

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 3:34 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Dr. Warren Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

The Board entertained oral argument in Hearing Examiner's Case #02-03. The matter was heard in closed session.

In addition to the above listed Board members, also in attendance were the Appellant; James R. Whattam, Esq., Assistant General Counsel, Maryland State Teachers Association; Dr. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esq., Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; Nevett Steele, Jr., Esq., Assistant County Attorney; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 3:37 p.m.

The proceedings of the hearing were recorded by a court reporter.

The hearing was concluded at 4:56 p.m.

Board members deliberated on the case.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

At 5:42 p.m., the Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Miss Francesca Cirincione, Mr. John Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

President Sasiadek reviewed with Board members upcoming functions for August and association events.

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)(7). The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Dr. Alpheus Arrington, Director of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members personnel matters to be considered this evening.

Mr. Steele, Jr. provided legal advice to Board members regarding potential litigation.

At 7:05 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved the Board adjourn 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, reconvened in open session at 7:48 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Miss Francesca Cirincione, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. James E. 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 Kevin Burnopp, a student at Loch Raven High School, 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 Board Work Session Minutes of April 27, 2004; Open and Closed Minutes of May 11, 2004; and the Open and Closed Minutes of May 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 acknowledged that Ms. Sharon Grimes, Baltimore County's Teacher of the Year, is cited in the School Library Journal with an excellent article. Ms. Grimes has made a powerful contribution to the academic area on the national level.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (cont)

Through a PowerPoint™ presentation, Dr. Hairston shared with the Board the mean SAT scores focusing on rigorous courses. For the last two years, BCPS has been working to eliminate low level courses to pursue higher academics and the demand from the public as well as federal and state levels with regards to academic rigor. He noted that the data has a direct relationship to the performance of high school students and the number of high level courses taken before the SAT examination. Dr. Hairston commented on the achievement gap at the high school level and achievement of minorities. He stated that African American students taking 1-5 high level courses score better. More importantly, students taking 21+ rigorous courses are scoring at a phenomenal level. He noted that students taking no high level or rigorous courses are scoring low. Dr. Hairston stated it is important for BCPS to raise expectation levels for all students as well as target necessary subgroups. When students are exposed to higher expectations, students respond accordingly.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS FROM JUNE 8, 2004

Dr. Arrington recognized the administrative appointments approved at the June 8th meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2004-2005

Dr. Hairston presided during the election of the President of the Board of Education of Baltimore County. Dr. Hairston asked for nominations for the office of President. Mr. Kennedy nominated Mr. James Sasiadek. Dr. Hayman seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Dr. Hairston closed the nominations for the office of President. The motion to elect Mr. Sasiadek was passed by unanimous consent.

Mr. Sasiadek assumed the chair and requested nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Ms. Murray nominated Mr. Thomas Grzymiski. Mr. Kennedy seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Mr. Sasiadek closed the nominations for the office of Vice President. The motion to elect Mr. Grzymiski as Vice President of the Board of Education was passed by unanimous consent.

OLD BUSINESS

Revisions to Policy 1270

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the proposed changes to Policy 1270 – Community Relations: Parent/Family Involvement.

OLD BUSINESS (cont)

Revisions to Policy 3143 (Replacing 4144)

On motion of Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the proposed Policy 3143 – Personnel: Professional-Compensation and Related Employee Benefits – Normal Biweekly Pay.

Revisions to Policy 5550

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Jung, the Board approved the proposed changes to Policy 5550 – Disruptive Behavior.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Fiscal Year 2006 Operating and Capital Budget Schedules** – Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, outlined the FY '06 capital and operating budget schedule for the upcoming school year. She stated both schedules are available on the BCPS website. Ms. Burnopp distributed the FY2005 Adopted Operating Budget to the Board. Added to the budget book this year is an executive summary, which includes a budget variance table. Ms. Burnopp stated that due to a power outage, the adopted budget would be available to the public on July 14th via the BCPS website.

Mr. Kennedy expressed concern over community input into the Superintendent's budget. Mr. Kennedy encourages the Board to be part of the budget process throughout the development of the budget.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

Mr. Kennedy moved to approve items 1-6 (Exhibit L). Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Ms. Jung had questions on items 2 and 3.

Item #2 and #3

In regards to item #2, Ms. Jung asked how the numbers compare to last year's figures and whether in-house personnel would be more effective. Ms. Margaret Kidder, Coordinator, Office of Psychological Services, clarified that the title of the contract should read Contracted Services *Office of Psychological Services*. Ms. Kidder stated these dollars would increase flexibility and meet compliance targets by providing additional services to the schools. Ms. Jung inquired whether supplementing full-time personnel with contract services are beneficial. Ms. Kidder responded this is a good balance between contract services and personnel. She stated the Office of Psychological Services is always interested in additional positions, especially for specific populations. Ms. Kidder stated we are able to give children in Baltimore County very good service for the dollar.

