

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, February 20, 2007
(*rescheduled from February 13, 2007*)

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:16 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, 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., and Ms. Joy Shillman. 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 in February and March.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 5:20 p.m.

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

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1) and (a)(9) and upon motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:21 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:21 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 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; Mr. Michael Thorne, Assistant to the 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; Mr. Daniel Capozzi, Staff Relations Manager; Mr. George L. Sarris, Director, Office of Budget and Reporting; P. Tyson Bennett, Esq., Counsel to the Board of Education; and Ms. Mary Lindsey, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Capozzi updated Board members on collective bargaining discussions.

Dr. Hayman entered the room at 5:40 p.m.

Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 5:55 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (cont)

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

At 6:10 p.m., Mr. Pallozzi moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parker and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:40 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 staff members were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by Daniel Childress, a student from General John Stricker Middle 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 January 9, 2007, the Board of Education Retreat Minutes of January 20, 2007, the Public Hearing on the FY 2008 Operating Budget of January 24, 2007, or the Work Session Minutes of January 30, 2007, 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.

SELECTION OF SPEAKERS

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, thanked the Board for dinner this evening.

Mr. Peter Mattes, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, stated that the Council is proposing that a land use study be performed by the county government and BCPS to look into the present inventory and future land needs.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, reported on its last meeting where a presentation was given on CTE programs and advanced technology courses.

Mr. Stephen Crum, Chair of the Career & Technology Education Advisory Council, stated the school system needs to ensure that all students have marketable skills when they graduate from high school.

Ms. Karen Yarn, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education, yielded her time to a parent, Mr. Richard May, who shared his concerns about the gifted and talented office.

Ms. Susan Katz, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, stated the Council supports the increase for sound enhancement technology in the FY08 operating budget.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston commended the Department of Physical Facilities for its work in clearing sidewalks and school parking lots of ice and snow from last week's storms. Dr. Hairston thanked the citizens for cooperating with the school system.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2008

Mr. George Sarris, Director, Office of Budget and Reporting, reviewed the technical and substantive adjustments made to the budget since the Board work session. Technical and material changes include: raising the minimum hourly wage for all BCPS employees to \$10 and adjusting pay scales to keep all hourly scales relative to the increased minimum wage (\$20,511,467), placing kindergarten helpers in each classroom (\$2,747,000), additional classroom sound enhancements (\$450,000), and expanding the AVID program at Woodlawn High School (\$57,000). These proposals are included in Option 1 along with technical adjustments for enrollment and other items totaling \$464,993. Option 2 includes all of the above except for the \$10 minimum hourly wage increase (\$20,511,467).

OLD BUSINESS (cont)

Ms. O'Hare asked how Thornton funding affects the budget. Mr. Sarris stated that Thornton funding is part of the operating budget and that the county is funding a significant amount of capital money that is not reflected in the comparison.

Ms. Shillman stated that while she supports Option 1, the increase of \$450,000 for sound enhancement systems is steep. There are still schools with open classrooms with triads. She would like a small portion of the \$450,000 be redirected to building walls in these triads to help in that sound enhancement. She also stated the amount of \$150,000 for relocatable maintenance is too little, and requests that this amount be increased by another \$150,000.

Dr. Hayman asked how many students are on the AVID waiting list at Woodlawn High School and Mr. Sarris responded 100 students. Dr. Hayman expressed concern that only one additional staff member was added to that program.

Dr. Hayman asked for the administration's recommendation. Dr. Hairston reiterated that the administration's budget recommendation was presented to the Board at its January 9, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Hayden stated that increasing the sound enhancement system budget is of tremendous benefit to the school system and felt strongly that this will help students.

Mr. Janssen moved that the Board adopt Option 2. Mr. Hayden seconded the motion.

Ms. O'Hare inquired about the maintenance cost for sound enhancement systems.

