

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:37 p.m. at Greenwood. Mr. Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Miss Francesca Cirincione, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, 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. Arnold reminded Board members of upcoming functions for April and May 2004. Board members were asked to return the housekeeping list to Ms. Stiffler.

Dr. Hairston reviewed with Board members the letter sent to Mr. Sasiadek from the County council concerning overcrowded conditions in schools. Dr. Hairston also distributed a book to Board members entitled "Good to Great" by Jim Collins.

Mr. Arnold reviewed the status of the NFUSSD Conference to be hosted by the Baltimore County Board of Education in 2005.

Mrs. Ettinger inquired about staff support for the conference. Dr. Hairston advised that the Office of Professional Development would be working with the Board of Education. Mr. Arnold noted that this is an opportunity to showcase Baltimore County's school system to other districts throughout the United States.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 4:40 p.m.

Dr. Hayman requested a copy of the magnet school proposal referenced in the magnet school resolution approved March 9, 2004. He also requested a copy of the minority recruitment plan from the Office of Personnel.

At 4:56 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), (a)(7), and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

Miss Cirincione left the room at 4:56 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Nevett Steele, Jr. introduced Mr. Thomas Bostwick, Assistant County Attorney. He reviewed with Board members a potential settlement.

Mr. Sasiadek entered the room at 5:16 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (cont)

Miss Cirincione re-entered the room at 5:18 p.m.

Ms. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction entered the room at 5:20 p.m.

Mr. Randy Grimsley, Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members personnel matters to be considered this evening.

Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Dan Capozzi, Manager of Human Resources-Staff Relations, reviewed with Board members matters relating to negotiations with the bargaining units.

At 6:03 p.m., Mr. Walker moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grzymiski and approved by the Board. The Board hosted members of the Department of Recreation and Parks for dinner.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:33 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Miss Francesca Cirincione, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Dr. Warren Hayman, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by Eric DeMatt and Henry Herr with Boy Scout Troop 143, followed by 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 Minutes of February 25, 2004, and the open and closed minutes of March 9, 2004. Mr. Sasiadek declared the minutes approved as presented on the website.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston reported that the Optimist Club of Dundalk, Inc. has honored Mr. Edward Fangman, Principal of Sollers Point Technical High School, with its Humanitarian of the Year award.

Dr. Hairston read to the Board a report published by the Baltimore Pathfinders for Autism Organization, noting that Baltimore County is known for having a “phenomenal” autism program. Dr. Hairston expressed his appreciation to staff for making this an outstanding program.

RECOGNITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF MARCH 23, 2004

Mr. Grimsley recognized Mr. M. Noel Levy, whose appointment to the Northwest Area Education Advisory Council was approved at the March 23rd meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board approve the Proposed Board Meeting Schedule for 2004-2005 (Exhibit B).

Ms. Jung requested that the two Muslim holidays be included on the calendar. Mr. Sasiadek stated the holidays and events listed are related to Board activities.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 7:49 p.m.

Dr. Hayman stated that the NSBA Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) dates were not included in the calendar. Dr. Hayman qualified his approval of the calendar with the understanding that this addition would be made.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved by the Board. Mr. Hayden abstained from voting.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Recognition of student at Sudbrook Middle Magnet School** – Ms. Angela Heffner, Government and Public Affairs Manager at Comcast, recognized Scott AuCoin, sixth grader from Sudbrook Magnet Middle School as Baltimore County’s winner in the “Bravo, On With the Show”. Sudbrook Magnet Middle School will receive \$1,000 towards funding their arts program. Ms. Heffner presented a citation to Scott on behalf of the County Executive.

REPORTS (cont)

- B. **Recognition of Pupil Personnel Worker Week, May 2-8, 2004** - On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board adopted a Resolution proclaiming May 2-8, 2004 as Pupil Personnel Worker Week.
- C. **Recognition of School Psychology Week, May 2-8, 2004** - On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board adopted a Resolution proclaiming May 2-8, 2004 as School Psychology Week.
- D. **Proposed Staffing Plan for Special Education 2004-2005 (First Reading)** – Mr. Boone, Executive Director of Federal and State Programs, provided an overview of the proposed plan. This year a staffing plan workgroup was organized in order to provide a more comprehensive plan with involvement from all stakeholders, including Citizen’s Advisory Committee for Special Education and the community. Mr. Boone noted the approved staffing plan is due to the Maryland State Department of Education on or before July 1, 2004. The review process includes three community input sessions scheduled for May 3, 2004 and a public comment session on May 11, 2004.

