquired about the teacher retirement situation. Dr. Poff responded that Senator McFadden and Delegate Adrienne Jones from Baltimore County have introduced legislation to revise the mentioned program. An analysis has not been completed and hearing date not yet established.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Revised Rule 2372 – Conduct: Tobacco
- B. Revised Rule 5150 – Students: Enrollment and Attendance
- C. Southeast Area Advisory Council Minutes of January 20, 2004

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- Schools and offices will be closed on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, in observance of Primary Election Day. Schools will reopen for students and teachers on Wednesday, March 3, 2004.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, 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. The Board will host the Area Advisory Council Officers for dinner on March 9 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

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. Maggie Kennedy, Baltimore County Education Coalition representative congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. She noted that the coalition met on February 24th and clarified their mission statement. Ms. Kennedy looks forward to meeting with County Executive, Jim Smith, on March 11 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Kennedy remarked the operating budget shows a commitment to support public education.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Advisory Committee for Special Education Chairperson, congratulated Dr. Hairston his reappointment. She noted their regularly scheduled meeting did not take place this month. In place of the meeting, the advisory committee attended the Thornton rally.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council Chairperson, noted their next meeting would be on March 3rd at Overlea High School with the topic being high school assessment. She noted that 70 out of 103 elementary schools are participating in the science and technology fair. The science fair will take place at New Town High School on May 21 and 22. Ms. O'Hare announced a work session with the County Council on March 9th at 2:00 p.m. She commented House Bill 1604 regarding student capacity will go a long way and should be supported. She expressed her sympathy to the families of the two Baltimore County students who were involved last week in a fatal accident.

Mr. Stephen Crum, Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. He commented the budget book has more in it than numbers; it shows how the various areas are performing while disparities need to be addressed. Mr. Crum remarked that performance standards should increase not decrease.

Ms. Abbey Beytin, Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council Chairperson, remarked the council met at Wellwood Elementary School on Tuesday, February 17th with the topic being group homes and the impact in the northwest area. Delegates Adrienne Jones and Bobby Zirkin and Senator Delores Kelley attended and discussed legislation they are working on to help alleviate the problem. Ms. Beytin provided a report from the meeting to Board members.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (cont)

Ms. Marcella Kehr, BACE President, congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. With regards to the operating budget, Ms. Kehr thanked the Board for their commitment and dedication to the students and employees.

Ms. Paula Simon, Past President of CASE, was pleased with positive relations with the negotiation process. She remarked that CASE is working diligently with County Executive and the County Council to support the operating budget.

Dr. Ella White Campbell, Minority Achievement Advisory Group Chair, thanked Dr. Hairston for an outstanding job in moving the school system into the new millennium. She would like to see parents have the ability to monitor their child's progress on a day-to-day basis on the web (COGNOS). Dr. Campbell commented everyone has to work together to achieve BCPS' goal.

Mr. Michael Franklin, PTA President, expressed the PTA's condolences of the two Baltimore County students lost in an automobile accident last week. Mr. Franklin remarked that the PTA supports the operating budget, but believes it is a minimal budget. Mr. Franklin stated the highlight of the budget is the transition center. He also commented that placing the policy and rule manual on line is a major step in the right direction. Mr. Franklin commented that the PTA is in strong favor of county council bill 16, which would reduce the overcrowding of schools.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, TABCO President, Ms. Bost congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. Ms. Bost thanked the Board for adopting the proposed FY05 operating budget. She commented that full funding of Thornton is important to the success of public education in the state. Ms. Bost announced the education coalition rally on Monday, March 29th in the Lowe building in Annapolis. She commented on Secretary Paige's remarks in the news.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Interagency Council for Infant and Toddlers Program, shared with the Board a letter from Dr. Carol Ann Baglin from MSDE which states that a condition of receipt for FY05 federal and state funding distributed through CLAEF will be approved documentation that the local Infants and Toddlers Program will ensure the delivery of continuous year round service to eligible children by June 2004. Ms. Nelson remarked that mechanisms are not in place to ensure continuous, uninterrupted service for all children; BCPS may be in jeopardy of receiving federal and state funds. She highlighted issues noted in the annual monitoring report from MSDE.

Mr. Rodger Janssen congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. Mr. Janseen believes the proposed FY05 operating budget is in no way a step to make any kind of recovery.

Mr. Imam Khalil Majdalawi would like the Board to recognize and consider two Muslim holidays on the school calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Mr. Muhammad Jameel congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. He remarked that Muslim population has increased since 1970 and requested two Muslim holidays being recognized on school calendar. He remarked his children had to double up on their work when missing the two Muslim holidays.

Dr. Ayman Akkad stated his children are fortunate to be part of the BCPS system. He is requesting the Board consider two Muslim holidays be added to the school calendar.

Mr. Haider Thamir commented he has two children in Baltimore County Public Schools. In the past ten years, his daughter has not been absent from school without cause for two days a year. Mr. Thamir is requesting two Muslim holidays be placed on the school calendar.

Ms. Yara Cheikh, Vice President of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Baltimore Chapter, commented that if other minority communities receive their holy high holidays off, the Muslims should as well. Ms. Cheikh provided statistics that Baltimore County has had a 10.8% increase in foreign immigration in the last 10 years. She noted that should this trend continue, Baltimore County would have approximately 1 million people by 2025. Ms. Cheikh stated that 30-42% of all Muslims in the United States are African American and there are growing African-American communities in Baltimore County. She requests the Board consider all the statistics when making a decision to add Muslim holidays to the school calendar.

Dr. Salah Oweis, Islamic Society of Baltimore representative, had a petition from the Muslim community requesting the Board look into adding the two Muslim holidays on the school calendar.

Dr. Hassan Makhzoumi commented that he and his wife had to suffer through the indignity of their religion not being recognized. He requests the Board look into the two Muslim holidays. He believes it is important for Muslims to be recognized. His daughter stated that one important part of education is cultural understanding and tolerance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:52 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer