

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:03 p.m. at Greenwood. President Thomas G. Grzymiski and the following Board members were present: Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Miss Gabrielle Wyatt. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

President Grzymiski reminded Board members of community functions and Board of Education events scheduled in December and January.

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

Mr. Arnold entered the room at 5:10 p.m.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a) (1) and upon motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:29 p.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:29 p.m. at Greenwood. President Thomas G. Grzymiski and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. John Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Miss Gabrielle Wyatt. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and the following staff members were present: Dr. Christine M. Johns, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; Nevett Steele, Jr., Esq., Assistant County Attorney; Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Government Relations; Dr. Kim X. Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent, Central Area; Mr. William Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, Northeast Area; Dr. H. Scott Gehring, Assistant Superintendent, Northwest Area; Ms. Jean E. Satterfield, Assistant Superintendent, Southeast Area; Dr. Manuel B. Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent, Southwest Area; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

Dr. Peccia reviewed with Board members personnel matters to be considered on the evening's agenda.

At 5:33 p.m., Mr. Janssen 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 7:34 p.m. at Greenwood. President Thomas G. Grzymiski and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. John Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Miss Gabrielle Wyatt. 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 Anthony Green, a student from Sudbrook Magnet Middle School and Aerial Johnson, a student from Chesapeake 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 Open and Closed Session Minutes of November 8, 2005, Mr. Grzymiski declared the minutes approved as presented on the website.

Mr. Grzymiski informed the audience of the sessions in which Board members had participated earlier in the afternoon.

### ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Ms. Jennifer Oswald, Baltimore County Student Council President and Superintendent's Student Council Advisory Group member, reported on the donations to help rebuild Ursuline Academy in New Orleans.

Mr. Al Thompson, Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, introduced two students. Miss Asia Johnson, a senior at Chesapeake High School, applauded the evening high school program and the strong influence it has had on her life. Miss Chelsea Deaton, a senior at Kenwood High School, shared with the Board the difference that alternative education has played in her life.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, stated that strong reading, writing, and math skills are needed to advance the school system.

Mr. Ron Zimmerman, a representative of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on the many positive developments within BCPS. He noted that the poor conditions of the Kenwood High School locker rooms was raised at the council's November 3 meeting and is requesting that renovation of the locker rooms be included in the school's renovation.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Ms. Abby Beytin, Chair of the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on the council's November 17 legislative forum. Ms. Beytin announced that the council's next meeting is February 7, 2006 and will center on closing the student achievement gap.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, stated that scores are falling at the middle school level and that this issue needs to be reviewed and addressed.

Mr. Stephen Crum, Chair of the Career & Technology Education (CTE) Advisory Council, believes that CTE is being ignored and stated that the school system needs to provide students with a good solid foundation to allow them to become productive.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, a representative of the Baltimore County Education Coalition (BCEC), expressed the need for better teacher pensions. She also stated that the BCEC would like to involve more community members in the Coalition.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, as Minority Achievement Advisory Group (MAAG) representative, announced the advisory group's next meeting is Thursday, December 8. She stated that MAAG is disappointed with the HSA, English, and reading scores of African-Americans.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, as Chair of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, announced the Advisory Committee's next meeting would be held on December 12 to discuss the Lou Barber report and the special education staffing plan.

Ms. Marilyn Ryan, a PTA Council of Baltimore County representative, shared with the Board a number of Baltimore County Public Schools that were recognized at the PTA state convention last month.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, thanked the Board for the evening's dinner. Ms. Bost announced that the pension meetings have been rescheduled to Monday, December 12, 2005.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston reviewed the Seismic Shift data and how Baltimore County continues to grow and become more diverse. Since 1990, the percentage of minorities in Baltimore County has almost doubled, from 15% to an estimated 29.7%, and minority student enrollment in BCPS has almost tripled. Dr. Hairston noted that during this period, the number of English Language Learner (ELL) students has also almost tripled.

Dr. Hairston stated that one of the school system's challenges is the amount of time available for teaching and learning in the schools. During the 2005-2006 school year, of the 42 weeks in the scheduled school year, only 22 weeks provide five full days of uninterrupted instruction for all students in all schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (cont)

- The largest number of consecutive *interrupted* instruction weeks is five, from the week starting October 3 through the week starting October 31.
- The largest number of consecutive *uninterrupted* weeks is five, from the week starting April 25 through the week starting May 22.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Government Relations, recognized the administrative appointments made at the November 22, 2005 Board meeting:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<b><u>BRIAN T. WAGNER</u></b> (Effective November 23, 2005)	Teacher/Classroom Baltimore Highlands Elementary School	Assistant Principal Cockeysville Middle School
<b><u>BRICE FREEMAN</u></b> (Effective November 23, 2005)	Communications Director Mayor's Office of Employment Development	Director of Communications Office of the Superintendent

RECOGNITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Peccia recognized the area educational advisory council appointments made at the November 22, 2005 Board meeting:

- Mr. Walter Hayes                      Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council reappointment
- Mr. J. Ronald Zimmerman          Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council appointment
- Ms. Sandra Skordalos                Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council reappointment

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Report on Proposed Policy 8400 [and deletion of Policy 3132]** – Ms. Frances Parker, Chief Auditor, and Ms. Andrew Barr, Assistant Chief Auditor, summarized the reasons for the suggested deletion of Policy 3132 as well as the proposed new Policy 8400. Policy 8400 will establish the authority, standards, and responsibilities of the Office of Internal Audit. Additionally, the reclassification from the 3000 series—Business to the 8000 series—Internal Board Operations, will accurately reflect the reporting structure of the Office of Internal Audit. This is the first reading.