Mr. Hayden asked what portion of the budget is being projected for 2005 for placements. Mr. Boone stated that non-public placement would be approximately \$35 million, which includes state funding. In regards to Maintenance of Effort, Mr. Boone noted that Maintenance of Effort, as described in COMAR, reflects placement of more money into special education than the previous year.

Ms. Shillman asked for clarification on neighborhood schools. Mr. Boone stated these numbers are staffing guidelines and ratios. He also noted this language would be changed in the next draft of the plan.

Ms. Shillman inquired about assistants for general education teachers. Mr. Boone stated that Instructional Assistants do not instruct, therefore, a language change would be made to this section of the plan.

Ms. Jung expressed concern that the process for requesting additional staffing at schools is cumbersome. Mr. Boone stated the process is effective, moves rapidly, and allows for consistency and oversight.

In regards to the Inclusion Project, Ms. Judy Glass, Director of Special Education, responded this is the second year of a grant through MSDE, which involves funds for training of staff in planning, co-teaching, extra planning time and instructional materials. Ms. Jung asked whether this would help teachers that currently do not have special education training with Ms. Glass responding affirmatively.

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. Jung inquired about reducing the number of cluster programs. Ms. Barbara Cheswick, Student and Program Placement Coordinator, stated the goals have been outlined in a five-year plan. The plan also emphasizes inclusive opportunities for students in kindergarten, resource rooms at the elementary level, and behavioral services for students with emotional disturbances and other significant behavioral concerns at the secondary level.

Mr. Boone noted two key areas of improvement needed in special education:

- Least Restrictive Environment
- Identification and representation of African-Americans in Special Education

In regards to recruitment and dual certification for teachers, Mr. Boone referred the question to Human Resources; however, he noted that the highly qualified teacher rate in BCPS is currently 89.8%.

Ms. Jung asked Mr. Boone about the school system's relationship with local colleges. Mr. Boone responded that the Office of Math is working with Goucher College for special educators to participate in their college algebra and geometry course. He also noted the UMBC has expressed interest in setting up a partnership with BCPS.

Mrs. Ettinger complimented Mr. Boone, staff, and citizens advisory council for a productive collaboration. She was pleased to hear about the need for early intervention programs. In regards to ratios, Mrs. Ettinger asked if the ratio was referring to a particular school or system-wide. Mr. Boone responded the ratio is a staffing guideline within existing resources. Mr. Boone noted his office has used the staffing guidelines that teachers and staff believe are effective and financially sound. Mrs. Ettinger expressed concern over communication and understanding with concerned parents who see the staffing guidelines as a cap. She commented that, as composition of classes change over the course of the year, parents become alarmed and come to believe BCPS is not adhering to the staffing guidelines. Mrs. Ettinger noted the importance of being proactive and providing effective communication to parents. She, along with Ms. Jung, would also like to see data in regards to highly qualified teachers, the distribution of highly qualified teachers in the system, and how they are assigned.

Mr. Arnold entered the room at 8:27 p.m.

In regards to the high school assessments (HSA) and potential requirements on graduation, Mr. Boone stated data is being solicited for Algebra I and Biology. He noted the issues come under highly vigorous course requirements pushed by *NCLB* predominately in math. Mr. Boone commented that once the data is received and reviewed, the information would be provided to the Board.

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. Murray entered the room at 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Ettinger asked Mr. Boone is it his observation that the major obstacles to many youngsters who would otherwise be diploma bound would experience difficulty with the math requirement. Mr. Boone responded that math would be a major factor but not the only factor.

Mr. Kennedy asked if there would be fiscal constraints with the recommended plan. Mr. Boone responded there are fiscal realities and priorities set, which are set wisely and carefully. He noted the budget is solid and solidly researched.

Mr. Hayden expressed concern with *NCLB* mandating all students will graduate by 2013. He asked what room in our system is there for non-diploma bound students and what resources are available to ensure all students can graduate from high school. Mr. Boone states *NCLB* sets a percentage of students who will not be in a diploma-track within each school system and holds the school system responsible for any students who are beyond that percentage. Baltimore County Public Schools is under the 1% set by *NCLB*. Mr. Hayden commented that state standards are being reviewed now for what it will take for a student to graduate from high school. He raised concerns that parents and the community are not aware of the proposed requirements for high school graduation.

