

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:13 p.m. at Greenwood. Vice-President Rodger C. Janssen and the following Board members were present: Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, 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. Janssen reminded Board members of community functions and Board of Education events scheduled in March and April.

Mr. Hayden 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 Ms. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:15 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:15 p.m. at Greenwood. Vice President Rodger C. Janssen and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, 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. Sonja Karwacki, Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, Southeast Area; Dr. Kim X. Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent, Central Area; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; Anjanette L. Dixon, Esq., Staff Attorney; Dr. Alpheus Arrington, Director, Personnel Staffing; Mr. Daniel Capozzi, Staff Relations Manager; P. Tyson Bennett, Esq., Counsel to the Board of Education; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

Mr. Capozzi updated Board members on collective bargaining discussions.

Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 5:20 p.m.

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

At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Pallozzi moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bacon 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. Vice President Rodger C. Janssen and the following Board members were present: Mr. John A. Hayden, III, 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 Jonathan France, followed by a period of silence 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 23, 2007, Mr. Janssen declared the minutes approved as presented on the website.

Mr. Janssen 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. Janssen 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, reported on the Council's legislative trip to Annapolis.

Mr. Leonard Park, a Representative of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, introduced Mr. Jonathan Frances, who discussed his experiences with the alternative program and Milford Mill Academy.

Mr. Arnold entered the room at 7:38 p.m.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Mr. Boyd Crouse, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, expressed disappointment that the proposed operating budget was not approved at the last Board meeting.

Ms. Harris entered the room at 7:41 p.m.

Ms. Abby Beytin, Chair of the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on the Council's meeting regarding closing the achievement gaps. She announced the Council's next meeting would be held on March 20, 2007 at Fort Garrison Elementary School.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, announced the Council's next meeting would be held on March 12, 2007.

Mr. Kory Blake, a representative of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), along with Ms. Lora Williams, President, Local 434, asked the Board to consider adopting Option 1 of the proposed FY 2008 Operating Budget.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Chair of the Baltimore County Education Coalition, thanked those who attended the "Gangs in Maryland" meeting.

Ms. Karen Yarn, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education, reported on the Committee's partnership with CCBC (Dundalk and Catonsville) to have guidance counselors available to assist students and parents in the admission and application process.

Dr. Ella White-Campbell, Chair of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, yielded her time to Ms. Patricia Ferguson, President of the Baltimore County branch of the NAACP. Ms. Ferguson asked the Board to consider supporting legislation establishing an elected Board.

Ms. Susan Katz, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, yielded her time to Ms. Suzanne DeMallie, who advocated for sound enhancement systems in BCPS.

Ms. Jan Thomas, Chair of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, reported on the special education community forums held on February 26.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, stated the school system needs to address recruitment, retention, competitive salaries and teacher workload.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston as well as the County Executive, attended a ceremony at Sparks Elementary School sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Trust honoring Teacher of the Year Elizabeth Fair.

Dr. Hairston, along with the County Executive, visited Sparks Elementary School for a ceremony to honor Elizabeth Fair for being named Teacher of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2008

Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Chief Financial Officer, 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).

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

Ms. Shillman expressed concern over the costs of hiring personal assistants through private agencies. Ms. Shillman opposed Option 2.

Dr. Hayman stated the Board has a responsibility to employees; Dr. Hayman opposed Option 2.

Mr. Bacon stated that the wage increase would make BCPS more competitive and would help with the education of students.

Ms. O'Hare commented that the County Executive or County Council may not accept Option 1 and expressed concern that programs that have an impact on the education of students could be cut. She stated that the Board needs to have more input into the development process of the budget and requested one additional budget work session next year. Ms. O'Hare supports Option 2.

Ms. Johnson stated the Board has a responsibility to do what it can be for the professionals of BCPS. She opposes Option 2.

Ms. Harris stated the Board would not be acting fiscally responsible if it let someone else cut funding from the school system. Ms. Harris supports Option 2.

Mr. Parker commented that Option 2 still provides an increase for personal assistants and believes this Option would pass the next two steps in the budget process.

Mr. Hayden and Ms. Shillman asked for an earlier submission of the budget to the Board.

After further discussion, the Board voted to adopt Option 2 totaling \$1,572,439,534 (favor-8: opposed-3). Mr. Bacon did not vote. Dr. Hayman, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Shillman opposed.

