

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:29 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. Peter Bacon. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Arnold reminded Board members of community functions and Board of Education events scheduled for January and February.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1) and (a)(8) and upon motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:34 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:34 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. Peter Bacon. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and the following staff members were present: J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff; Dr. H. Scott Gehring, Assistant Superintendent, Northwest Area; Mr. William Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, Northeast Area; Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent, Southwest Area; Ms. Jean Satterfield, Assistant Superintendent, Southeast Area; Dr. Kim X. Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent, Central Area; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Governmental Relations; Dr. Alpheus Arrington, Director, Personnel Staffing; Anjanette L. Dixon, Esq., Staff Attorney; P. Tyson Bennett, Esq., Counsel to the Board of Education; 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.

Ms. Howie advised Board members on litigation involving a former vendor.

At 5:42 p.m., Mr. Janssen moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Ms. Murphy 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 Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. Peter Bacon. 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 Stacy Siegel, a student at Pikesville 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 December 19, 2006, Mr. Arnold declared the minutes approved as presented on the website.

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

After collecting completed sign-up cards, Mr. Arnold announced the names of persons who would be speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting as well as the order in which the persons would be called.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Ms. Jennifer Oswald, Baltimore County Student Council President and Superintendent's Student Council Advisory Group, announced the Maryland Association of Student Councils' upcoming lobbying trip to Annapolis.

A Representative of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, Ms. Mari Liimonti and Mr. Leron Allen, discussed their experiences with the evening high school program at Dundalk High School.

Ms. Jan Thomas, Chair of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on the Council's meeting regarding the K-12 math curriculum and her participation with the parent involvement review of Policy 1270.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Mr. Stephen Crum, a Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, stated the recommendations from the Task Force on Education could be applied to all Baltimore County students.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Chair of the Baltimore County Education Coalition, announced that the Coalition's next meeting would be held on February 8 in cooperation with MAAG and the League of Women Voters. She also reported on her review of Policy 1270.

Mr. Tom Dolina, a representative of the Council of Administrative and Supervisory Employees, asked the Board for its support in the budgetary process and the union's requests.

Ms. Susan Katz, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, stated that parent value regular, effective communication by principals. She thanked those Board members who attended the PTA's general meeting on January 18.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, stated TABCO's budget focus this year is compensation, health benefits, and work load.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston introduced the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board for this school year:

- Peter Bacon – Dulaney High School student and the Student member of the Baltimore County Board of Education
- Scott Carbone – Chesapeake High School student
- Klara Kim – Woodlawn High School student
- Glory Ojire – Kenwood High School student
- Jennifer Oswald – Carver Center for the Arts & Technology student and President of the Baltimore County Student Council
- Stacy Siegel- Pikesville High School student

On behalf of the Advisory Board, Miss Siegel shared some areas of inconsistencies with Board members:

- ✓ Appreciation of education – arrange more parent/teacher conferences and encourage parents to attend school events
- ✓ Effectiveness of instruction – confidence, patience, attitude with students, quality teachers
- ✓ PSAT Availability – not all schools administer the PSAT, which should be available in all schools free of charge for grades 9-11
- ✓ Selection of courses
- ✓ Secondary education – strengthening disciplines

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. O'Hare asked what differences the staff sees in students' attitudes. Mr. Scriven responded the student's level of confidence and focus on their areas of need.

Mr. Janssen commented that he would like to see the scores in two or three years to see how successful the model has been in reaching the feeder schools.

Dr. Hayman expressed concern about ongoing professional development. Mr. Scriven stated the school has a comprehensive development calendar and that phone conferences with the CollegeBoard is considered a form of professional development.

Dr. Hayman asked whether renovations within the school have resulted in the elimination or diminution of programs. Mr. Scriven responded the only impact is to the recreational programs.

- C. **Report on Proposed Deletion of Policy 5610 – STUDENTS: Title IX Grievance Procedures** – Anjanette Dixon, Esq., and Stephen Cowles, Jr., Esq., shared with Board members that federal and state law, as well as state regulation, protects students from both harassment and discrimination and that a complaint procedure has been established through the PS manual. Therefore, a separate policy is redundant. This is the first reading of Policy 5610.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits 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 1-12 (Exhibit H). Ms. Shillman abstained from voting on item 4.

The Board approved these recommendations.