Mr. Grzynski inquired about the service delivery for Infants and Toddlers and Pre-School. Mr. Boone responded that Infants and Toddlers service depends on the need of the students. For Pre-school, the school system makes an effort to move children into their natural environment with their non-disabled peers. He noted the ratio chart included in the staffing plan is updated as enrollment in schools and budget is amended.

Mr. Walker commented on a work session the Board attended in Annapolis in regards to high school graduation requirements. He indicated parents in other states who were not informed of the new graduation requirements have filed lawsuits. To that end, Mr. Walker asked who is responsible for notifying parents of special education students about the HSA testing. Ms. Glass responded that graduation requirements are discussed during the standard annual review from the third grade and on. In regards to children with IEP's, Mr. Boone stated the responsibility is with the IEP team during annual review and his office's responsibility to audit the degree by which the IEP team completes the review and report any issues to executive leadership. Mr. Boone commented that his office would closely monitor communication of the HSA testing to parents. Mr. Walker asked whether any incentives are offered to special education teachers outside of Baltimore County. Mr. Boone deferred the question to Human Resources.

REPORTS (cont)

With regards to the community input forums, Mr. Walker inquired about an agenda for all three sessions. Ms. Cheswick responded that an agenda and script for each school site is prepared to ensure consistency throughout the forums. Mr. Boone commented that his department's role at the forums is to ensure the purpose of the meeting is accomplished as well as address the community's concerns.

Dr. Hairston reminded the Board that any lawsuit from the federal level would be the responsibility of this school system. Mr. Walker stated that most of the lawsuits are against the state and not the local school board system. Dr. Hairston responded that local school boards would have some responsibility since students are enrolled in those schools. Mr. Walker continued to express concern over communication of the HSA testing to parents and the community.

In regards to highly qualified recruiting and partnering with colleges, Dr. Hayman submits that Coppin State College would be an excellent source for special education teachers. He also recommended Johns Hopkins, which has an alternative education program. Dr. Hayman commented that the number of students in special education dictates staffing plans and ratios. During the work group sessions, Dr. Hayman ask if any discussion would occur regarding:

- Identification and placement of students in special education (placement based on behavior versus special needs)
- Over-representation of males and African-Americans in special education

Dr. Hayman stated these are two areas that need to be addressed since budget and quality of instruction are affected.

Mr. Boone recognized the community members for their outstanding work in developing the recommended plan.

- E. **Summary of School Legislation** – Dr. George Poff, Assistant to the Superintendent, Government Relations, reviewed key pieces of legislation considered by the General Assembly that affect Baltimore County.

Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems – Reemployment of Retired Teachers – Forestalling "sunset" was unsuccessful. During the recent Session, numerous legislative proposals were introduced to extend the sunset date and specify the conditions under which a candidate might be reemployed in the county from which he/she retired. None of these proposals was successful. Therefore, as of June 30, 2004, the ability of an employee to retire and be rehired by his/her former employer without an earnings limitation ceases to exist.

REPORTS (cont)

Task Force to Study the Maryland Teachers' Pension System and the Teachers' Retirement System failed. This legislation would have established a 27-member task force to review and evaluate the adequacy of the two systems and, if deemed necessary, make recommendations for changes. Changes to the benefits structure of the Maryland Teachers' Pension and Retirement Systems have left our State with one of the least attractive systems in our nation.

Public School Construction Assistance Act of 2004 was unsuccessful. This legislation, introduced by the Speaker and the Chairs of Ways & Means and Appropriations, was pre-filed as a "place holder" to potentially address the recommendations of the Task Force on School Facilities. This Bill would have required that specified amounts of State and local revenue from recordation and transfer taxes be dedicated to school construction for FY 2005 through 2008. The Baltimore County share to be dedicated to school construction was estimated to be about \$5 million. This Bill passed the House of Delegates, went to the Senate, but never emerged from the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

HB 199 - Public School Construction – Modular Construction passed.

HB 345 (SB 245) Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act – Trigger Provision – Repeal has passed and is in effect. Should this legislation have failed to pass, and the potential trigger have been actuated, Baltimore County Public Schools likely would not have received the approximately \$38 million increase in Bridge to Excellence funds that we will receive in FY 2005.

Dr. Poff commented that the Governor's office has indicated that the budget for next year, without additional resources from slots and/or tax revenues, could have potential cuts in aid to local governments with regards to employers' share of retirement costs.

