

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:37 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, Mr. John Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, and Ms. Joy Shillman. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

President Sasiadek reminded Board members of upcoming functions scheduled to occur in June and July 2004 including the CUBE Issues Seminar to be held on June 25-27, 2004 in Baltimore. Dr. Hayman provided a brief overview of the CUBE event.

Mr. Walker entered the room at 5:45 p.m.

At 6:18 p.m., Ms. Ettinger moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to obtain legal advice pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1) and (a)(7). The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Steele, Jr. provided information regarding legal issues concerning a vendor to Board members.

Ms. Howie discussed potential litigations with Board members.

Mr. Randy Grimsley, Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members appointments to be considered at the public meeting, including an addendum to the Appointment/Transfer exhibit.

At 7:10 p.m., Mr. Grzyski moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was second by Ms. Shillman 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, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, and Ms. Joy Shillman. 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 Jenna and Lauren Robbins, students at Timber Grove Elementary School students, followed by a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in Baltimore County Public Schools.

Dr. Hairston noted two adjustments to the agenda for this evening's meeting – adding the adoption of Hearing Officer's Opinion on Case #04-17 under Personnel Matters, and adding Contract Settlement under New Business – Building Committee.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Board Retreat Minutes of April 25, 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston announced that on June 2, 2004 the Maryland State Department of Education had presented the 2004 Awards of Excellence at the Radisson Hotel in Annapolis. The awards, from MSDE's Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning, honored individuals, programs, and businesses for outstanding performance in secondary and post-secondary career and technology education. He stated that the Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management Program at Western School of Technology and Environmental Science received the award for the most outstanding secondary and post-secondary career and technology program in Maryland. Ms. Rhonda D. Hoyman, Supervisor for Technical Programs, received the Distinguished Service Secondary award.

Dr. Hairston also noted that on May 26, 2004, the Maryland Council on Economic Education had conferred upon the Offices of Secondary and Elementary Education for Baltimore County a special award for their support and excellence in promoting economics in their classrooms. In addition to the county recognition, many BCPS students and teachers received awards.

Dr. Hairston announced that the Department of Fiscal Services received both the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International and the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting as well as the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the preparation of the 2003 school system Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the twelfth consecutive ASBO award and the eighth consecutive GFOA award achieved by Baltimore County Public Schools' Department of Fiscal Services.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (cont)

Dr. Hairston stated that on December 15, 2003, the Baltimore County Council passed Resolution #143-03 urging the Board of Education of Baltimore County to establish an Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee. The mission of this committee is to evaluate current BCPS environmental practices, establish new policies, if necessary, and to formally report all results to the Board of Education on an annual basis. The following individuals have been selected to serve:

1. Dr. John Bacon – Asthma and Allergy Expert
2. Ms. Cheryl Bost – President, Teachers Association of Baltimore County
3. Mr. Cornell S. Brown, Jr. – Administrator, Department of Physical Facilities
4. Ms. Rita Hill - Parent
5. Mr. Roger Janssen – Vice President for Leadership, PTA Council
6. Mr. Robert Merrey – Environmental Manager, Department of Physical Facilities
7. Mr. Rob Santa Croce – Principal, Sparrows Point High School
8. Mr. E. Phillip Schied – P.E., Systemic Program Manager
9. Ms. Teresa Streb – Legislative Aide, Baltimore County Council, Sixth District
10. Mr. Gary Urban – Environmental Auditor, Aerosol Monitoring and Analysis, Inc.
11. Student member to be selected after the opening of the school year

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board adopted a Resolution honoring James E. Walker, who is leaving the Board after five years of service. Mr. Sasiadek presented Mr. Walker with the resolution.

Mr. Walker thanked fellow Board members and others throughout Baltimore County for their support. Mr. Walker noted the most memorable moment of his five years as a Board member had come early in his term. He witnessed a young student from an athletic team rush off of the field and administer CPR to a man who had suffered a heart attack

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board adopted a Resolution honoring Phyllis E. Ettinger, who is leaving the Board after ten years of service. Mr. Sasiadek presented Ms. Ettinger with the resolution. Ms. Murray presented Ms. Ettinger with flowers from her colleagues on the Board.

Ms. Ettinger thanked her colleagues on the Board and expressed her gratitude to parents and others in the community. She expressed her joy in working with other Board members who have shared her commitment to the community and to children. Ms. Ettinger expressed her thanks to BCPS staff at all levels who give their best to the children. She noted the privilege of knowing and working with people of courage who have been her heroes and role models over the last ten years. Ms. Ettinger encouraged everyone to be people of vision and good will, and think about what they want Baltimore County and the school system to be 5, 10 and 20 years from now. She noted the need to continually talk to one another about the issues that really matter because “we are so much smarter collectively than we are individually.”