Proposed Deletion of Policy 5610

On a motion of Mr. Pallozzi, seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board approved the proposed deletion of Policy 5610, STUDENTS: Grievance Procedure- Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, as presented in Exhibit C.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Report on Proposed Changes to Policy 1240 – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Visits to Schools** – Mr. William Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent for the Northeast Area, stated that Policy 1240 is being updated to incorporate a focus on safety and security as a component of the school system’s support of stakeholders’ visits to schools. This is the first reading of this Policy.
- Dr. Hayman stated that the definition of “community” may exclude some individuals. He also commented that the policy should state “principal or designee.” Dr. Hayman recommended that:
- A Board-level policy be created on parent/community/family engagement;
 - An Office of Parent and Family Community Engagement be created; and
 - Each school should have a plan for parent/community/family engagement.
- Mr. Arnold shared with the public the purpose of the three-reading process on Board policies.
- B. **Report on Proposed Changes to Policy 1250 – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Participation in the Local Schools by Community Members** – Mr. Lawrence stated that Policy 1250 is being revised to increase the principals’ responsibility to maintain adequate and appropriate communication with stakeholders. This is the first reading of this Policy.
- C. **Report on Proposed Changes to Policy 8110 – Composition of Board of Education of Baltimore County** – Mr. Donald Arnold, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Policy Committee, stated that the Committee had reviewed Policy 8110 and believes the policy repeats language no longer part of the statute. This is the first reading.
- Mr. Hayden recommended that this Policy be deleted since the Board has to follow Maryland Code.
- D. **Report on Woodlawn Middle School** – Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent of the Southwest Area, and Mr. Brian Scriven, Principal of Woodlawn Middle School, provided a status report on the Alternative Governance Plan at WMS. Mr. Scriven provided in-depth information on the ongoing professional development activities at the school.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Janssen asked if the students attending school on Saturday are present to improve their performance. Mr. Scriven responded the strong focus is with special education and basic students; a cross-pollination. Mr. Scriven stated that Saturday classes are voluntary.

Ms. O'Hare asked whether grammar is taught with Mr. Scriven's responding that grammar is part of the language program.

Mr. Bacon stated he would like to attend the next Principal's Cabinet meeting at Woodlawn Middle School.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits H, I, J, and K (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 1-11 (Exhibit L). Mr. Bacon separated item 1, and Ms. Shillman separated item 5.

The Board approved items 2-4, and 6-11.

2. 2-277-02 Contract Modification: Social Workers/Personal Assistants
3. MBU-519-07 Electronic Web-Based Construction Plan Distribution, Printing and Document Management System
4. RGA-315-04 Modular Classroom
6. JMI-629-07 Wireless Access Points and Controllers
7. MWE-844-07 Contract Modification: 3A Concrete, 5A Steel, 15A Underground Mechanical, and 16A Underground Electrical Construction Packages – Vincent Farm Elementary School
8. MBU-516-07 Construction of Corridor Separations in Various Elementary Schools
9. MWE-845-07 Construction Package: 7A Roofing – Vincent Farm Elementary School

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

10. MWE-845-07 Construction Packages: 4A Masonry, 5B Miscellaneous Metals, 6A General Trades, 8A Glass, 9A Drywall, 9B Carpet/VCT/Wood, 9C Tile, 9D Painting, 10A Toilet Partitions/Accessories, 11A Food Service Equipment, 12A Casework, 15B Mechanical and 16B Electrical – Vincent Farm Elementary School
11. MWE-862-07 Water Meter and Water Service – Vincent Farm Elementary School

Item 1

Mr. Bacon asked for clarification on the word “perpetual.” Mr. Gay responded the wording is part of the consortium’s by-laws and policies.

The Board approved item 1.

1. RGA-117-04 Contract Modification: Internet On-line Services for the MD K-12 Digital Library Project - Purchasing Consortium

Item 5

The Board approved item 5. Ms. Harris and Ms. Shillman opposed this item (favor-10; opposed-2).

5. RGA-121-07 Nextel/Sprint Cellular Phones

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Legislation Update

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will be meeting to conduct a retreat on Saturday, March 10, 2007, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Greenwood Administration Building, Board Rooms A and B. Portions of the meeting are open to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 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 Commission on Disabilities for dinner on March 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 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 3160

No one from the public signed up to speak on Policy 3160.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED DELETION OF 8000 SERIES PREFACE

No one from the public signed up to speak on the 8000 series Preface.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Bash Pharoan expressed the need to put people ahead of sound enhancement systems and buildings.

Ms. Dorietha Ballard expressed concern over the equity of teacher assignments at Randallstown High School.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Mr. Mohammad Jameel asked the Board to consider adding the Muslim holidays to the school calendar.

Ms. Adrienne Mewborn expressed her concern over teacher retention and other issues at Randallstown High School.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:43 p.m., Mr. Hayden 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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