HB 1230 (SB 787) Public School Facilities Act of 2004 passed.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

In regards to retired/rehired changes, Ms. Jung asked if surrounding counties would be contacted to recruit teachers. Mr. Grimsley noted BCPS is in a position to bring back retired teachers on a part-time basis. He commented that 66 of the 165 retired/rehired employees were coming back to the school system on a part-time basis. Dr. Arrington stated BCPS is in the process of contacting surrounding school systems to inquire about sharing information on retired/rehired teachers. Dr. Arrington also stated that a survey was disseminated to all retired/rehired teachers regarding continued employment on a part-time basis.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (cont)

Additionally, BCPS has visited colleges, screened 800 applicants, and conducted formal interviews. Dr. Arrington noted that 45% of student teachers are hired. He stated BCPS is also utilizing on-line technology recruitment service for more visibility and national exposure to our school system. Ms. Jung inquired whether English-speaking countries would be contacted for recruiting teachers. Dr. Arrington stated no. Ms. Jung asked what is different in recruitment this year, with Dr. Arrington responding technology usage.

Mr. Hayden encouraged a job fair that would be accessible for educators throughout the state to assist in obtaining highly qualified teachers.

Mr. Walker asked whether an incentive for special education teachers existed. Dr. Arrington responded that teachers would receive a \$2000 signing bonus when signing a contract before June 30, 2004.

NEGOTIATIONS

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the negotiated master agreement with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (AFSCME) as presented on Exhibit J.

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the negotiated master agreement with Baltimore (County Instructional) Assistants and Clerical Employees, Inc. (BACE) as presented on Exhibit J.

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board approved the negotiated master agreement with Professional Staff Nurses' Association (PSNA) as presented on Exhibit J.

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the negotiated master agreement with Teachers' Association of Baltimore County (TABCO) as presented on Exhibit J.

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mrs. Ettinger, the Board approved items 1a through 1e, 1h, and 1j through 1w (Exhibit K).

1. eCatalog Contracts (a through w)
 - a. eCatalog--Art Photo Supplies
 - b. eCatalog--Art Supplies
 - c. eCatalog--Audio-Visual Supplies
 - d. eCatalog--Family Studies Supplies
 - e. eCatalog--Handwriting Materials
 - h. eCatalog—Library Instructional Media
 - j. eCatalog--Media Supplies--Elementary
 - k. eCatalog--Media Supplies—Secondary

CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

- l. eCatalog--Media Supplies--Special Education
- m. eCatalog--Medications and First Aid Supplies
- n. eCatalog--Music--Instrumental Supplies
- o. eCatalog--Music--Vocal Supplies
- p. eCatalog--Physical Education Supplies and Equipment
- q. eCatalog--Science Supplies
- r. eCatalog--Technology Education Equipment and Supplies
- s. eCatalog--Textbooks—Elementary School
- t. eCatalog--Textbooks—High School
- u. eCatalog--Textbooks—Middle School
- v. eCatalog--Textbooks—Special Education School
- w. eCatalog--Unique Office Supplies

Items 1f, 1g, and 1i

In regards to item 1f, Ms. Shillman commented that the exhibit did not reference a particular sport. Mr. Gay stated the item was for all sports. Ms. Shillman inquired about the football equipment being separated in item 1g. Mr. Gay responded that since football is a major sport, the catalog separation is easier for coaches and athletic directors to search for the information.

Regarding item 1i, Ms. Shillman expressed concern that the math supplies cost less than football. Mr. Gay commented that the estimated award values are based on expenditures over the last several years. Math supplies include inexpensive items such as compasses, calculators, and protractors, which are not as high-cost items such as football equipment.

On motion of Ms. Shillman, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board approved items 1f, 1g, and 1i (Exhibit K).

- f. eCatalog--Interscholastic Athletic Equipment and Supplies
- g. eCatalog--Interscholastic Football Supplies and Equipment
- i. eCatalog—Math Supplies

On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved items 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Mrs. Ettinger separated items 5 and 6. Mr. Grzyski separated item 3. Ms. Shillman separated item 11. Mr. Hayden did not vote on item 7 (Exhibit K).

- 2. Contracted Services – Preventative Maintenance, Start-up, Shutdown, and Repair of Chillers, Cooling Towers, Condensers and Other AC Equipment
- 4. Diesel Anti-freeze
- 7. Food Service: Bread Products
- 8. Food Service: Dairy and Related Products
- 9. Gasoline and Diesel Fuel
- 10. Lubricants and Motor Oils
- 12. Supplies Contract—Sport Floor-care Finish, Cleaner, and Mop Treatment

Item #3

Mr. Grzynski commented that the Board of Education of Baltimore County would be hosting the NFUSSD Conference in 2005. This contract is to reserve the hotel for that event. Mr. Gay stated this award value represents the total liability to BCPS should the conference be cancelled. Historically, the rooms set aside have always been filled. It is believed there is low risk potential for the conference.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved item 3.

