

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, November 9, 2004

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:58 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, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, 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 functions for October and November school board association and Board of Education events.

Mr. Hayden and Dr. Hayman entered the room at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Sasiadek distributed the Board and Superintendent's priorities for the 2004-2005 school year, which were discussed at the retreat. He asked Board members to be familiar with these priorities so that communities understand what the emphasis is for this year. Mr. Sasiadek requested Board members to provide feedback to him in regards to moving the advisory and stakeholder groups to the beginning of the meetings.

Ms. Johnson entered the room at 6:02 p.m.

With regards to the school climate survey, Dr. Hayman stated that Baltimore County is one of the districts designated to participate in this survey. He noted that a letter would be sent to the Superintendent and Board president obtaining authorization for BCPS to participate in the survey.

Mr. Hayden encouraged Board members to join the Maryland Caucus of Black School Board Members.

At 6:22 p.m., Mr. Kennedy 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.

Mr. Nevett Steele, Jr., provided legal advice to the Board regarding a situation that may occur at tonight's Board meeting.

At 6:35 p.m., Mr. Arnold moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was second by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:33 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, 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 Nicolle Caple and Lauren Guerieri, teachers at Timbergrove Elementary 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 Minutes of the Board Retreat of September 12, 2004 and the Minutes of the Board of Education Work Session of September 14, 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.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Mr. Mike German, Baltimore County Student Council President, announced the general assembly meeting for November 10 to discuss summer reading and specific pieces of legislation. He also announced the annual Middle School Conference on Saturday, November 13 with 100 middle school students to discuss BCPS policies and procedures.

Mr. Michael Moore, Chair of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, focused on issues presented at pre-budget meetings. He shared the primary issue which is equity among schools. Mr. Moore asked the Board to help baseline staffing requirements in elementary schools as follows: ensure all elementary schools have an Assistant Principal and full-time physical education teacher, classroom size and adequate staffing. He noted that the advisory council supports the Career and Technology Education Advisory Council's (CTE) 2004-2005 budget, full funding of the special education audit recommendations, and placement in the budget of the funds needed to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Mr. Walter Hayes, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, thanked Eastern Technical High School for its hospitality during the pre-budget meeting on October 21. He shared with the Board some of the issues brought out in the pre-budget meeting: upgrade gym lockers; upgrade locker room, training room, gym ventilation; and improve security at Kenwood High School. Mr. Hayes also noted the continued support of a new high school in the northeast area, the need for an assistant principal in every school and salary increases for assistant principals. Other topics included more history field trips, increase the CTE budget, the need to recruit math and science teachers, and better salaries for all teachers. Mr. Hayes announced its next meeting on November 18 at Harford Hills Elementary School beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Abby Beytin, Chair of the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council, shared with the Board issues presented at its pre-budget meeting, which included bathroom facilities, increase in maintenance, staff, air conditioning, teacher and staff salaries, staffing classroom tutorials and after-school programs, and the music program. Ms. Beytin announced its next meeting for December 2 at Pikesville Middle School.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, discussed the voting conducted at schools this past week. The younger the age group, the less they vote. He commented on the need to teach students the voting process and their participation in the future.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Chair of the Baltimore County Education Coalition, stated the coalition has been busy championing capital and operating budget needs. She also stated that education coalition members are contacting various authorities requesting additional capital funding for BCPS. With regards to the operating budget, Ms. Kennedy highlighted the items identified and supported by the coalition, which include Thornton funding; resources to support the special education audit recommendations; Bridge Center program; program enhancement for student achievement in all subgroups; and enhancing gifted and talented services. She also stated the need to increase assistant principals' salaries and teachers' and paraprofessionals' compensation packages.