1. PCR-225-06 Contract Extension: Electrical Testing
2. MWE-858-07 BCPS and Community College of Baltimore County Articulation Agreement
3. JMI-619-07 Cut Sheet Paper (Copy, Laser Printers, and Duplicators)

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

4. MWE-837-07 Focused Elementary and Middle School Utilization Study
5. JMI-625-07 Gasoline and Diesel Fuel
6. PCR-266-06 Photocopiers
7. MWE-846-07 Routers and Servers for Network Applications
8. JMI-615-07 Various Custodial Restroom Products
9. MBU-670-06 Contract Modification: Renovations – Deep Creek Middle School
10. MWE-843-07 Contract Modification: Construction Packages Testing (1A) and Site Work (2A) – Vincent Farm Elementary School
11. JNI-761-07 Window and Blind Replacement – Chase Elementary School
12. RGA 199-07 Request to Negotiate: Feasibility and Design Services – High School Renovations

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dr. Donald Peccia provided senator and delegate contact information as well as committee assignments to Board members for the upcoming legislative session.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 3320 – Food Services: Responsibilities and Duties
- B. Revised Superintendent's Rule 3330 – Food Services: Finance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- The Southeast Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, February 12, 2007, at Dundalk High School beginning at 7:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- On Wednesday, January 24, 2007, the Baltimore County Board of Education will hold a public hearing to seek the community's input on the FY 2008 operating budget. The meeting will take place at the Ridge Ruxton School at 7:00 p.m. Sign-up for the public to comment will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Ridge Ruxton School on the day of the hearing.
- On Tuesday, January 30, 2007, the Baltimore County Board of Education will hold a work session to discuss the FY 2008 operating budget. The meeting will take place at the ESS Building located on the Greenwood campus at 7:00 p.m. Snow date for the Board work session is Wednesday, January 31, 2007.
- On Thursday, February 8, 2007, the Board of Education's Winter Recognition Ceremony will be held at Perry Hall High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, 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 to all open sessions. The Board will host the Baltimore County Student Council for dinner on February 13, 2007 from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Arnold stated that public comment is one of the opportunities provided to hear the views and receive the advice of community members. The members of the Board appreciate hearing from interested citizens and will take their comments into consideration, even though it is not the Board's practice to take immediate action on issues which are raised. When appropriate, the Board will refer concerns to the Superintendent for follow-up by his staff.

While the Board encourages public input on policy, programs, and practices within the purview of this Board and this school system, this is not the proper avenue to address specific student or employee matters, or to comment on matters that do not relate to public education in Baltimore County. The Board encourages the public to utilize existing avenues of redress for complaints. Inappropriate personal remarks or other behavior that disrupts or interferes with the conduct of this meeting are out of order.

Mr. Arnold also asked speakers to observe the light system, which lets the speaker know when his/her allotted time is exhausted. He asked speakers to conclude their remarks when they see the red light.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 5410

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board to remember “all students” in its policies.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 8315

Mr. James Sasiadek stated his support for the proposed changes to Policy 8315. He stated the Board needs a system to be fair to all public speakers. The lottery is easier to ensure people have the same chance to speak before the Board.

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board to amend the proposed policy changes as follows:

- Omit “within the Board’s jurisdiction”
- Add “any citizen or **resident of Baltimore County...**”
- Add “**The BOE shall respond to every public speaker’s concerns or questions in writing within 14 days or less.**”
- Add “**The President of the BOE and the Superintendent shall hold a press conference three times every school year. The public and the media shall have the opportunity to question or seek explanation of the school Board. The conference is held at the beginning of the BOE meeting. Time allowed not exceeding 60 minutes.**” [sic]
- Add “**The BOE shall accept reservation [sic] from the public by telephone appointment, email or fax, on a first come first serve [sic] basis. Reservations can be made starting the day following the preceding BOE meeting.**”

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Trish Bisha addressed overcrowding at Chapel Hill Elementary School and expressed concern regarding the “buzzer” or slide card system at the school.

Ms. Nancy Ostrow expressed the need for a high school instrumental music magnet in the northwest/southwest areas.

Mr. Mohammed Jameel requested that the current social studies curriculum be withdrawn immediately until a new curriculum has been written.

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board to add the two Islamic holidays to the school calendar.

Ms. Hadear Abdou asked the Board to consider adding the two Muslim holidays to the school calendar.

Mr. Asaid Jarral asked the Board to close schools on the two Muslim holidays and to correct the social studies curriculum.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:47 p.m., Mr. Janssen moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parker and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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