REPORTS (cont)

- B. **Report on Language Arts** – Through a PowerPoint™ presentation, Ms. Kathleen McMahon, Executive Director of Elementary Programs, along with Ms. Jane Lichter, Coordinator of Language Arts, Elementary Programs, and Ms. Michele Murphy, Supervisor of Reading, Secondary Program, explained the reading program, how students are performing, recommendations, and suggested next steps. Ms. McMahon reviewed the five assessment programs, which include screening, progress monitoring, diagnostics, and outcomes testing. She provided a history of the reading program from 2001 through the present, and the three-tier reading model that consists of:

- Tier I – Core classroom reading instruction (core material)
- Tier II – Supplemental instruction
- Tier III – Intensive intervention

Ms. McMahon briefly reviewed the following:

- Student performance in proficient and advanced areas on the MSA and Alt-MSA reading for grades 3 through 8 and grade 10 for years 2003, 2004, and 2005
- English 2 HSA data – a 52.3% overall passing rate
- MSA reading results of seven elementary schools
- DIBELS first grade fall results for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Ms. McMahon reviewed accomplishments over the last six years and the outlined next steps necessary to improve service to ensure all students meet the reading instructional needs.

Mr. Hayden expressed concern over the African-American and English Language Learner HSA results. The data shows that only one out of three African-Americans and one out of seven English Language Learner student passed. He urged this issue be addressed quickly.

Ms. Harris asked why the grade six MSA reading results decreased when cohort data showed a decrease from grades six to grade seven. Ms. Michele Murphy explained that the intervention piece is not provided for grade six; however, intervention instruction may be added next year.

Miss Wyatt asked about support to provide students transitioning from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school. Ms. McMahon responded that the school system is strengthening transitions and there is a structure in place to provide detailed information from elementary to middle school and middle to high school. Miss Wyatt urged the Board to look into a language arts program similar to STEM, and to consider increasing the numbers at the tier III level for reading specialists or for special educators during the upcoming budget process.

### REPORTS (cont)

Dr. Hayman asked about the cost of Tiers II and III resources and their efficacy. He also inquired about the correlation between HSA and the Voluntary State Curriculum.

Dr. Hayman expressed several concerns and stated that the Board needs to ask the right questions, be more diligent, and address the “epidemic” of student achievement.

Ms. Johnson asked staff’s opinion of the major factors contributing to schools performing at a basic level, and what can be done to reduce these levels in a one to two year period. Ms. Lichter responded that strong leadership, implementation of the core material, and the quality of instruction play a critical role in student achievement.

Dr. Hairston reiterated that a meeting has been scheduled with principals, English department chairpersons, and central office personnel on December 7<sup>th</sup> to identify actions to improve the English 2 HSA scores.

Mr. Arnold asked what guidance could be provided to parents in the Tier III area. Ms. Lichter responded the school system should explore purchasing intervention materials that include a parental involvement component.

### PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits D, E, and F. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

### BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS

The Building and Contracts Committee, represented by Ms. Shillman, recommended approval of items 1-7 (Exhibit G). The Board approved these recommendations.

1. 5-538-01 Contract Extension: Boiler Cleaning Services
2. RHA-365-03 Contract Modification: HVAC Filters
3. JNI-732-06 Electrical Supplies and Associated Materials
4. JMI-618-06 Fence Supplies
5. MWE- 809-06 Integrated Disability Management Employee Attendance Monitoring Program Medical Evaluations
6. MBU-570-06 Boiler Replacement – Pine Grove Middle School
7. JMI-633-06 Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) Software

FY2006 CAPITAL BUDGET SUPPLEMENT

Mr. Janssen asked why the cost of the Arbutus Middle School project had increased by 92% and Ridgely Middle School project increased approximately 23%. Mr. Sines responded the price of material and supplies are rapidly increasing as a result of hurricanes in the south, competition in the region, and problems with securing one bid for the project. Ms. Burnopp stated this supplement also represents the approval the Board gave in October between the mix with the state and county funding.

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board approved the FY 2006 Capital Budget supplemental appropriation of \$7,740,317 for the partial renovation projects at Ridgely Middle School and Arbutus Middle School (Exhibit H).

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Financial Report for the months ending October 31, 2005
- B. Minority and Small Business Enterprises Annual Report
- C. Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council Minutes of November 3, 2005
- D. Central Area Educational Advisory Council Pre-budget Minutes of October 20, 2005

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Grzyski made the following announcements:

- On Monday, December 12, 2005, the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. at Greenwood.
- The Middle School Honors Music concert will be held at Parkville High School on Saturday, December 10, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free to the public.
- The Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, December 14, 2005, at Halethorpe Elementary 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, December 20, 2005, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 5:00 p.m. The Board will then adjourn to meet in closed session, which will be followed by a brief dinner recess. The open session will reconvene at approximately 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome at all open sessions.

Mr. Grzynski 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

Ms. Suzanne Demallie advertised her website on classroom sound enhancement technology and research.

Mr. Muhammad Jameel asked that Muslim children be treated fairly by placing two Muslim holidays on the school calendar.

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board to give Muslim holidays equal treatment to Jewish holidays.

Mr. Dick Walter requested that the information calendar be reissued so that the Christian holidays of Christmas and Easter so named on the calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:08 p.m., Ms. Harris 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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