

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:55 p.m. at Greenwood. President Thomas G. Grzymiski and the following Board members were present: Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, 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 March and April.

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

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), and (a)(9) and upon motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:03 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed 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, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Miss Gabrielle Wyatt. In addition, Dr. Christine M. Johns, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, and the following staff members were present: J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent, Business Services; Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; J. Stephen Cowles, Esq., Staff Attorney; Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Government Relations; Ms. Kendra Johnson, Assistant to the 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; Dr. Alpheus Arrington, Director, Teacher Personnel; Mr. Daniel Capozzi, Staff Relations Manager; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

Mr. Capozzi provided Board members an update on the negotiations with specific collective bargaining units.

Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 5:07 p.m.

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

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (cont)

Dr. Peccia and Dr. Arrington exited the room at 5:10 p.m.

Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., Legal Counsel to the Superintendent, discussed the appointment of counsel for the Board.

At 5:38 p.m., Mr. Pallozzi moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shillman 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 Thomas G. Grzynski and the following Board members were present: Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. John Hayden, III, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, 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 Philip Bradshaw, Kenneth Bartee, Miles Brooks, Robert Brown, and Ghassan Shah from Boy Scout Troop 846, 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 January 24, 2006, Mr. Grzynski declared the minutes approved as presented on the website.

Mr. Grzynski 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 member of the Superintendent's Student Council Advisory Group, reported on the council's annual lobbying trip to Annapolis.

Ms. Phyllis Cook, a representative of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, reported on her experience with the Event Start Family Literacy Program.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, asked that high standards be maintained for the average student.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, expressed concern over the performance assessment scores. He stated that curriculum and instruction needs to be challenging for all students.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Chair of the Baltimore County Education Coalition, reported on the February 9 meeting with Dr. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and ask the Board to support its instructional commitment for middle and high schools.

Ms. Karen Yarn, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education, reported on the committee's February 8 meeting and provided an overview of the latest developments in the Gifted and Talented program.

Dr. Ella White-Campbell, Chair of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, commended the Board on the results of Schott Foundation report finding that Baltimore County Public Schools possessed the highest graduation rate of African-American males of any large school system in the country.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, reported on pension legislation status.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston acknowledged that Baltimore County Public Schools has the highest graduation rate for African-American males of any large school district or system in the country, as reported by the Schott Foundation for Public Education.

Dr. Hairston reported that *Christian Science Monitor* wants to write an article highlighting Baltimore County Public Schools. Dr. Hairston also noted that his school visits with Student Board Member Gabrielle Wyatt has attracted the attention of *American School Board Journal*. An article on their joint visits will be available in the May issue.

Dr. Hairston recognized Ms. Tricia Lane, a Dundalk Middle School art teacher, who coordinates the Artistic Owls Junior Optimist Club, and the club's contributions to the community.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Government Relations, recognized the administrative appointments made at the February 14, 2006 Board meeting:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>RORRIE K. FORTIER</u> (Effective February 15, 2006)	Teacher/Resource Office of Instructional Technology	Specialist, Instructional Technology Office of Instructional Technology
<u>PAMELA S. MERRIFIED</u> (Effective February 15, 2006)	Teacher/Dance Southwest Academy	Pupil Personnel Worker Student Support Services
<u>SAMUEL A. WYNKOOP</u> (Effective February 15, 2006)	Teacher/Science Sparrows Point High School	Assistant Principal Sparrows Point High School

RECOGNITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Peccia recognized the Area Educational Advisory Council appointments made at the February 14, 2006 Board meeting:

- Ms. Barbara Martin Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council (appointment)
- Mr. Robert Lesnevich Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council (appointment)
- Mr. Robert Berkshire Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council (reappointment)

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Report on Proposed Boundaries for Windsor Mill Middle School** – Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, Area Assistant Superintendent, Southwest Area, reviewed the charge of the Boundary Committee, the composition of the committee, results of the community forum, the committee’s recommendations, projection and enrollment data, and the Superintendent’s recommendation. Dr. Rodriguez explained the school is expected to relieve the overcrowding at Southwest Academy, Old Court Middle School, and Deer Park Middle Magnet School.

Ms. Shillman asked whether there would be any relief for Pikesville Middle School. Ms. Pamela Carter, Specialist, Boundaries and Enrollment, noted that no students will be leaving Pikesville Middle School to attend Windsor Mill Middle School.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Arnold entered the room at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Janssen requested a report showing the projected number of students that would have attended the various middle schools that would be impacted by the three different scenarios.

Mr. Grzynski announced that a public hearing would be held on Wednesday, March 15 at Woodlawn High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

- B. **Report of the Board of Education Ad Hoc Calendar Committee** – Mr. Borunda, Chair of the Board's Ad Hoc Calendar Committee, summarized the purpose of the committee including reviewing best practices regarding holidays and how various school systems in the country address religious observances, and current law and its constraints in closing public schools for religious observances. Mr. Borunda stated the committee believes it has provided some resolutions for consideration by the Superintendent.

Mr. Arnold suggested adding all Christmas and Easter to the calendar.

Mr. Hayden expressed concern over the report; specifically that testing should not be scheduled around religious holidays.