Regarding item #3, Mr. Ron Boone stated these contractual services are for children with IEPs where the IEP load exceeds professional staff or requires the level of services or equipment but that does not exist in the system. Mr. Boone noted the Office of Special Education does not want to staff beyond the amount of predicted case loads. Ms. Jung asked if this is the right proportion of in-house staff and outside contractual services. Mr. Boone responded we would look at future budgets to lower the contractual percentage. He stated professional staff is less expensive than contractual services. Contractual service is a necessary service and would always be accessible.

The Board approved items 1-6 (Exhibit L).

1. Contracted Services for Drug Testing, Extension
2. Contracted Services for Special Education, Psychological Reassessments
3. Contracted Services for Special Education Related Services, Extension
4. Global Positioning System Real-Time Bus Tracking System
5. LAN Shared Storage Equipment
6. Lease for Facility Space on Whitehead Road

Mr. Walker exited the room at 8:27 p.m.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-18 (Exhibits M through DD). The Board approved these recommendations.

1. Award of Contract – Various Construction Packages at Woodholme Elementary School
2. Award of Contract – Various Construction Packages at Windsor Mill Middle School

BUILDING COMMITTEE (cont)

3. Award of Contract – Window Replacement at Carney Elementary School and Harford Hills Elementary School
4. Award of Contract – Science Room Renovations at Randallstown High School
5. Award of Contract – Concrete Step Replacement at Prettyboy Elementary School
6. Request to Negotiate – Design and Construction at Kenwood High School Addition/Tech Wing Moderation
7. Request to Negotiate – On-Call Construction Monitoring Services at Various Sites
8. Contract Award – On-Call Construction Monitoring Services at Various Sites
9. Fee Acceptance – Contract Administration Services for Systemic Renovation at Stemmers Run Middle School
10. Fee Acceptance – Design and Construction Administration Services for Reroofing at Human Resource and Executive Director Buildings at Greenwood
11. Fee Acceptance – Design Services for Systemic Renovations at Arbutus Middle School
12. Contract Modification – Inspection Services at Various Sites
13. Contract Modification – Cleaning Services at Parkville Middle School
14. Contract Modification – Cleaning Services at Dundalk Middle School
15. Contract Modification – Cleaning Services at Franklin Middle School
16. Contract Modification – Cleaning Services at Sparrows Point Middle School
17. Contract Modification – Cleaning Services at Golden Ring Middle School
18. Contract Modification – Cleaning Services at Dumbarton Middle School

Ms. Jung commended the custodial staff for their hard work and long hours in past years to take care of the cleaning services in the schools. She stated this is a fair way of equalizing the work without an undue burden on staff.

Mr. Kennedy shared with the Board the percentage of change orders dramatically decreased to 1.4% from July – December 2003. He applauded staff for monitoring costs associated with change orders.

PROPOSED STUDENT MEAL PRICE INCREASE

Ms. Fromm, Executive Director of Planning and Operations, and Ms. Karen Levenstein, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, request the Board approve the recommendation to increase student meal prices. Ms. Fromm stated the last price increase to student meals was in 1992. She noted that the school system is no longer keeping up with inflation and the increasing prices in food and material. Ms. Fromm stated there are two recommendations:

- ③ Establish a student meal price policy that looks at the net programming expenses and aligns the student meal cost to those expenses
- ③ Phase in the student meal price increase.

Mr. Hayden proposed to the Board that Option B for Lunch cost be approved and modify Option B for Breakfast cost to begin at \$1.25 with 15 cent increments thereafter until it reaches \$2.00.

Ms. Jung asked if the food service program has been self-sufficient. Ms. Fromm responded BCPS has been spending down a cash reserve fund. She noted the food service program has operated at a loss and used the net cash reserve to cover the loss. Increasing meal cost would ensure that the food service program would no longer running a deficient. Ms. Jung inquired whether increasing meal prices would build up the reserve again. Ms. Fromm responded the State bylaws speak to keeping a minimum in the net cash reserves of 1-1/2 months operating expenses. This is the level the food service program is approaching.

Ms. Shillman inquired about government subsidy and how it relates to student meal prices. Ms. Fromm responded BCPS subtracts all the subsidies received from federal and staff government.

Mr. Hayden noted that the food service program is losing money and that funds are being appropriated to pay for those additional expenses. For example, the current cost of the breakfast program for FY2004 was \$1.41 and cost per meal was \$1.15. Mr. Hayden recommended a modified Option B for breakfast with the cost of \$1.25 for FY2005.

