

## APPROVED MINUTES

### BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, August 10, 2004

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:30 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. John Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, and Ms. Joy Shillman. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

In addition to the above listed Board members, Dr. Christine M. 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 were present.

The record was opened in Hearing Examiner's Case #04-15. The Appellant did not appear, and the Board voted to dismiss the case. The record was closed at 4:36 p.m.

### OPEN SESSION MINUTES

At 4:37 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, Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. John Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, and Ms. Joy Shillman. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

President Sasiadek reminded Board member of upcoming functions for August and September and school board events.

Dr. Hairston provided a synopsis of the transition center for the newly appointed Board members. He noted that Baltimore County has the highest concentration of students placed in agencies in the state of Maryland. He stated the intent is to be responsive to the public and provide a climate that is conducive to learning.

At 5:03 p.m., Mr. Kennedy 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. Arnold and unanimously approved by the Board.

### CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Steele, Jr. offered legal advice on a matter dealing with potential litigation.

Mr. Camp entered the room at 5:09 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (cont)

Ms. Howie entered the room at 5:43 p.m.

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

At 6:33 p.m., Mr. Arnold moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was second by Mr. Kennedy and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:37 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Mr. Nicholas P. Camp, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. John Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, 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 Joseph Blair from Franklin 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 Open and Closed Minutes of June 8, 2004; the Public Hearing Minutes on Proposed FY06 Capital State/County Budget of June 10, 2004; and the Open and Closed Minutes of July 13, 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.

Mr. Sasiadek recognized Ms. Janese Murray and Ms. Jean Jung for their contributions as Board members over the past five years. Mr. Sasiadek read a quote from Nelson Mandela's inaugural address in 1994.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston announced that Ms. Patsy Holmes, Director of Student Support Services, was recognized as Administrator of the Year by the National Association of School Resource Officers at their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition to Ms. Holmes' award, the Baltimore County Public Schools' SRO Program was one of the three national programs to be recognized as a model program.

Dr. Hairston invited Executive Directors of Schools and principals to update the Board on summer reading initiatives and activities within Baltimore County Public Schools. Mr. William Lawrence, Executive Director of Schools for the Northeast area, and Ms. Jean Satterfield, Executive Director of Schools for the Southeast area, introduced three principals who reviewed their school's summer reading initiative.

Mr. Patrick McCusker, Eastern Technical High School Principal, introduced the Independent Reading Program. The expectation for students is to read at least one selection from the fiction or nonfiction book list provided and be prepared to discuss the book(s). He noted that during the second week of school in the fall, students know they will write an essay in English class pertaining to one of the books. Mr. McCusker stated the advantage of summer reading is that students will not have to cram the first couple of weeks of school to read a book.

Mr. Lyle Patzkowsky, Dulaney High School Principal, stated students are invited to participate in the summer reading program entitled "One Book...One Dulaney." This year, the book selected was "A Lesson Before Dying" by Ernest Gaines. Students, parents, and teachers read five or more titles before selecting the novel for the summer. All grades will read the same novel over the summer. In the fall, students will discuss different aspects of the novel in their classes. Mr. Patzkowsky noted the process would continue again next year.

Mr. Rob Santa Croce, Sparrows Point High School Principal, noted the importance of reading at all school levels. He reviewed with the Board the number of choices of books for the different levels of English. The selections were made in consultation with English teachers, English Chairperson, and central office. The types of books range from mystery and adventure to historical to science fiction and fantasy.

Dr. Hairston noted the summer reading practice was not discontinued and firmly stands behind the concept of reading. He stated that summer reading initiatives are generated on a school-by-school basis.

Mr. Hayden wondered if principals were encouraging summer reading initiatives in each school at all levels. Dr. Hairston responded he expressed his position and support of summer reading initiatives to all principals at the Principal's Academy held in June 2004.

### RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS FROM JULY 13, 2004

Dr. Arrington recognized the administrative appointments approved at the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Dr. Hayman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the proposed changes to Policy 1280 – Boundary Changes.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Revisions to the *Blueprint for Progress*** – Dr. Hairston provided the history, concept, and background of the *Blueprint for Progress*. He stated that this document has driven BCPS performance and the school system has not deviated from that foundation of thinking. Dr. Hairston noted the *Blueprint for Progress* revisions focus on alignment with the *No Child Left Behind Act 2001* and the National Education Bills. He identified the changes and adjustments as follows:
- Performance Goal 1 now states, “By 2014, all students will reach high standards, as established by the Baltimore County Public Schools and State performance level standards, in reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
  - Delete IMAP, which is no longer in existence.
  - Remove Performance Indicator 1.9 regarding the Maryland Functional Math, Reading, and Writing Tests.
  - Performance Goal 2 now states, “By 2014, all English Language Learners will become proficient in English and reach high academic standards in reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
  - Remove Performance Indicator 8.1 relating to alignment of benchmarks and indicators for Business Services.
  - Performance Indicators for Goal 8 – Items 8.3 thru 8.19 were updated as outlined in Exhibit C

Mr. Kennedy inquired about copy and print services added to Performance Goal 8. Dr. Hairston responded now that we have the resources, the goal is to maximize the capacity of our copy and print services. Mr. Kennedy was pleased stating this would be a time and money saver.