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS (cont)

Ms. Ettinger thanked her colleagues on the Board and the public for their kindness and goodwill. She asked the Board to add the faces of children to the walls of the Board room to celebrate students and to remind Board members why they are here.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS FROM MAY 25, 2004

Mr. Grimsley recognized the administrative appointments approved at the May 25, 2004 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board adopted a Resolution honoring Randall D. Grimsley, Executive Director of Human Resources, who is retiring after 41 years of service to Baltimore County Public Schools.

Dr. Hairston introduced and welcomed Ms. Erin O'Connor who will serve in the County Executive's office as its Education Liaison.

OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Ms. Jung, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the proposed 2005-2006 Baltimore County Public School Calendar.

Mr. Arnold commented on the challenges dealing with religious holidays and cultures in the county and the limitations by this Board due to certain state requirements. Mr. Arnold noted the Jewish holidays were added due to absences with teachers and students, and the possibility of being in violation by not meeting the attendance requirement. He noted the need to work with the State in addressing and dealing with these types of situations including recognition of perfect attendance. Mr. Arnold mentioned BCPS has two calendars available—one known as the “refrigerator” calendar, which has multiple holidays listed, and the official calendar listing the times schools open and close. Mr. Arnold stated we must work together with the State to provide opportunity and recognize the various cultures in Baltimore County.

Mr. Hayden suggested that staff coordinate continued discussion with the State through the course of this year to address the issue. Mr. Hayden also noted he would communicate this issue with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE).

Mr. Kennedy noted the importance for the school system and staff to be sensitive to the different holidays.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Recognition of the Board of Education by the Baltimore County Nurses Association in Honor of School Nurse Day, May 12, 2004** – Ms. Michele Prumo, Coordinator, Health Services, introduced Ms. Rebecca Colt-Ferguson and Ms. Carla Snedegar, newly appointed President for the Baltimore County School Nurses Association, who presented a certificate of appreciation to the Baltimore County Board of Education.
- B. **Report on Proposed Changes to Policy 1280 – Boundary Changes (First Reading)** – Ms. Rita Fromm, Executive Director of Planning and Operations, stated the proposed changes to the policy are in alignment with the current organizational structure and added new language regarding boundary changes necessitated by construction of a new school building.

Mr. Hayden asked if the Office of Strategic Planning was looking at specific areas of the county for general consideration of overcrowding issues. Ms. Fromm responded that after the official enrollment is complete, the Office of Strategic Planning works with the Executive Directors of Schools to determine which schools might need relief and whether a boundary change is the way to achieve that relief.

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. The Board also approved the adoption of Hearing Officers Opinion on Case #04-17. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

Ms. Jung noted the number of appointments within the Human Resources Department. At some future time, Ms. Jung would like to learn more about the Superintendent's vision regarding changes.

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved items 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 11 (Exhibit H). Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on item 6. Ms. Shillman pulled items 1, 6, and 10.

2. Contracted Services for 2004 PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT/NMSQT Early Participation Program
3. Contracted Services for *On-Call* Asbestos Abatement and Removal
4. Contracted Services for *On-Call* Asbestos Abatement Hygiene Testing and Monitoring

CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

5. Contracted Services for Food Service—Ice Cream Products
7. Printing—Continuous Forms
8. School Musical Instrument Repair Services
9. Summer Science Institute for Elementary Teachers
11. Touchstones School Program

Item 1

Ms. Shillman asked that Dr. Barber correct her name in the audit report.

Item 6

Ms. Shillman inquired as to why the reassignment. Mr. Gay responded that during the negotiations of the final contract, Bank of America attached conditions to the contract that based on guidance from legal counsel was found unacceptable. As BCPS was nearing an agreement, Bank of America informed BCPS they could not hold the interest rate. The new percentage rate would have been 4/10 of a percent higher than other bidders.

Mr. Hayden commented on the awkwardness of language in the contract and suggests BCPS is terminating an existing contract. Mr. Gay responded this reassignment is requested to rescind the contract award to Bank of America approved at the May 25, 2004 Board meeting and award the contract to Sun Trust Bank. The reassignment is necessary based on non-performance of the initially approved vendor.

Mr. Walker asked if the new interest rate is for the life of the loan. Mr. Gay responded BCPS has a firm commitment from the new vendor that they will honor the interest rate for the life of the loan.

Item 10

Ms. Shillman asked whether the technology and communication laboratories are in addition to the computer labs with Mr. Gay responding affirmatively. Mr. Gay also noted that this is part of the consolidated program that is ongoing at New Town High and being delivered and implemented at different stages as student population increases.

On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved items 1, 6, and 10 of Exhibit H.

CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

1. Consulting Contract for Independent Operational Audit of the Special Education Program
6. Financing School Buses (Reassignment)
10. Technology Education Information and Communications Laboratory

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-9 (Exhibits I through P), and a Contract Settlement. The Board approved these recommendations.