Mr. Carroll Cilento, Chair of the Career & Technology Education Advisory Council, commended students from Eastern Technical, Western School of Technology, Carver Center for the Arts, and Sollers Point Technical High Schools, respectively, who received various awards. Mr. Cilento also noted a number of teachers and instructors who received awards this past month.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, announced the advisory committee's name has changed to Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC). She commended Ms. Kathleen McMahan and Dr. Gwen Grant for their presentation on the Assessment Intervention Model. Ms. Shriver also stated the accountability piece of the special education audit report would continually be reviewed by SECAC. Ms. Shriver announced the Special staffing community forums to be held on November 29, 2004 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Ridge Ruxton, Dogwood Elementary, and Essex Elementary Schools.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Ms. Meg O'Hare, representative of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group (MAAG), announced its next meeting for November 11. She noted that MAAG participated in the Baltimore County Education Coalition meeting with a focus on the capital and operating budget and the over abundance of agency-placed children. With regard to State meetings, Ms. O'Hare hopes that a representative is attending and adequately representing Baltimore County. Mr. Carl Bailey, representative of MAAG, requested the Superintendent to present a budget based on the needs of the school system. He asked that the Board not short-change the children of Baltimore County.

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, introduced Ms. Jan Thomas, Operating Budget Chairperson. Ms. Thomas highlighted some of the issues presented at the area educational advisory councils' pre-budget meetings. Priority issues were: equity among schools, reduction of class size/adequate staffing, salary increases for teachers and school staff, full funding of the CTE 2005-06 budget, review of technology needs, increase in staffing for ESOL programs, fund implementation of special education audit recommendations, and request for the funds needed to maintain BCPS as a quality school system. She noted speaker participation increased by 22 percent. Ms. Thomas expressed her disappointment that some Board members did not attend any of the pre-budget meetings.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, thanked Ms. Thomas for providing feedback from the pre-budget meetings. Ms. Bost announced American Education Week begins November 15 through November 19 with this year's theme being "Celebrating the American Dream." She stated that American Education Week is a time when parents from all grade levels attend schools to take part in the education process and believes BCPS needs to be proactive and diligent in keeping students, staff, and visitors safe. On behalf of TABCO, Ms. Bost wrote a letter asking all principals to discuss safety procedures that would be in place to ensure a safe environment with increased accessibility during American Education Week.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston introduced Barbara Hoffman, former Senator and Chair of the Budget and Taxation Committee, and champion of education in the State of Maryland who ushered through the Thornton initiative.

COMMENTS BY BARBARA HOFFMAN

Ms. Hoffman discussed the objective of the 2002 *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act*, also known as "Thornton," with Board members. Ms. Hoffman reviewed:

- Education policy in the 1990's
 - Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP)
 - Fiscal crisis and increased enrollment

COMMENTS BY BARBARA HOFFMAN (cont)

- State of Public Education in 1999
 - 99 Maryland public schools were “reconstitution-eligible”
 - Despite improvements in MSPAP scores, no school system had achieved the 70% MSPAP standard
- Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence
 - Charge: make recommendations to ensure the adequacy and equity of public school funding and excellence in student performance
 - Submitted interim reports in January and December 2000
 - Submitted final report and recommendations in January 2002
- Thornton Commission Guiding Principles
 - Adequacy Simplicity
 - Equity Accountability
 - Fluidity Flexibility
- Local School System Requirements
 - Comprehensive Master Plan
 - Full-day Kindergarten for all students by 2007-2008 school year
 - Pre-kindergarten programs available by 2007-2008 school year

Ms. Hoffman stated the most important thing with Thornton funding is the flexibility each school system has to decide how it will spend the money. Once a school system has a Master Plan, then the school system can design a budget based on the plan. Ms. Hoffman noted that the only “silos” that must be met are those required by law.

Mr. Arnold thanked Ms. Hoffman for her dedication and hard work on this bill.

Mr. Kennedy commented on fiscal restraints and presentation of the budget to the County Council. Ms. Hoffman stated BCPS needs allies from the State legislature and stakeholder groups. BCPS needs to make its case to the County Council that public education is the most important service provided by the county. She stated that government finds a way to pay for what it thinks is important.

