

## APPROVED MINUTES

### BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:53 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, 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 community functions scheduled for March and April as well as Board of Education events.

Mr. Sasiadek provided copies of the Governor's revised councilmanic district and designations to Board members.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 5:04 p.m.

At 5:07 p.m., Mr. Grzymiski moved the Board to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters, consider matters relating to negotiations, and obtain legal advice pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Kennedy moved that the student member be permitted to participate in closed session collective bargaining discussions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and unanimously approved by the Board.

### CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

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

Mr. Dan Capozzi, Manager of Staff Relations-Human Resources, provided the Board with a status report on negotiations with employee groups.

Nevett Steele, Jr., Esquire provided legal advice to the Board on a personnel matter.

At 6:19 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and approved by the Board.

### OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:43 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. Grzyski, 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 Raymond Chapatian, a Towson University student, 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 of Education Open and Closed Minutes of February 8, 2005, 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.

Dr. Hairston noted one adjustment to the agenda for this evening's meeting – adding Hearing Examiner's Case #03-37 as item AA under XI, New Business, Personnel Matters.

### ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Mr. Don Schlimm, a member of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, reported on the afternoon middle schools learning program at Kenwood High School and Milford Mill Academy.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, a representative of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on a presentation by Chief Judge Robert Bell to Parkville Middle School as part of Black History Month.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a representative of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, commented on the school performance report stating levels are still in need of improvement. He announced the Southeast area meeting on March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Sussex Elementary School.

Ms. Sandy Skordalos, a Baltimore County Education Coalition representative, reported on the coalition's quarterly meeting. Issues discussed were operating budget, current legislation, and action items. The coalition is recommending that funding for students in group homes be provided to Baltimore County. Ms. Skordalos stated that the coalition has advocated that a school board application process be established and pre-orientation seminar be provided prior to appointment.

### ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Ms. Karen Yarn, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education, reported on the gifted and talented college night that took place in February; the Gifted and Talented Information Sharing session will be held on April 13.

Dr. Ella White-Campbell, Chair of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, announced its meeting on March 10 at 7:00 p.m. and that it will discuss key items on the legislative agenda that deal with the school system. She stated that MAAG endorses Senate Bill 195 and House Bill 552, Baltimore County Board of Education – Appointment of Members-Consent of Senate of Maryland.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, noted that the school performance report shows much success. However, students are doubling up on reading and math while neglecting other important subject areas, and testing time takes away from teachers instructing all students.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston reported on the Southern Regional Education study on Stemmers Run Middle School and commended the school's staff and principal, Michael Johnson. The goal is to raise the academic achievement of all middle grades students to at least the Basic level and have an increasing percentage of middle grades students performing at Proficient levels.

Dr. Hairston shared a video of CNN's feature of students at Parkville Middle School and its tribute to fallen heroes.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **Proposed Changes to Policy 7520**

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the proposed changes to Policy 7520 – NEW CONSTRUCTION: Occupying-Naming of the Building and Dedication (Exhibit B).

#### **Proposed Policy 7530**

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved proposed Policy 7530 – NEW CONSTRUCTION: Occupying-Naming of a Capital Project or Area of a School (Exhibit C).

#### **Proposed Policy 7330**

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board approved proposed Policy 7330 – NEW CONSTRUCTION: Financing-Capital Projects that are Funded by Private Donations (Exhibit D).

## REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

A. **Report on Maryland School Performance Program** – Through a PowerPoint™ presentation, Dr. Beverly Pish, Director of Accountability, Research, and Testing, and Mr. Peter Cincotta, Resource Teacher, provided an executive summary of the MSA results from the 2003-2004 school year.

- BCPS students attained reading proficiency rates that exceeded the proficiency rates for the State of Maryland at grade levels 3 to 8 and 10.
- Proficiency rates for BCPS students in mathematics also increased from 2003 levels.
- BCPS attendance rates exceeded Maryland State attendance rates at every school level.
- Graduation rates reported for BCPS students surpassed the Maryland State graduation rate in 2004.
- BCPS teachers have higher Advanced Professional Certificate (APC) and Standard Professional Certificate (SPC) rates than the state of Maryland average.
- AYP was met for attendance and graduation on the county level.

Mr. Grzymiski asked that additional opportunities to provide this information to parents and communities exist.

Mr. Camp asked whether parents and students receive this information with Mr. Cincotta responding affirmatively.

Mr. Kennedy asked at what point schools receive their test scores. Dr. Pish responded the current schedule from MSDE is for schools to receive the scores in the fall of the following school year. She noted the information reported at the school level is exactly as presented this evening.

Dr. Hayman stated the report is somewhat misleading and limited. He noted the direct correlation between schools performing poorly at basic level and the number of conditional teachers. Dr. Hayman also stated the report is limited because data is not disaggregated. Dr. Hayman shared Mr. Grzymiski's concern in getting data to parents and helping them to understand it. He expressed concern that the MSA tests only two subject areas and is restricted to certain grade levels.

Dr. Hayman hopes this report is used to make instructional decisions.

Mr. Hayden suggested that the Board adopt a resolution urging the State Board to move the process forward and change the reporting dates. He stated parents must be drawn into this process.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Borunda asked how the system accounts for Hispanics meeting AYP versus 67% of Hispanics failing the HSA. Mr. Cincotta responded the MSA and HSA are two different tests and not comparable.

Mr. Janssen expressed concern about getting this information internally to middle and high schools in a timely manner. Mr. Cincotta responded this data was made available by September on the MSDE website and to schools including subgroup, grade levels, and special areas. Dr. Pish added many schools held PTA meetings and sent letters home to parents regarding the results in the fall.