1. Award of Contract – Systemic Renovations at Dumbarton Middle School
2. Award of Contract – Systemic Renovations at Stemmers Run Middle School
3. Award of Contract – Systemic Renovations – Sprinkler Installation at Campfield Early Learning Center
4. Award of Contract – Renovations at Owings Mills Elementary
5. Award of Contract – ADA Upgrades at Southwest Academy
6. Award of Contract – Reroofing Project at Lansdowne Middle School
7. Award of Contract – Parking Lot Resurfacing at the Wabash Bus Facility
8. Memorandum of Understanding – Inverness Center
9. Contract Settlement

CHANGE TO BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE 2003-2004

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved two changes to the 2004-05 Board Meeting Schedule. The September 14th date was changed to Wednesday, September 8th, and the September 28th date was changed to September 21st.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

Revised Rule 3611 – Tuition: Non-Residents

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- The Baltimore County Board of Education will meet for a public hearing to seek public input about FY2006 Capital Budget needs in Baltimore County Public Schools on Thursday, June 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Sign-up for the public to comment will begin at 6:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2004, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 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.

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, Chair of the Baltimore County Education Coalition, thanked Ms. Ettinger and Mr. Walker for their dedication, passion, and leadership with integrity and by example. She also congratulated Ms. Erin O'Connor and looks forward to working with her in future endeavors. Ms. Kennedy stated 75 citizens attended the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education meeting to hear Dr. Lou Barber deliver the results and recommendations of the special education audit. She noted that community leaders from other counties were in attendance to hear the recommendations. Ms. Kennedy thanked Dr. Hairston and the Board for their insight, courage, and leadership to act on Citizen's Advisory Council's recommendations to conduct the audit and study. She also thanked Ms. Kelli Nelson for her leadership, diligence, and style. Ms. Kennedy announced the Baltimore County Education Coalition would hold its retreat on Tuesday, June 29th at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked all stakeholder groups for attending the meeting in support of special education. She noted one area of concern in the report by those at the meeting was item #11 entitled Other Findings regarding the "wide disparity in how special education support has been distributed throughout the school system." Included in the report was an example of a school where the special education classrooms were in the basement and the walls had holes and windows need repair. Ms. Shriver stated as a parent she was ashamed and asked the Board to address this issue.

Mr. Steve Crum, Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, thanked Ms. Ettinger and Ms. Walker for their work and leadership in Baltimore County. He commented on the retiring of Ms. Diane Goldian from Kenwood High School. Mr. Crum noted the number of achievements at Kenwood while Ms. Goldian was principal and thanked her for the tremendous job at Kenwood High School.

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, thanked Ms. Ettinger and Mr. Walker for their years of service in promoting education. He noted that sometimes people forget that Board member are volunteers. Mr. Franklin stated he enjoyed working with the Board over the last two years and look forward to the next two years.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (cont)

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, reflected on this past school year. She was pleased with the many ways the Board and school system worked together on issues such as salary increases for teachers, securing funding of Thornton, and seeing the education budget almost complete. Ms. Bost commented on her visit to the Community Education Partnership Alternative School in Florida. She was impressed with the facility and program visited. Ms. Bost stated she still has questions and is looking forward to working with Dr. Hairston, administration, and the Board to work out the details in a true, collaborative manner. She thanked Ms. Ettinger and Mr. Walker for their service to Baltimore County.

There were no speakers signed up to address the proposed changes to Policy 1270 – Family/ Community Involvement.

There were no speakers signed up to address the proposed changes to Policy [4144] 3143 – Normal Biweekly Pay.

There were no speakers signed up to address the proposed changes to Policy 5550 – Disruptive Behavior.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Nick Aquino noted his attendance at a rally earlier this evening in Annapolis with the Governor on multi-culturalism. He stated that when he left his country he moved to Baltimore County because it was the place he chose to live. Mr. Aquino is calling for unity and asked the Board to work together for the same cause.

Dr. Bash Pharoan, thanked the Board for their consideration of the proposed calendar. He noted that not one Board member objected to the calendar. Dr. Pharoan commented that many positive comments have been made this evening. He stated that the BCPS website talks about the Board and school system being a team; however, the Muslim holidays were not recognized. Dr. Pharoan stated it is not about school days and perfect attendance, but about equality and being included equally with other communities. He takes this as a success and hopes to continue working with the Board in the future on this issue and other education issues.

Ms. Erica Cohn, former student Board member, commended the Board on their discussion surrounding the school calendar in respect to multi-culturalism. She commented on her recent visits to Bosnia, Yugoslavia, and Kwacha. Ms. Cohen appreciates the Board's consideration of students of minority status and commitment to provide an equitable education. She stated that Ms. Ettinger and Mr. Walker have been wonderful examples for this community and selfless leaders.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:16 p.m., Mr. Grzymiski moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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