RECOGNITION OF ETHICS REVIEW PANEL, ADVISORY COUNCIL, AND
ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS FROM OCTOBER 19, 2004

Dr. Peccia recognized the following appointments at the October 19th meeting:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ③ Meryl D. Burgin, Esq., | Ethics Review Panel |
| ③ Ms. Jasmine Shriver | Central Area Advisory Council member |
| ③ Ms. Anne Ertel | Central Area Advisory Council Student member |
| ③ Mr. Franklin Curnoles | Manager, Office of Student Data |
| ③ Dr. Beverly Pish | Coordinator of Testing, Office of Accountability, Research and Testing |

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Recognition of the Board of Education proclaiming November 17, 2004 as Educational Support Personnel Day.
- B. **September 30, 2004 Official Enrollment and Projection Comparison** – Through a PowerPoint™, Mr. Don Dent, Executive Director of Planning and Operations, discussed official enrollment for the 2004-2005 school year including historical, administrative, and grade level enrollment projections. Mr. Dent stated that countywide enrollment as of 9/30/04 is 108,015 students. He noted that BCPS is beyond the *Performance Indicator Goal 8.6* as outlined in the *Blue Print for Progress* of 99% by 0.11%. The enrollment results support the recently-approved capital budget recommendations and its appropriate priorities.

With regards to the next steps, Mr. Dent noted that the Office of Strategic Planning would meet with each area Executive Director to discuss enrollments, projection, capacity, and proposed overcrowding solutions.

Mr. Kennedy asked whether county money is based on enrollment projections. Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, responded county revenues do not change for the current year. She stated staffing formulas for future years could change but may not necessarily decrease.

Dr. Hayman commented that enrollment projections and actuals have a direct impact on staffing. He articulated some of the concerns expressed to him by PTA presidents and administrators—some schools are still lacking appropriate staff and the projections do not take into consideration the issues at individual schools. Regarding the next steps, Dr. Hayman noted principals have stated to him they are not directly involved in the staffing process. With regards to staffing, Dr. Hayman again requested a report on the staffing process.

Mr. Sasiadek noted that staffing is covered under Performance Goal #3 as part of the Superintendent's and Board's priorities for this school year.

Dr. Hayman responded that the issue is individuals not adhering to priorities. He noted the need to band together to support the Superintendent's priorities and deal with those individuals not closing the loop holes.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits C, D, E, and F. (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 1, 2, 8, and 9. Ms. Shillman separated 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Mr. Janssen separated 4, 5, and 6 (Exhibit G).

1. Academic Intervention Programs and Extended Day/Extended Year Programs – Elementary Reading
2. Academic Intervention Programs and Extended Day/Extended Year Programs - Mathematics
8. Software for Financial Data and Reporting of School Activity Funds
9. Trash Can Liners

Item #3

Ms. Shillman asked whether the cost includes the labor, installation, and possible service. Mr. Gay responded affirmative. All computers are configured to meet BCPS criteria for networking and software.

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

3. Cafeteria Computer Replacement

Item #4

Ms. Shillman inquired about the terms of the contract. Mr. Gay stated this is a continuing evaluation of this project, which is required by the grant.

Mr. Janssen questioned the accuracy and integrity of the data. Ms. Jane Lichter, Coordinator of Early Childhood, responded the center has several outside partners that assist with different services to parents and to communities. Data comes from several different sources rather than from one evaluation. Mr. Janssen requested a list of those members on the steering and subcommittees.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved item 4.

4. Consulting Contract for Independent Evaluation of the Judy Center at Campfield Early Learning Center

Item #5

Ms. Shillman asked whether the bid price was based on possible resale of the equipment. Mr. Gay responded that most of the equipment would be recycled and pricing would be based on recycling of the materials.

Mr. Janssen asked how BCPS can be assured that the data on the hard drives are not recoverable. Mr. Gay responded the hard drives are cleaned, removed, and shredded.

Item #5 (cont)

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board approved item 5.

5. Disposal of Electronic Goods

Item #6

Ms. Shillman asked for clarification of the contract. Mr. Gay responded this is computer networking equipment that is available to BCPS through the Government Services Administration's (GSA) contract.

Mr. Janssen inquired as to whether there is any guarantee this company would be in business in the next one or two years. Mr. Gay responded there is no guarantee.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved item 6.

