

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, October 19, 2004

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:32 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, 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.

President Sasiadek reminded Board members of upcoming school board association functions for October and November.

At 5:51 p.m., Mr. Arnold moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Dr. Hayman and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Dr. Donald Peccia, Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members personnel matters to be considered this evening.

At 6:05 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:30 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, 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 Ace Skylar, a student from Carver Center for Arts and Technology, followed by a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Dr. Hairston noted one adjustment to the agenda for this evening's meeting. He added section V, Special Order of Business, recognition of Deidre Austen, 2004 Milken Family Foundation Award.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Board of Education Open and Closed Minutes of September 8, 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.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

On a motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Grzyski, the Board adopted a resolution honoring Ms. Deidre Austen, teacher at Lutherville Laboratory, who received the 2004 Milken Family Foundation Award.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Mr. Mike German, Baltimore County Student Council President, related the Council's items discussed at its assembly meeting. Mr. German stated that BCSC voted to support the creation of a children's alcoholic prevention program in all high schools and voted against having video cameras in high schools for privacy purposes.

Ms. Lynn Sklar, member of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, thanked the Board for the participation this year with the advisory council. Mr. Michael Moore, Chair of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, thanked the Board for its support at the central pre-budget meeting.

Mr. Walter Hayes, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, stated the top priority is for the construction of a high school between Towson and Perry Hall as recommended by the DeJong report. He announced the Northeast area pre-budget meeting would be held on October 21, 2004 at Eastern Technical High School.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, highlighted its pre-budget meeting held last week. Priorities included teachers' salaries and to: increase funding to cover the cost of additional students taking the Accuplacer Test, fully fund the Career and Technology Program, continue providing funding for Gifted and Talented resource teachers, and continued funding for the music programs in all schools.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Chair of the Baltimore County Education Coalition, asked the Board to craft a budget to meet the needs of the school system. She asked the Board to ensure that Thornton funding is not supplanted and that children are adequately funded.

Mr. Maurice Bowden, Vice Chair of the Career & Technology Education Advisory Council, stated the service for CTE inclusive and special staffing resources cannot be maintained without current funding and appropriate funding upgrades.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Ms. Karen Yarn, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented, expressed the need for increased advocacy and additional information on gifted and talented programs to parents.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, noted the committee has begun working on the special education staffing plan for 2005-06. Ms. Shriver stressed the importance of aligning the special education staffing plan with the Master Plan and *Blueprint for Progress*. Mr. Carl Bailey, Vice Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, reported that a work group has convened to discuss high school graduation requirements.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, representative for the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, reported that based on data provided by the area directors, African-American, low-income, and special education student achievement is improving, however, more focus, attention, and resources are needed.

Ms. Marilyn Ryan, representative for the PTA Council of Baltimore County, announced the PTA Fall Receptions and Workshop on Thursday, October 28, 2004 at Cockeysville Middle School. This year the PTA Council has encouraged principals and PTA officers to attend the workshops.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, thanked Mr. Dale Rauenzahn, Executive Director of Student Support Services, for inviting teachers to the Safe Schools Conference. She re-emphasized the budget message is to raise teacher salary compensation to recruit and retain quality educators.

Mr. Kevin-Douglas Olive, teacher at Wellwood International School, spoke about the French Immersion magnet program at the school. Mr. Olive asked for support and input from the Board in making this school better and more visible.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston reiterated that science and math are initiatives taken seriously in Baltimore County Public Schools. He stated BCPS is attempting to prepared children for a future requiring higher skills. Dr. Hairston acknowledged the receipt of \$7,500.00 for technology related scholarships awarded at Lockheed Martin's 75th anniversary luncheon.

Other recent activities attended by the Superintendent include the University of Maryland Baltimore President's Advisory Council; stadium dedication at Sparrows Point High School; and NFUSSD Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

RECOGNITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FROM
OCTOBER 5, 2004

Dr. Peccia recognized the following advisory council appointments made at the October 5th Board of Education meeting:

- ③ Mr. Nathan Price Southwest Area Advisory Council Student member
- ③ Ms. Adrienne Hawkins Northwest Area Advisory Council Student member

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Annual Report on Results** – Through a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Jerry Dalton, Director of Accountability, Research, and Testing, and Dr. Gary Brager, Supervisor of Accountability, Research, and Testing, presented a brief summary of the major goals regarding achievement and performance results for 2003-2004 as outlined in the *Blueprint for Progress*. The steady upward trend in student achievement is best exemplified by increases for all students and sub-groups on the 2003-2004 Maryland School Assessment (MSA). When the 2003-2004 MSA results are disaggregated by the requirements of *No Child Left Behind* and Maryland State Department of Education Accountability criteria, all racial/ethnic, special education, FARM, and ESOL populations show gains on MSA reading and math from the years 2002-2003 to 2003-2004.

Mr. Hayden requested clarification on the graduation rate in 2014 to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Dr. Brager responded 90 percent.

With regards to HSA testing, Mr. Hayden would like assurance that BCPS does not follow the trend of focusing and narrowing its sights on four courses when students take 21 courses through their high school tenure. He believes students should be best prepared when leaving BCPS and moving forward to college or careers.

Mr. Kennedy inquired about the increase in SAT takers and possible downward test scores. Dr. Dalton responded there is an inverse relationship with the number of test takers and scores as opposed to moving in concert with each other.