With regards to Performance Indicator 8.12, Mr. Kennedy asked for clarification of the term “equitable staff.” Dr. Hairston responded some students in parts of the county are not getting the quality instruction as other students. He noted central office needs to address the hiring and staffing practice, intensify recruitment, and provide greater academic support for schools and students. Mr. Kennedy commented the system needs to be willing to get the resources to meet the needs of every student.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Hayden echoed Mr. Kennedy's comments regarding resources. He expressed the need to allocate resources based on the needs of each individual school. Regarding performance indicator 8.2, Mr. Hayden asked if the school system was on target for one computer per five students by 2005 with Dr. Hairston responding affirmatively. Mr. Hayden also inquired about performance indicator 8.7 and students to have total riding times of less than 3 hours per day. Mr. Rita Fromm, Executive Director of Planning and Operations, responded there are currently 209 students that have riding times of more than 3 hours per day; 144 of those students were in special education programs in non-public schools.

Mr. Hayden expressed concern with changing Performance Goal 1 from 2007 to 2014 that all students will reach high standards. He noted this appears to be a seven year drop-off in the school system's ability to address the needs of our students. Mr. Hayden suggested taking a look at the performance goal, address each goal individually, and set reasonable and realistic dates. Dr. Hairston responded that BCPS is performing at the highest level in history in Baltimore County. He stated the revisions in this document are not intended for radical adjustments in the system, but to align with federal government and State department education requirements.

In regards to performance indicator 8.18 Mr. Arnold stated this goal is challenging since Baltimore County has limited land available to build additional schools. He stated that BCPS will work with Baltimore County to look at the issues and provide solutions to address the concern. Mr. Arnold noted that the *Blueprint for Progress* is a book with a focus on addressing education for students in Baltimore County. Dr. Hairston commented that the key to the *Blueprint for Progress* is not the language, but what BCPS has to do to achieve these goals.

Mr. Grzymiski suggested adding a performance indicator that aligns the audit requirements associated to state requirements to maintain a high level of accountability. Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, responded that Performance Indicator 8.3 in the Master Plan has an audit activity tied to the *Blueprint for Progress* goal. Mr. Grzymiski also suggested providing an elementary school level *Blueprint for Progress* to help students understand the goals for the school system.

Mr. Hayden commented that BCPS should work closely with the legislative delegation to address the need of a new high school in the Northeast area. He noted the issue also needs to be addressed with the State department since BCPS cannot address the need for a new school until it is already overcrowded.

REPORTS (cont)

- B. **Update on Master Plan** – Dr. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and Dr. Jerry Dalton, Director of Accountability, Research, and Testing provided background information and history on the Master Plan. Dr. Johns noted the first Master Plan was approved by the Board of Education in July 2003 and the original *Blueprint for Progress* was introduced in 2000. She stated the Master Plan unpacks the *Blueprint for Progress* in greater detail and depth by clarifying specific activities, aligning the fiscal year '05 budget, and revising performance measures. Dr. Johns reviewed the significant revisions in Performance Goal 1 and Performance Goal 8.

With regards to Mr. Janssen's question, Dr. Johns responded in sixth grade all students will be able to participate in the reading assessment, then in seventh and eighth the diagnostic assessment would take place. Dr. Johns stated youngsters would have reading instruction in the sixth grade.

Regarding Performance Indicator 1.1, Ms. Shillman asked for clarification regarding the aligning of grades preK-5 curriculum with VSC that are problem centered. Dr. Johns responded problem centered science allows students to have hands-on science in a lab situation.

Ms. Shillman asked about the pilot whiteboard/tablet technology in six high schools. Dr. Hairston responded this is an electronic tool that teachers can use in a classroom. A teacher can write on the tablet, store the data, and transfer the data to a computer.