3. Contracted Services – Marriott’s Hunt Valley Inn - Baltimore

Items #5 and #6

Mrs. Ettinger asked how the one-minute fluency measures would work in the classroom. Ms. Jane Lichter, Coordinator, Language Arts-Elementary Program, stated this measure is a quick screening test of a child’s overall reading health to help identify children at an early age who are potential risks for future reading difficulties. She noted that two feedback sessions were conducted with 100 teachers to get honest feedback on implementation. Teachers believed the tests biggest strength was in adjusting instruction the next day. Mrs. Ettinger asked how many times per year this test would be administered to students. Ms. Lichter responded every child in kindergarten through second grade would be tested three times per year. Mrs. Ettinger asked how the effectiveness of DIBELS would be measured and on what basis future decisions would be made. Ms. Lichter stated DIBELS is one part of an assessment and intervention model used to work with children at an early age to assess their needs. She stated there is a plan to work with children who have slight needs or children with significant needs. Mrs. Ettinger expressed concern over budget implications in the future with this program. She suggested BCPS assess the impact, gather data, and present the analysis, when appropriate, to make a case for both continuing this approach and expanding it.

In regards to item #6, Mrs. Ettinger asked whom this program is intended to serve. Ms. Simon, Coordinator, English and Reading-Secondary Programs, stated the program was piloted at Dundalk High School and Deer Park Magnet Middle School. The intention is to serve students who are rated basic on the MSA in grades 7 and 8 in the middle school and grade 9 at the high school level. Mrs. Ettinger asked how *Fast Track* would interface with the reading program that has been developed for the middle school level. Ms. Simon responded there is potential for using *Fast Track* program at grade 6; however, this year the school system will utilize the *Scott Foresman Reading* material. Mrs. Ettinger asked how the effectiveness of the program would be measured and what if BCPS would like to make modifications to the product. Ms. Simon noted the contract is a price lock-in for five years.

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved items 5 and 6.

5. Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
6. *Fast Track* Intervention Curriculum Materials

Item #11

Ms. Shillman asked whether the contract could continue after two years. Mr. Gay responded affirmatively. Ms. Shillman inquired whether this course could be used at the middle and high school levels. Mr. Gay stated this course would be used at the elementary level only. Ms. Shillman asked about multiculturalism and differentiation strategies. Ms. Linda Schoenbrodt, Coordinator, Mathematics-Elementary Programs stated that teachers would be learning and viewing on-line strategies to assist students in achieving the objectives.

On motion of Ms. Shillman, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved item 11.

11. *Mathematics Yes*, Online Professional Development

Ms. Grzynski commented that a demonstration of the eCatalog would take place at the Budget and Audit Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2004.

Ms. Jung raised a concern with obesity and the type of foods in vending machines. She requested information of what the school system is doing to address healthier foods to lessen obesity.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-10 (Exhibits L through T). The Board approved these recommendations. Mr. Arnold and Mr. Hayden abstained from voting on item 9 (Exhibit T).

With respect to item 3, Mr. Hayden remarked on the sizable difference between the lowest bid and the next lowest bid. Dr. Krempel stated he verifies the bids with the engineer's estimates to ensure the bid is viable.

1. Award of Contract – ADA Upgrades at Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School
2. Award of Contract – ADA Upgrades at Mars Estates Elementary School
3. Award of Contract – ADA Upgrades at Rodgers Forge Elementary School
4. Award of Contract – Reroofing Project at Parkville Middle School
5. Award of Contract – Reroofing Project at Overlea High School
6. Award of Contract – Reroofing Project at Owings Mills Elementary School
7. Award of Contract – Boiler Replacement at Randallstown High School
8. Award of Contract – Exterior Door Replacements at Dulaney High, Middleborough Elementary, and Halethorpe Elementary Schools
9. Contract Modifications – Construction Management Services at New Town High School

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Office of Third Party Billing Annual Report for 2002-2003
- B. Calendar Adjustment for 2003-2004
- C. Revised Rule 5140 – STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance
- D. Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2004