Ms. Johnson asked that the school system continue to monitor the performance of Title I middle schools and provide the necessary resources. Ms. Johnson asked that the school system expand the cultural exchange program beyond Dulaney High School.

Mr. Janssen requested that the Superintendent provide a report to the Board, in approximately one year, with information on how the Title I middle schools are progressing and recommended proposals for moving forward.

Mr. Parker commented that \$10.00 per hour is not a livable wage, and most of the people in this scale do not even receive benefits with that wage. He stated that the Board should have a work session to "find" the approximately \$20 million for salaries. Dr. Hayman echoed Mr. Parker's remarks.

After further discussion, Mr. Janssen's motion to adopt Option 2 failed (favor-6; opposed 6).

Ms. Shillman made a motion that the Board adopt Option 1. Dr. Hayman seconded the motion. The Board voted to adopt Option 1 totaling \$1,592,951,001 (favor-7: opposed 5), with Mr. Bacon casting a vote in favor of Option 1.

OLD BUSINESS (cont)

Proposed Changes to Policy 5410

Upon a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the proposed changes to Policy 5410, STUDENTS: School Counseling Services, as presented in Exhibit B.

Proposed Changes to Policy 8315

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the proposed changes to Policy 8315, INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Participating by the Public, as presented in Exhibit C.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

Ms. Linda Fitchett, Director of Transportation, provided an update to Board members on the Office of Transportation's role during inclement weather. Ms. Fitchett explained the collaborative effort BCPS shares with Baltimore County's Bureau of Highways.

- A. On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board adopted a resolution proclaiming February 5-9, 2007 as National School Counseling Week.
- B. On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board adopted a resolution proclaiming February 12, 2007 as National African-American Parent Involvement Day.
- C. **Report on Annexation Initiatives** – Ms. Jean Satterfield, Assistant Superintendent for the Southeast Area, and Mr. Don Dent, Executive Director of Planning and Support Operations, provided an overview of the enrollment relief plans for Deep Creek Elementary School and Dogwood Elementary School for the 2007-2008 school year. The enrollment relief plan for both Dogwood and Deep Creek Elementary Schools is to annex the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students to nearby schools. The annexed students at Dogwood will move to Featherbed Lane Elementary School. The annexed students at Deep Creek will relocate to Hawthorne Elementary School. Both Featherbed Lane and Hawthorne Elementary Schools have the excess capacity to accommodate these students.

Mr. Pallozzi commented that the county and school system need to consider looking for land to build a new school in these areas.

Dr. Hayman stated that a disadvantage to this annexation is that students will move from a fairly new school to older schools.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Janssen echoed Mr. Pallozzi's concerns about looking for land in these areas. Mr. Janssen asked how each community was notified of the annexation. For the southeast area, Ms. Satterfield responded that the school system met with the PTA Executive Boards for each affected school. She also noted that an open house will be scheduled. Regarding the southwest area, Dr. Rodriguez stated that three meetings were held to inform the PTA, parents, and teachers of the proposed relief plans.

Mr. Janssen asked whether the transportation had been reviewed. Mr. Dent responded no additional buses or staff will be required. Bus stops will be assigned for all students being annexed.

Mr. Hayden stated that the Board should consider reassessing the school boundaries.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2008

Upon advice of the Board's counsel, noting that the student Board member could not vote on the adoption of the operating budget, Dr. Hayman moved that the Board adopt Option 1. Ms. Shillman seconded the motion. The motion failed (favor-5; opposed-6). The vote on the proposed FY 2008 Operating Budget will be deferred to the February 27, 2007 Board meeting.

The Board continued with the following reports:

- D. **Report on Proposed New Policy 3160 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: School Sponsored Activities** – Mr. Don Dent, Executive Director of Planning and Support Operations, explained that Policy 3160 would establish a consistent process for the review or approval of school-sponsored events or programs that include high-risk activities. This is the first reading.