Mr. Hayden pointed out that all through the Master Plan the references were changed from 2007 to 2014. He recommends looking at each objective and possibly assigning a realistic and reasonable date. Dr. Dalton responded there are specific performance targets at given times for each grade level where BCPS needs to be to reach the 100% proficiency level required for math, reading, and science. Dr. Dalton noted that BCPS is at a proficiency level of 72.36% in reading, which exceeds the annual measurable objective in 2004 by 22% and exceeds 2008 standards. He stated that math proficiency level is 60%, which exceeds 2007 standards.

Dr. Hayman noted caution when bragging about the data before it has been disaggregated. He noted that the special education report advised BCPS there is an over representation of males, which should be addressed in the Master Plan. Dr. Hayman commented that schools selected for the Black Saga Program have predominately African-American population. He suggested placing the program in schools that are not heavily populated with African-American students. Dr. Hayman commended the Superintendent and staff on the Master Plan and *Blueprint for Progress*. He also recommended making reference of the relationship of the Master Plan in the *Blueprint for Progress* document.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits E, F, F-1, G, G-1, and H. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved items 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15 (Exhibit I). Ms. Shillman separated items 1, 4, and 16. Mr. Kennedy separated items 7, 11, and 13. Mr. Hayden separated item 3.

2. Food Service-Food Products: Frozen Waffles, Amendment
5. Library Supplies
6. Low Volume Digital Photocopiers
8. Nextel Cellular Phones
9. *On-Call* Emergency and Non-Emergency HAZMAT Clean-up/Disposal Service
10. *On-Call* Science Chemicals and Waste Disposal Services
12. Physical Examinations, Extension
14. Timonium Lease, Amendment
15. US Bank Purchasing Card Program Contract Extension

Item 1

Ms. Shillman expressed concern over the monitoring and accountability of the program. Mr. Thomas Small, Principal at Riverview Elementary School, responded there are three sources for assessing and monitor the program: 1) Catapult assessment, 2) Riverview Elementary School assessment, and 3) CTPS independent testing assessment. Dr. Gary Brager, Supervisor of Accountability, Research, and Testing, stated test results in the past have been excellent.

Mr. Janssen inquired about data to verify the program is effective. Dr. Brager responded the vendor produces a report and the data is presented to the Board each year.

Mr. Kennedy stated he has seen the data and is satisfied that the program is performing as required.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved item 1. Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on item 1.

1. Catapult Learning, Extension

Item 3

Mr. Hayden commented on a correction in numbers. Mr. Gay responded that the BCPS purchases on average each year of fuel should be 1.252 million gallons instead of 1.352 as indicated in the exhibit.

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

3. Fuel Oil-Number 2

Item 4

Ms. Shillman expressed concern over the contract ending date of March 2005 and the original award value. Mr. Gay responded the contract is being extended to March 2005 and will be re-bid in the spring.

On motion of Mr. Grzymiski, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved item 4. Ms. Shillman and Mr. Hayden abstained from voting on item 4.

4. HVAC Repair Services Extension, Revision

Item 7

Mr. Kennedy questioned the savings through the efforts of the co-op. Ms. Marsye Kaplan, Facilitator, Assistive Technology, responded that by going directly to a vendor, BCPS would be spending \$6,000 more than using Assistive Technology. Mr. Gay stated the purpose of a co-op is to spend only what is available. This particular co-op brings all of the counties within Maryland to buy the same equipment in large numbers. Mr. Kaplan noted there is no fee to belong to the co-op.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board approved item 7.

7. *Maryland Assistive Technology CO-OP* Assistive Technology: Loans, Acquisitions, Services, and Training (AT:Last) – Purchasing Consortium

Item 11

Mr. Kennedy expressed concern over a cell tower on school property. Mr. Kennedy asked when the feasibility test would come back before the Board. Mr. Gay responded within 90 to 180 days.

Ms. Shillman asked whether the community has had input on the cell tower. Mr. Krempel responded since the cell tower would be on school property, the community would not have input.

Mr. Borunda inquired whether BCPS would receive any compensation during the testing. Mr. Gay responded BCPS will not receive compensation during testing; however, if testing results are favorable, then there would be a negotiated contract.

Item 11 (cont)

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board approved item 11.

11. Owner Authorization Agreement with Omnipoint (T-Mobile)

Item 13

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved item 13.

13. Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test

Item 16

Ms. Shillman was concerned that more employees have not taken advantage of the on-line courses. Ms. Shillman asked whether the cost is applicable for only 700 people and if more teachers and administrators will use the program. Mr. Gay responded the Office of Professional Development and the Office of Equity & Assurance are looking at creating a catalogue of courses that would provide a wide interest to a larger group of people. Mr. Gay stated the program would be expanded to 30 courses. Dr. Barbara Dezmon, Assistant to the Superintendent, Equity and Assurance, stated courses are available to over 8,000 teachers and offered five times a year.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board approved item 16.

