

APPROVED MINUTES

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND WORK SESSION WITH THE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

President James R. Sasiadek called the work session to order at 7:18 p.m. at Cockeysville Middle School. In addition to Mr. Sasiadek, the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Dr. Warren Hayman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, and Mr. Michael P. Kennedy. In addition, Ms. Kara Calder, Chief Communications Officer and Nevett Steele, Jr., Esq., Assistant County Attorney; as well as the media were present.

Ms. Vicki Schultz-Unger, Area Educational Advisory Council Coordinator thanked those who attended this evening. She noted this was the council's opportunity to provide useful feedback to improve communications between the Area Advisory Council and the Board.

Ms. Schultz-Unger reviewed the contents of the packets distributed this evening. Included in those packets were:

- Approved AAC Operation Procedures
- Copy of the Blueprint For Progress revised 8/10/04
- Updated summary of the Master Plan
- Copy of the proposed FY06 Capital Budget
- Presentation on Smaller Learning Communities
- Calendar of AAC meetings for 2004-05

Next, Ms. Jane Gordon, Supervisor of Professional Development, shared information regarding the Parent Support Service Program. The focus this year is to increase involvement in parent/teacher conferences.

Each Area Chairperson or representative provided a brief update:

- Central – Focusing on recruitment and representing schools and their needs
- Southwest – Sharing best practice on attendance at council meetings
- Northwest – Focusing on overcrowding and development in the area
- Northeast – Focusing on overcrowding and summer reading
- Southeast – Focus on increasing participation on the council and revitalization/development of the area

Board President, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, introduced those Board members in attendance. He reiterated the announcement from the September 21st Board meeting stating all stakeholder groups would be recognized to speak at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Board meetings beginning October 5, 2004. The expectation is for each stakeholder group to share information with the Board regarding concerns and issues within their respective area.

Ms. Ramona Johnson, Board member, entered the room at 7:50 p.m.

Mr. Sasiadek stated the council helps the Board understand the issues and provides advice to the Board based on community feedback.

With regards to the budget process, Ms. Jasmine Shriver noted the need to reiterate the difference between the capital budget and the operating budget.

Next, the Council broke into groups by area. Board members were assigned to a group to discuss ways to improve communications, review concerns, and report back to the group.

Mr. Kennedy and Dr. Hayman exited the room at 8:45 p.m.

Ms. Schultz-Unger introduced Ms. Erin O'Connor, County Educational Liaison.

Each Area Educational Advisory Council shared their concerns and suggestions with the group.

- Northeast
 - High school in the Northeast area
 - Kenwood High School renovations
 - “Warehousing” of schools
 - Move “public comment” to the beginning of the Board agenda
- Central
 - Prompt feedback of communication from the Board
 - Overcrowding
 - Apparent lack of promotional abilities
 - Deficiencies in communicating hard-copy calendar (i.e., capital budget schedule)
- Southeast
 - Prioritize Council feedback to the Board
 - Input to the Board from Area Educational Advisory Council after first reading (not third reading)
 - Maintenance concerns in schools

Ms. Harris exited the room at 9:12 p.m.

- Northwest
 - Training for Guidance Departments in the college application process
 - Overcrowding
 - Development in Owings Mills area and its impact on the schools
- Southwest
 - Increased awareness/communication on capital and operating budget process
 - Timely Council minutes to the Board
 - Board member has always attended council meetings
 - Suggested presentation to Council describing the BCPS operation and the Board’s role in the school system

A council member inquired about frequent reports or policy changes presented to the Board. Mr. Sasiadek reviewed the three-reading process regarding policies. Ms. Schultz-Unger suggested perhaps Board or BCPS staff could provide a list to the Council detailing those items that come before the Board on an annual basis.

Other topics discussed were:

- Area chairs or secretaries should submit minutes or reports from their meetings to Ms. Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board and copy Vicki Schultz-Unger for inclusion in the Board packets.
- Overcrowding concern among all area councils. This topic would be addressed at the joint council meeting in January 2005.
- New member orientation will be scheduled in November.

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Ms. Schultz-Unger thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting. She asked that Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board, provide a copy of Board members' addresses and phone numbers.

The meeting was concluded at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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