- E. **Report on Proposed Deletion of 8000 Series Preface – Preface to Internal Board Policies** – Mr. Donald Arnold, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Policy Committee, stated that the Committee had reviewed the preface to the 8000 series, Internal Board Policies, and noted that none of the other seven policy series contains a preface. The Board Committee believes that the preface is outmoded and superfluous and that it should be deleted in its entirety. This is the first reading.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits H, I, J, K, and L (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 1-19 (Exhibit M). Ms. Shillman separated item 2. Mr. Hayden abstained from voting on item 15, and Mr. Janssen abstained from voting on item 14.

The Board approved these recommendations.

1. JNI-706-05 Contract Modification: Rebinding of Textbooks
3. RGA-119-07 Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Principals' Academy
4. JMI-616-07 Custodial Cleaning Chemicals
5. PCR-263-07 Door Hardware
6. JMI-627-07 Network Access Control Products
7. JMI-628-07 Ethernet Switches/LAN Equipment
8. PCR-258-07 Paint, Interior and Exterior
9. PCR-264-07 Radon Testing
10. JMI-623-07 Specialty Paper and Envelopes
11. MBE-520-07 Upgrades to Fuel Tanks
12. MWE-849-07 Water Treatment for Critical Systems
13. PCR-212-06 Contract Modification: Renovations – Deer Park Middle School
14. MWE-817-06 Contract Modification: General Contractor Construction Services – Kenwood High School Addition and Technology Wing Renovation
15. N/A Contract Modification: Additional Design Services – Southwest Academy
16. MWE-843-07 Contract Modification-- Construction Package Site Work (2A) – Vincent Farm Elementary School
17. MBU-537-07 Roof Replacement – Sparrows Point Middle/High School
18. JNI-762-07 Window Replacement – Timonium Elementary School
19. N/A Utility Service – Vincent Farm Elementary School

Item #2

Ms. Shillman expressed concern that the award value may not be accurate. Ms. Shillman commented that since Chesapeake High School has the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics program (STEM), the Maryland's Tomorrow/AdvancePath Academy program should be placed in another school.

The Board approved item 2, with Ms. Shillman casting an opposing vote.

2. RGA-120-07 Maryland's Tomorrow/AdvancePath Academy

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Governmental Relations, reviewed key pieces of legislation that affect the school system and are currently under consideration by the General Assembly. Mr. Parker abstained from voting on all legislative items.

On motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board voted to oppose HB71 – Baltimore County Board of Education – Elected Members.

On motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board voted to oppose SB82 – Baltimore County Board of Education – Elected Members.

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. Shillman, the Board voted to support SB 99 – Baltimore County Board of Education – School Board Nominating Convention of Baltimore County. Ms. Johnson voted in opposition.

The Board did not take a position on SB79 – Baltimore County Board of Education – Membership.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Financial Report for the Months Ending December 31, 2005 and 2006
- B. Southwest Area Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- The Southwest Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, at Lansdowne Elementary School beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 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 Minority Achievement Advisory Group for dinner on February 27, 2007 from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

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 action at this time 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 everyone 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 time is up. He asked speakers to conclude their remarks when they see the red light.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 5610

No one from the public signed up to speak to Policy 5610.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jackie Gibson believes there are unanswered questions from the Dogwood Elementary School community regarding the annexation proposal and asked the Board to review further options.

Ms. Charissa Huie asked that an overcrowding study be performed in the Dogwood Elementary School community including an in-depth boundary study.

Ms. Suzanne DeMallie urged the Board to educate county officials on understanding the importance of improving students' hearing ability in the classroom.

Mr. Mohammad Jameel expressed concern over the incorrect information about Islam in the current social studies curriculum.

Dr. Bash Pharoan proposed the formation of an affordability committee for the Board and asked that the Superintendent and Board President be available on a quarterly basis to answer questions from the public.

Ms. Courtney Davis stated that annexing pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students out of Dogwood Elementary School is unacceptable.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:06 p.m., Mr. Bacon moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Murphy and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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