16. Web-Based Courses (Amended)

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-8 (Exhibits J through Q). The Board approved these recommendations. Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on item 7 (Exhibit P) and Mr. Hayden abstained from voting on item 6 (Exhibit O).

1. Award of Contract- Boiler Replacement at McCormick Elementary School
2. Award of Contract- Exterior Door Replacements at Chesapeake High, Loch Raven Technical Academy and Halstead Academy
3. Award of Contract- Site Improvements at New Town Elementary School
4. Fee Acceptance- Design Services for Kenwood High School
5. Fee Acceptance- Design Services for Systemic Renovations at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School
6. Fee Acceptance- Design Services for Systemic Renovations at Southwest Academy
7. Fee Acceptance- Design Services for Systemic Renovations at Ridgely Middle School
8. Contract Modification- Systemic Renovations at Franklin Middle School

BUILDING COMMITTEE (cont)

Regarding design services for systemic renovations, Dr. Hayman inquired about the length of time between the three systemic renovation schools and Kenwood High School. Dr. Krempel responded that Kenwood High School is not a systemic renovation. He stated that the systemic renovation designs are for the Perks-Ruter systemic work.

ADJUSTMENT TO CALENDAR FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2004-2005

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the proposed changes to the calendar for school year 2004-2005.

Mr. Janssen requested to make a motion at this time. Mr. Sasiadek explained the agenda process to Mr. Janssen and newly appointed Board members.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Revised Rule 6103 – INSTRUCTION: Magnet Schools and Programs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 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.
- On Sunday, September 12, 2004, the Baltimore County Board of Education will hold a retreat at the Marshy Point Nature Center in Chase, Maryland, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

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. Jasmine Shriver, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked Kelli Nelson for her outstanding leadership over the past two years. She stated the Advisory Committee for Special Education requested the Board adopt a special education policy similar to the Gifted and Talented policy approved last year. Ms. Shriver noted that last fall and winter each Board member received from the advisory committee suggested revisions to the school improvement team process to include special education non-compliance findings. To date, the Advisory Committee has not received a response to this request. Ms. Shriver commented that MSDE is currently conducting public hearings regarding amendments to COMAR requiring every school system establish a special education citizens advisory committee. She stated that once these regulations are implemented, the advisory committee would submit a request to change their name to Baltimore County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee. Ms. Shriver is asking the Board to submit testimony during the public comment, which ends on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Kelli Nelson thanked Dr. Hairston and staff for the revisions to the Master Plan. She recommended that a page be placed in front of the Master Plan that explains the changes from a performance level standard.

Mr. Stephen Crum, Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, stated the *Blueprint for Progress* provides a guideline or standard that BCPS would like to meet. He commented that a high standard exists when students meet or exceed the requirement for success. Mr. Crum noted the real test is when students go into the real world, working, and are successful in what they do. He believes that is where the measurement should be taken.

Mr. Walter Hayes, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, welcomed the newly appointed Board members. He stated the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council voted unanimously to make the implementation of the DeJong report as their primary goal for this upcoming school year. Mr. Hayes asked the Board to start on site selection for the new high school in the northeast area. He thanked Mr. William Lawrence to ensure reading is the focus in the classroom. Mr. Hayes stated that the DeJong report was the Board of Education report, and that Perry Hall and Towson High Schools are already overcrowded. He noted there are three enrollment caps with the State cap being the more stringent. Mr. Hayes stated that Perry Hall High School has over 2,000 students.

Dr. Ella White-Campbell, Chair of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, welcome the newly appointed Board members. She thanked Dr. Hairston and his staff for their dedication to the system. Dr. White-Campbell stated Board members need to visit schools and see first hand what is going on. She noted one concern is getting a medical school magnet in the northwest area. She was disgusted that the school system pays significant amounts of money for consultants when citizens have already told the Board what is needed. Then once the report is issued, nothing is done. Dr. White-Campbell commented on the need to restructure the school improvement teams. With regards to overcrowded schools, she believes the push needs to come from the Board. She stated the system cannot change because of politics but the system can change because of action.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (cont)