6. General Purpose Commercial Information Technology Equipment

Item #7

Ms. Shillman inquired about the term of the contract. Mr. Gay responded this is a 15 year contract. He stated that the main number that is of consequence is the Annual Accumulated Maintenance Range. The maintenance portion of the contract is based on CPI plus 2% with a cap at 6%.

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

7. Human Resources/Financial Management System – Enterprise Software Upgrade

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-3 (Exhibits H, I and K). The Board approved items 1 and 2 (Exhibits H and I). Ms. Shillman opposed item #2 (Exhibit I). Mr. Janssen separated item #3 (Exhibit K).

1. Award of Contract – Emergency Well Drilling at Sparks Elementary School
2. Award of Contract – Construction Pavilion at New Town High School

With regards to the design and relocation of the electric lines and utility poles, Mr. Janssen asked whether there has been any betterment determination on this cost. Mr. Cassell responded the cost has been programmed into this project. Mr. Cassell stated BGE would be completing the work and relocating the lines.

BUILDING COMMITTEE (cont)

The Board approved item 3 (Exhibit K). Mr. Janssen opposed item #3 (Exhibit K).

3. Award of Contract - Relocation of Overhead Electric Service at Windsor Mill Middle School

OPERATING BUDGET SUPPLEMENT

On motion of Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved a \$1,508,794 supplement of County revenue for FY2005. These funds are available from Baltimore County Public Schools' prior year fund balance and will be used for start-up costs for Woodholme Elementary and to accelerate computer replacement in the schools.

BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved a budget appropriation transfer in the amount of \$2,840,000 to be used for field repairs at New Town High School, environmental remediation projects, and design work for the Kenwood High School renovation/addition.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Financial Report for Months Ending September 30, 2003 and 2004
- B. Rule 5150 "Shared Domicile Disclosure" Form

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- On Wednesday, November 10, 2004, the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Gifted and Talented Education will conduct a special session entitled "GT Middle School Survival Guide." The meeting will be held at Loch Raven High school beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- On Thursday, November 11, 2004 the Central Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Loch Raven High School beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- The High School Honors Music Concert will be held at the Joseph A. Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on Monday, November 15, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. This year's concert features 285 students from 14 high schools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- On Tuesday, November 16, 2004 the Board of Education's Fall Recognition Ceremony will be held at Cockeysville Middle School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Tuesday, November 16, 2004 at General John Stricker Middle School beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- The Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004 at Harford Hills Elementary School beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- The Board of Education will host the Baltimore County Education Coalition for dinner on Thursday, November 18, 2004 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Greenwood.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 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. The Board will host the Career & Technology Educational Advisory Group for dinner on November 23rd from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

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. Louis Kaplan asked the Board to consider redistricting his community so that their children can be assigned to Fort Garrison Elementary School rather than their assigned school, Wellwood Elementary School. He offered reasons why Fort Garrison should be their area's assigned school.

Mr. Lloyd Blumenfeld reiterated Mr. Kaplan's comments.

Ms. Denisha Pendleton, parent of a student at Southwest Academy, expressed concerned over school performance and the disproportionate number of conditional teachers assigned to the school. She stated there are not enough resources and teachers for the 1,400 students. Ms. Pendleton is asking for resources for this school.

Ms. Susan Chaudron, parent of a student at Pine Grove Elementary School, shared her concern with safety issues at school bus stops. Due to the issue being a possible personnel matter, Mr. Sasiadek asked the speaker not to discuss the issue.

Ms. Judy Edgar, Principal of Catonsville Center for Alternative Studies, invited the Board to attend their 12th Annual Thanksgiving luncheon on November 24, 2004 at 11:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (cont)

Mr. Jameel Mohammad asked that schools be closed for two Islamic holidays.

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board to recognize the two Muslim holidays.

Ms. Marilyn Ryan expressed concern that the Baltimore County Music Educators Wind Symphony held at Parkville High School did not receive the publicity it deserves. She requested that events such as this be publicized so that people can see the caliber of teachers in Baltimore County.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:49 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

bls