Mr. Hayden moved the approval of the following proposed Student Meal Price Options:

	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<u>Meal Cost Recommendation - Lunch</u>						
Option B - .20 first year, then .40 to full cost	\$ 1.80	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.60			
<u>Meal Cost Recommendation – Breakfast</u>						
Option B - .15 per year to full cost (MODIFIED)	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.55	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.85	\$ 2.00

Mr. Arnold seconded the motion. The Board approved the above proposed Student Meal Price Options. Mr. Kennedy opposed the increase.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2004
- B. Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2004

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- ③ The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 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

Mr. Michael German, President of the Baltimore County Student Council, noted that during June 24-30 four members from BCSC attended the National Association of Student Councils' conference. The conference offered an opportunity to meet people from all states and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Special Education, announced that Ms. Jasmine Shriver is the new Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Special Education and Mr. Carl Baily is the Vice Chair. Ms. Nelson submitted a copy of the committee's accomplishments and activities for the past school year. She also stated that COMAR regulations would be introduced on July 23rd in the Maryland register that would require every jurisdiction in Maryland to develop a Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee. Ms. Nelson had the opportunity to present Parent Involvement and Special Education process at the CUBE conference in Baltimore with Board member Dr. Hayman. She noted the committee would be working with staff this fall on the special education audit recommendations and the transition center.

Ms. Vicki Schultz-Unger, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, noted that the councils held June meetings and elections. She announced two new area Chairs for the upcoming year. Mr. Walt Hayes will be serving as the Chair for the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council and Ms. Sandy Skordalos will serve as Chair of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council. Ms. Schultz-Unger stated she is looking forward to working with the Board to get the area educational advisory council's operating procedures approved and placed on the website.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (cont)

Mr. Stephen Crum, a representative of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, thanked the Board for reappointing Mr. Boyd Crouse and himself as members to the council. He announced Mr. Alex Crouse would be the new student member of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council for 2004-2005. Regarding to the Superintendent's report, Mr. Crum stated the school system needs to start at the elementary school and middle school levels. He stated everyone needs to remain focused so that performance can increase.

Mr. Walter Hayes, Chair of the Northeast Area Education Advisory Council, announced Mr. Ron Zimmerman as the new Vice Chair for the Northeast Area and Ms. Barbara Martin has returned as secretary. Mr. Hayes stated that the council voted unanimously that the construction of a new high school between Towson High School and Perry Hall High School as outlined in the DeJong report would be the top priority for the upcoming school year to address overcrowding in these and adjacent schools. He noted that four of the top six overcrowded schools are located in the central and northeast areas of the county. Mr. Hayes stated construction of one new high school to alleviate overcrowding in the central and northeast areas is recommended as the best solution for Baltimore County Public Schools. He stated that the area advisory council advises the school board to accept the DeJong's recommendation by the start of the upcoming school year and take the lead to build a new high school in the central and northeast areas. Mr. Hayes reviewed the DeJong study and the increased population at Milford Mill Academy, Perry Hall High, Kenwood High, Towson High, Pikesville High, and Sparrows Point High Schools. Mr. Hayes stated that based on current projects, the central and northeast areas combined would be 850 seats short by 2006. Finally, Mr. Hayes commented that with the projected increase of family housing units there is considerable support to build a new high school to relieve both areas.

Dr. Ella White Campbell, Chair of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group (MAAG) introduced Ms. Jasmine Shriver who addressed the issue of the transition center. Ms. Shriver stated the transition center is coming under attack by various organizations. She noted that Baltimore County is the only county in Maryland saturated with so many foster care children. Ms. Shriver believes the transition center would not be a "holding tank" for children. She noted that 2,500 students would be entering the system with the transition center serving 420. Ms. Shriver stated that BCPS does not have a policy regarding "reasonable time," which must be clarified. She stated everyone needs to work together and be part of the solution.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 1280 - (Second Reading)

There were no speakers signed up to address the proposed changes to Policy 1280.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. David Marks, member of the Northeast Area Education Advisory Council, echoed Mr. Walter Hayes' comments. He believed a breakthrough occurred when the DeJong report was published. Mr. Marks applauded the Board for supporting the DeJong study; however, no action has been taken since the report. Mr. Marks stated the longer the school system waits the more overcrowded schools will become.

Mr. Mohammad Jameel stated that adding the two Muslim holidays to the 2005-2006 school calendar would have averaged less than two school days a year. He noted the absence of these two days have a direct affect on the fundamentals of education of children. Mr. Jameel stated the request of Muslims is based upon the precedent and not discrimination. He stated he would stand for equity, rights, and justice for all. Finally, Mr. Jameel asked the Board to honestly consider the issue and be fair.

Ms. Jodi Shaefer stated parents and community members are concern about the number of trailers (relocatables) being added to schools. She stated an overcrowding coalition would be formed to address this specific issue. Ms. Shaefer noted Perry Hall High School has eleven trailers with approximately 2,300 students. She credits counselors, administrators, and teachers who are trying to deal with the overcrowding issue. Ms. Shaefer commented that the DeJong report was based on 2002 data and did not include New Town High School and the Route 43 extension. Ms. Shaefer stated the coalition wants to work with the Board to provide resources and improved facilities for the children.

Dr. Bash Pharoan, President of the Baltimore County Muslim Council, shared a survey with the Board about American feelings in relation to certain items. With regards to the school calendar, Dr. Pharoan stated the Board showed the Muslim community that it is not represented and has no voice. He believes that holidays should be equal. Dr. Pharoan trusts that Board members should be more supportive of the Muslim holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:14 p.m., Dr. Hayman moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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