Ms. Shillman suggested educating the public that this information is available in the schools in the fall.

Mr. Camp inquired about disconnects between parents receiving the data online in the fall and the printed results later in the year. Dr. Pish responded parents receive this information in the fall. BCPS verifies the data before a second letter is sent to parents.

- B. **Report on the Proposed Boundaries for Woodholme Elementary School** – Through a PowerPoint™ presentation, Dr. Scott Gehring, Executive Director of Schools, Northwest Area, reviewed the charge to the Boundary Committee, the composition of the group, results of the community forum, the committee's recommendations, the Superintendent's recommendation, and projection and enrollment data. Dr. Gehring noted the school is being built to relieve crowding at New Town Elementary School.

On page 5 of the DeJong's Report, Mr. Janssen inquired about road locations.

Mr. Arnold asked whether projected future growth in the Woodholme area has been considered. Dr. Gehring responded that if Woodholme would open today it would be under capacity. He noted there are several hundred students annexed or capped and that Woodholme Elementary School is not the final answer for overcrowding in the northwest area. Dr. Gehring also noted every elementary school in the northwest is within 90% and 95% capacity.

Mr. Grzymiski asked for clarification on the New Town Elementary School enrollment of 1,300 students. Ms. Pamela Carter, Specialist in the Office of Strategic Planning, responded this number represents students inside the New Town Elementary School boundaries and those who live in the annexed area. She noted that at the beginning of the school year, New Town Elementary School had 1,198 FTE students. Mr. Grzymiski asked if this number is before subtracting the Woodholme students with Dr. Gehring responding affirmatively.

REPORT (cont)

Mr. Sasiadek announced that a public hearing would be held on Wednesday, March 23 at Pikesville High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Mr. Janssen moved the Board re-hear oral argument in Hearing Officer's Case #03-37. Mr. Grzyski noted that Mr. Sasiadek recused himself and student member, Mr. Camp, would not participate in this vote. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden. The motion was approved by the Board.

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

The Building & Contracts Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 (Exhibit K). The Board approved these recommendations. Ms. Johnson pulled item #1 for further discussion. Mr. Janssen pulled item #8 for further discussion.

2. Special Education Equipment
3. Award of Contract – ADA Upgrades for Timonium Elementary School
4. Award of Contract – ADA Upgrades for Franklin Elementary School
5. Award of Contract – ADA Upgrades for Featherbed Lane Elementary School
6. Award of Contract – ADA Upgrades for Grange and Middleborough Elementary Schools
7. Award of Contract – Various Construction Packages at Windsor Mill Middle School
9. Award of Contract – Replacement of Cooling Tower, Condenser Water Circulating Pumps/Motors, and Associated Plumbing at Perry Hall High School
10. Contract Modification – Change Orders, Construction at Parkville High and Kenwood High Schools

Item 1

Ms. Johnson asked which schools have been identified to receive these items. Mr. Sines stated there are no specific schools identified at this time. This contract is an on-call contract when maintenance and staff are not available to perform the task for a specific school.

Item 1 (cont)

The Board approved item 1.

1. Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Systems  
Installation, Preventive Maintenance, Repair, and Service

Item 8

With regards to Add Alternate #5, Mr. Sines stated the contractor has agreed to repair the HVAC at no charge. Mr. Janssen asked when this work will take place. Mr. Sines responded this is a twelve-week lead time and contractor will be performing some preliminary work as soon as the site is available. Mr. Sines noted the anticipated completion date is the end part of July. Mr. Janssen expressed concern that the high school may be without air conditioning in June.

The Board approved item 8.

8. Award of Contract – Replacement of Cooling Tower, Condenser Water Circulating Pumps/Motors, and Associated Plumbing at Perry Hall High School

LEGISLATION UPDATE

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board voted to support HB 899 – Education – Geographic Cost of Education Index – Funding.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Grzymiski, the Board voted to support HB 1254 – Education – Closing the Gap School Recognition Awards.

On motion of Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board voted to support HB 1325 – Creation of State Debt – Aging School Program – Qualified Zone Academy Bonds.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Financial Report – For the Months Ending January 31, 2004 and 2005
- B. Revised Rule 7520 – NEW CONSTRUCTION: Occupying – Naming of the Building and Dedication
- C. New Rule 7530 - NEW CONSTRUCTION: Occupying – Naming of a Capital Project or Area of a School
- D. New Rule 7330 – NEW CONSTRUCTION: Financing - Capital Projects that are Funded by Private Donations

INFORMATION (cont)

- E. Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2004

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- The Central Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, March 10, 2005 at Hereford Middle School beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- The Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at Sussex Elementary School beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- The Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at Baltimore Highlands Elementary School.
- The Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at Golden Ring Middle School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2005, 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. The Board will host the Baltimore County Student Council for dinner on March 22, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold a public hearing on the proposed boundaries for Woodholme Elementary School on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at Pikesville High School beginning at approximately 7:00 p.m. Sign-up for the public to comment begins at 6:00 p.m. Each speaker will be allotted three minutes to present his or her topic to the Board.

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. Alan Zukerberg, president of the Pikesville Communities Corporation and the Long Meadow Association, expressed concern that certain communities were not included or invited to participate on the Woodholme boundary committee.

Ms. Robyn Scates, a parent, asked the Board to review the magnet application and selection process. She expressed concern about the lottery.

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board and Superintendent place Muslim holidays on the school calendar.

Mr. Ahmed Yahya expressed concern over his home's vandalism, located near Catonsville Middle School. He believes the Board has a responsibility to educate students about Islam.

Mr. Muhammad Jameel asked the Board to recognize Muslim holidays on the school calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

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