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, also welcomed new Board members. He stated that the PTA Council last year voted on a resolution to be in support of the creation of land acquisition for a high school in the northeast area. Mr. Franklin introduced Ms. Roxanne Lucas, Legislative Chairperson for the PTA Council of Baltimore County. Ms. Lucas reviewed some of the state and national priorities for this upcoming school year. One national initiative is that PTA supports construction. She also reviewed the Member-to-Member network, which is a global organization where each PTA members' voice counts. Ms. Lucas invited Board members to join the Member-to-Member network.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, welcomed the new Board members. She stated goals need to be set to thrive as an individual, as a community, and as a nation. New teachers set goals to get classrooms ready to successfully instruct students. All teachers set goals to better instruct students and develop a creative learning environment. As BCPS counts down to the 2004-05 school year, Ms. Bost stated TABCO is here to assist teachers, students, and the entire school system to reach their goals. In closing, Ms. Bost thanked Ms. Janese Murray and Ms. Jean Jung for their service to the Baltimore County Public School system. She also thanked Dr. Donald Krempel for his understanding and quick response to teachers and students.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Janese Murray, former Board member, expressed her appreciation to the Board and her family for their support during her tenure on the Board. She thanked the Board for taking her in, mentoring her, and making her a part of the team. Ms. Murray gave a special thanks to Mr. Sasiadek for his patience, kindness, humor, and friendship. She thanked Dr. Hairston and staff for answering questions and extending themselves to the Board and to the school system. Ms. Murray stated her appreciation to Dr. Hairston for what he does for the children of this school system every day. She thanked stakeholders of the community for their countless hours of time and effort to make things better. Ms. Murray addressed new Board members stating service is not only about bringing talents and ability to table to help others, but to listen and learn. There are over 108,000 children depending on the Board and they are the reason everyone is here. In closing, Ms. Murray thanked the students of Baltimore County for teaching her the importance of laughter and continuing to learn.

Ms. Jodi Schaeffer was excited to hear Mr. Hayden talk about State legislative issues and the need to change how the State funds schools. She stated the community cannot advocate unless the Board acknowledges the need for a new high school and facilities issues. Her concern is that all facility issues, not just new construction, be placed in the budget and schools be repaired. She noted two studies that were conducted showing what land is available. Ms. Schaeffer again re-emphasized that the community cannot advocate unless the Board recognized the need.

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Mr. David Marks congratulated the newly appointed Board members. He noted the sign “first things first.” For the northeast area that means a new high school. Mr. Marks requested the Board endorse a new high school for the northeast area.

Mr. Muhammad Jameel, member of the Islamic Society of Baltimore, expressed the need for the Board to consider two holidays for Muslims as they have for the Jewish and Christian population. The goal is to create a nurturing environment, which needs to start in the home. Mr. Jameel stated these two holidays specifically do that; they are not vacations. He believes there are 75 other days in the calendar year that could be used to meet the 180 day requirements. Mr. Jameel requests the Board to consider adjusting the calendar using those 75 days. He expressed concern of no representation on the Board for Muslims and requests a fair solution for the next calendar.

Dr. Bash Pharoan, President of the Baltimore County Muslim Council, referred to “we the people.” He noted the Board vote of 11 to 0 on not granting the Muslim holidays. This vote shows that Muslims are not important and do not count. Dr. Pharoan stated that zero send a strong message to children that Muslim-Americans do not count. He believes the Board could have done better than 11 to 0. Dr. Pharoan requested the Board to reconsider and grant at least one Muslim holiday as a matter of equity and diversity.

Ms. Jean Jung, former Board member, recalled meetings, budgets, work sessions, hearings, recognition programs with students, shared ideas with PTA, TABCO, and special education. She hopes that new Board members are aware of the amount of work ahead and that expectations from the community are high. Ms. Jung spoke of the many accomplishments during her tenure on the Board. She noted her appreciation to teachers and would like to see them compensated in a manner befitting their critical role. Most importantly, Ms. Jung noted the common goal is to provide the children of this county every educational opportunity to reach towards their potential. She hopes this new Board will continue to remain a team, working together, and learning from each other, deliberating and collaborating as the school system moves forward. She offered her sincere thanks to staff for their work and commitment to the system. Ms. Jung spoke about giving teachers adequate working conditions that allow them to do their job including a workload that will allow time for each student and life outside their job. Ms. Jung believes education is the great equalizer that allows us to reach towards our potential. As a citizen of Baltimore County, Ms. Jung stated her expectations of Board members and is looking forward to their future progress.

Ms. Patty Miller invited Board members to walk through Perry Hall High School when classes let out and experience the difficulty that students have in walking the halls. She voiced her concerns over the inadequate size of the cafeteria and students standing during lunch. She implored the Board to address the overcrowding issue. Ms. Miller also voiced outrage that it took a year and a half for the school to test her son for dyslexia. She feels her son would be lost and left behind at Perry Hall High School. Ms. Miller believes two high schools in 12 years is not enough and that projections reported are incorrect.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:27 p.m., Mr. Grzyski moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer

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