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- The Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, April 21 at Western High School at approximately 7:30 p.m.
- On Sunday, April 25, 2004, the Baltimore County Board of Education will hold a retreat at the Cromwell Valley Park in Towson, Maryland, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting is open to the public. Immediately following the retreat, the Baltimore County Board of Education will adjourn to a closed session to discuss legal advice and personnel matters. In accordance with Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) and (ii) and (a)(7), the meeting is closed to the public.
- The Northwest Area High School Report Information and Comment Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Randallstown High School.
- The Baltimore County Board of Education will conduct a work session on the Master Plan Progress Report on Tuesday, April 27, 2004. The meeting will take place in Room 114 of the ESS Building located on the Greenwood campus, 6901 Charles Street, Towson, MD, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.
- The Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, May 5 at Stemmers Run Middle School. The meeting will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 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 Baltimore County Student Council Officers for dinner on May 11 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

Mr. Don Schlam, Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs representative and Program Administrator for the Baltimore County Local Management Board, briefly talked about the HIPPY program. Ms. Marguerite Pittman, HIPPY parent, commented on how the program is positively influencing her children. She noted both of her children have developed a large vocabulary and have been awarded certificates for reading. Ms. Pittman encourages all parents to try the HIPPY program with their preschool youngsters.

Ms. Vicki Schultz-Unger, representative for the Baltimore County Education Coalition, reported on the activities of the coalition. She announced the coalition with support from TABCO is meeting in Annapolis this evening with the Baltimore County delegation and communicating that full funding for education must remain a high priority. She voiced her concerns over adequate facilities and school construction funds. Ms. Schultz-Unger noted the coalition met with the County Council and discussed the budget process. Ms. Kelli Nelson noted some areas talked about during the meeting were teachers' salaries by retaining highly qualified teachers, NCLB, the AYP, and the transition center. She voiced her disappointment with the outcome of HB1.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County (TABCO), noted teachers are dedicated, valuable and concerned about all aspects of education. Ms. Bost commended Dr. Hairston for placing compensation for all employees as a top priority in his FY05 budget proposal. She publicly commended the County Executive for support and funding compensation for teachers in the budget package presented. Along with competitive salaries, Ms. Bost stated the school system must equally address obstacles standing in the way to obtain and retain highly qualified teachers.

Ms. Karen Yarns, Chair of the Advisory Committee for Gifted/Talented Education, thanked Dr. Jeanne Paynter's office for the middle school college awareness program held at Deer Park Middle School. She announced the final meeting for this school year would be held on May 12, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the ESS Building.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked the Board for their in-depth questions during the proposed special education staffing report. She voiced her concern with the request of data not yet contained in the report. With regards to Maintenance of Effort, she stated the percentage increases in the report are a national trend and are continuing to rise. She mentioned the need for a web-based IEP system to accurately collect and report data. Ms. Nelson is anticipating that the public forums will help gather information as well as educate the public. She also stated more funding is necessary and suggested combining IAD funds with other funds. With regards to high school diplomas, Ms. Nelson remarked the need for clear direction by the State.

Dr. Ella White Campbell, Chair of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, was pleased that many concepts were infused throughout the system in the curriculum and instruction materials as well as staff development.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (cont)

Ms. Vicki Schultz-Unger, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, announced that the area advisory councils have been addressing the issue of high school assessments in local meetings. There will be a joint area educational advisory council meeting on Tuesday, May 4th.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, noted the middle school task force recommendation was the topic at their April 14th meeting held at Stemmers Run Middle School. She commented that Stemmers Run Middle School has been utilizing the middle school task force mentoring program. She also commented that Stemmers Run Middle School was the most improved middle school from 1999 through 2002. Finally, Ms. O'Hare announced the elementary science fair on May 22 at New Town High School with 76 elementary schools participating.

Mr. Stephen Crum, representative of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, shared his concern regarding too many curricula and not enough time. He stated that while reading and math are mandated, less emphasis is placed on art, physical education, and career technology. Mr. Crum noted the need to extend the academic year. He suggested two approaches: 1) add another period to the end of the day, or 2) change from a 2-semester school year to a 3-semester school year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lee Thomassen, teacher at Dumbarton Middle School and a member of the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) for Indoor Environment Quality in Schools, expressed concern over indoor environment quality issues in public schools. Mr. Thomassen referenced County Council Resolution 143-03 that urges the Baltimore County Board of Education "to establish an environmental assessment advisory committee to assist the Department [of Education] to evaluate its current building maintenance and testing procedures and to establish effective policies and practices to ensure the quality of the indoor environment in Baltimore County Public Schools..." Mr. Thomassen announced that the next CAB meeting would be held on May 19, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in Councilman Bartenfelder's district office.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:43 p.m., Mr. Kennedy 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