Mr. Pallozzi recommended modifying the report and adding the suggestions and concerns expressed by Board members. Mr. Grzynski asked Mr. Borunda to make the appropriate changes for consideration by the Superintendent.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits D, E, F, and G. (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 1-3 (Exhibit H). Mr. Richard Gay, Purchasing Manager, noted two adjustments to item #2: term of contract should be for six months and funding source should be Title I School Improvement Grant.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

The Board approved items 1 and 2. Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on item 2 (8-favor, 1-abstained).

1. JNI-741-06 Summer Science Institute for Elementary Teachers
2. JNI-737-06 Tutoring Program – Woodlawn Middle School

The Board approved item 3. Mr. Hayden abstained from voting and Ms. Shillman opposed this item (7-favor, 1-opposed, 1-abstained,).

3. MBU-589-06 Window Air Conditioners

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Government Relations, reviewed key pieces of legislation under consideration by the General Assembly that affect the school system.

Mr. Janssen inquired about the criteria used to determine which bills come before the Board.

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board voted to support the following legislation:

- HB133 – Education – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program-Grants – Funding.
- HB178 – Income Tax – State and County Income Tax Credit for New Teachers.
- SB432 – Primary and Secondary Education – School Facilities-Aging Schools Program – Grant Calculation.

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION BUS FACILITY PROPOSAL

Mr. Don Dent, Executive Director of Planning and Support Operations, and Ms. Linda Fitchett, Director of Transportation, summarized the opportunity for the Office of Transportation to improve its facilities and gain additional bus lots and parking.

The proposal is to exchange the Weber Avenue (Hopkins Creek Bus Facility/18 acres) and Crossroads (vacant 11 acre site) properties with the Baltimore County Government to obtain additional bus facilities at the following locations:

	<u>Capacity</u>
• Crossroads and Route 43	50
• Paper Mill Senior Center	40
• Mace Avenue – Essex Precinct 11	40
• Hereford Ambulance Services	40
• Arbutus (Baltimore County Library and BCPS Bus Facility to be built)	70

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION BUS FACILITY PROPOSAL (cont)

As a result of the exchange, Baltimore County Government will provide BCPS with up-to-date bus lots and facilities for drivers and mechanics in four areas of Baltimore County.

Ms. Shillman expressed concern over the northwest and southwest bus driver vacancies.

Mr. Janssen asked whether BCPS has to build any structures on these lots. Mr. Dent responded the county government will construct buildings on the lots per the school system's specifications. Mr. Janssen inquired about wash bay facilities. Mr. Dent responded there are environmental constraints caused by washing buses.

Mr. Grzynski inquired about the "Mace Avenue" site. Ms. Fitchett stated that the proposed bus facility was not located on Mace Avenue, but next to the Essex Police Station on Marlyn Avenue.

Mr. Borunda inquired about the need for a bus lot in the northeast area. Ms. Fitchett stated the increase in buses and positions are reflective upon the transition to full-day kindergarten, *No Child Left Behind* requirements, and other program changes and additions.

Mr. Arnold moved to approve the Bus Facility Proposal as presented on Exhibit J. Mr. Pallozzi seconded the motion. Ms. Shillman and Ms. Johnson abstained from voting and Mr. Janssen opposed the proposal. The motion passed (7-favor, 1-opposed, 2-abstained).

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Grzynski made the following announcements:

- The Central Area Educational Advisory Council will host its next meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, at Hereford Middle School beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, 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. The Board will host the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities for dinner on March 14, 2006, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold a public hearing on the proposed boundaries for Windsor Mill Middle School on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at Woodlawn High School beginning at approximately 7:00 p.m. Sign-up for the public to comment begins at 6:00 p.m. the day of the hearing. Each speaker will be allotted three minutes to present his/her topic to the Board.

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 ON PROPOSED POLICY 3126

No one from the public signed up to speak on this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED POLICY 3127

No one from the public signed up to speak on this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED POLICY 5230

No one from the public signed up to speak on this policy.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Suzanne Demallie thanked the Board for placing \$400,000 in the proposed budget for classroom sound enhancement systems.

Ms. Kathy Fox, PTA President for Chapel Hill Elementary School, expressed concern regarding overcrowding of that school. She asked the Board to consider redistricting.

Ms. Trish Bisaha voiced her concern about overcrowding at Chapel Hill Elementary School. She urged the Board to consider redistricting.

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

Mr. Kent Smith, Treasurer of Chapel Hill Elementary School, expressed concern about overcrowding. Mr. Smith suggested that the Board and county government must consider purchasing more land in the northeast area for new schools.

Ms. Naima Shoukat expressed concern that the Muslim community's comments are not being addressed. She asked the Board to place two Muslim holidays on the school calendar.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Mr. Talaal Pharoan asked that Muslims be recognized by adding their two holidays to the school calendar.

Ms. Dimah Mahmoud asked the Board to grant students off for the two Muslim holidays.

Ms. Sadaf Alam asked the Board to grant two Muslim religious holidays to the school calendar.

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board for “equal treatment” with the Jewish holidays by adding two Muslim holidays to the school calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:27 p.m., Mr. Arnold moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pallozzi and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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