Ms. Shillman questioned the disparity in PSAT and SAT participation rate between African-Americans and white students. Dr. Brager responded there is a gap due to more African-Americans taking the SAT test than ever before. Mr. William Lawrence, Executive Director of Schools, Northeast Area, stated that one possibility is that BCPS pays for the PSAT for all 10th graders, gifted and talents, and honors 9th graders.

Ms. Shillman asked who sets the AMO. Dr. Dalton responded each State sets its AMO goals.

REPORT (cont)

Dr. Hairston stated he was encouraged to see cohort data regarding the performance of African-American students from one year to another. He noted the entire nation dropped in SAT scores with BCPS dropping 1%. Dr. Hairston commented BCPS needs to sustain rigor across the board.

With regards to increasing SAT participation, Dr. Hayman stated BCPS must increase preparation rate. If preparation, resources, and quality instruction are not provided, performance may not increase. Dr. Hayman raised concern that 68% of African-Americans are not being successful in some areas. Dr. Hayman also commented the data does not state why there are disparities and what actions are going to be taken to correct these disparities in the future.

With regards to Mr. Kennedy's question on safe schools, Mr. Dale Rauenzahn, Executive Director of Student Support Services, responded that the *Report on Results* does reflect indicators in the Master Plan. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that the definition of "safe" is measured in the Master Plan. Regarding surveys, Mr. Rauenzahn noted that all efforts are underway to have a survey available in spring 2005.

Mr. Kennedy raised concerns over the lack of additional telephone lines in schools.

Ms. Johnson commented on the achievement gap especially with African-American students. She concurred with Dr. Hayman that the data does not explain why there are disparities and what actions will be put in place to correct those disparities. She would like to see percentages off the chart and would like the school system to aim high to see all students achieving academically.

Dr. Hairston summarized the information presented and stated the need to define the steps to take in relationship with the data and provide support for those actions.

- B. **Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for FY 2005** – Through a PowerPoint™ presentation, Mr. Cornell Brown, Administrator, Department of Physical Facilities, provided a summary on the maintenance plan for FY2005 as required by the State of Maryland. Mr. Brown noted this item is listed under building committee recommendations to be voted on this evening by the Board.

Mr. Janssen asked why the indoor air quality section was not more in-depth. Mr. Brown responded the environmental assessment committee is looking into policy in hopes of expanding on activities. Mr. Brown noted that the environmental office has an extensive program outline on dealing with all environmental matters.

REPORT (cont)

Mr. Hayden inquired about estimation costs for completing the tasks outlined in the maintenance plan. Mr. Brown responded this is addressed during the budget process. Mr. Brown stated that in the Master Plan there is an activity for a 5-10-15 year projection for maintenance activities. Mr. Hayden asked whether this information is being shared with the County so they can plan for the future. Mr. Richard Cassell, Engineering/Construction Administrator, responded Physical Facilities coordinates with the budget office and noted the County is involved throughout the capital budget process.

Mr. Grzyski commended the new information system that would track work orders. He recommended Physical Facilities meet with the building committee to discuss the capabilities of the work order system. Mr. Brown stated the pilot program for the new CMS system is tentatively scheduled for spring 2005.

Ms. Johnson asked what top three priorities are over the next 12 months and what goals and objectives are put in place to meet those priorities. Mr. Brown responded all the priorities are set in the budget submissions for the next fiscal year. One example is the capital program in which a new I/S for automatic temperature controls was installed.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board approved items 1 - 5 (Exhibit J).

1. Case Consulting – Software and Services in Support of the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) Program for School Year 2004-05
2. Glass and Glazing Materials
3. Long Distance Telephone Service Extension
4. Musical Instruments
5. Printing Services

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-3 (Exhibits K through M).

Mr. Janssen asked whether BCPS has future plans to construct anything in this area. Mr. Cassell responded this is a right-of-way so the Department of Public Works has access to the sewer lines. Mr. Janssen asked who would be responsible if work needed to be completed on the sewer. Mr. Cassell responded the responsibility lies on the Department of Public Works.

In regards to Mr. Janssen's question about the bidding process, Mr. Cassell stated estimates are completed and two additional reviews are done by an outside consultant. Mr. Cassell noted that as part of a specification, BCPS has the right to reject any and all bids.

The Board approved these recommendations.

1. Contract Modification – Randallstown High School Science Classroom Renovation (Additional Abatement)
2. Request for Consideration of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for FY 2005
3. Utility Easement at Ridge Ruxton School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- ③ On Wednesday, October 20, 2004, the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget meeting at Lansdowne High School at 7:00 p.m.
- ③ On Thursday, October 21, 2004, the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget meeting at Eastern Technical High School at 7:00 p.m.
- ③ On Thursday, October 21, 2004, the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget meeting at Milford Mill at 7:00 p.m.
- ③ On Thursday, October 28, 2004, the PTA Council of Baltimore County will hold its annual Fall Workshop at 6:00 p.m. at Cockeysville Middle School.
- ③ The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 5:30 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Muhammad Jameel asked the Board to treat Muslim holidays the same as Jewish holidays.

Mr. Mohsin Majid believes his son does not receive perfect attendance because he takes off for Muslim holidays.

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board to give equal holidays to all minorities.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:20 p.m., Mr. Grzymiski 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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