

**APPROVED REPORT  
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION**

Tuesday, June 19, 2007  
Greenwood

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:34 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, 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.

At 5:36 p.m. Ms. Harris moved the Board go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Pallozzi and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:35 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, 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.

Board members discussed an employee's performance evaluation.

Mr. Hayden and Mr. Janssen entered the room at 5:48 p.m.

At 6:51 p.m. Ms. O'Hare moved the Board adjourn the closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and unanimously approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:00 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, as well as the media were present.

Mr. Arnold opened the meeting by stating that the work session would permit the public to witness the work of the Board.

REVIEW OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATION #4

Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer, and Ms. Phyllis Bailey, Executive Director, Special Programs, PreK-12, responded to questions submitted by Board members regarding the PDK Curriculum Audit Recommendation Number 4. Dr. Diaz noted that a curriculum and instruction policy would be submitted to the Policy Ad Hoc Committee in the near future.

1. “What responsibility does the Board have to ORIGINATE policies?”

Policies can be recommended by the Superintendent; however, the Board of Education is required by state law to determine education policies for the county system.

2. “Are BCPS policies really effective guides for successful planning and implementing curriculum?”

This can be said about all BCPS policies not just ones related to curriculum. Effectiveness depends on implementation and adherence to the policy.

3. “Do all school system employees (administration, staff, teachers) rely on policies to familiarize themselves with regulations and procedures?”

Policies are different from rules and office procedures, which lay out in detail how the work is accomplished. Ms. Bailey noted that when policy is acted upon by the Board, a superintendent’s bulletin item is developed to communicate with staff the change to policy.

4. “How do we align policies and rules to the Master Plan and *Blueprint for Progress*?”

The Master Plan and *Blueprint for Progress* align with policies and rules. The *Blueprint for Progress* is the superintendent’s vision and strategies. The Master Plan is a year-to-year book of how the details will take place and how goals will be implemented.

5. “PDK criticism is aimed at the many policies have not been reviewed or revised since 2001.”

Rule 8130 indicates that policies adopted after 2001 will be reviewed on a five-year cycle. When the policy is in place, a rule can be developed to provide the guidelines to staff on how to implement the policy.

Mr. Arnold stated that the Board would review Recommendation Number 5 at its next work session, but noted that the meeting has not yet been scheduled.

## BOARD'S PRIORITY GOALS

### **AssessTrax**

Ms. Kathleen McMahon, Assistant Superintendent of Humanities and Ms. Jane Lichter, Coordinator Early Childhood, provided a brief update on the *AssessTrax* program.

- This year has been a pilot year to phase in the program. By the end of this year, all schools would have a “taste” of *AssessTrax*.
- In November, five middle schools and five high schools used mathematics benchmark.
- In January 2007, all middle and high schools have used the program for mathematics and English benchmarks.
- In March 2007, the original ten piloted schools added science and social studies to the benchmarks.
- In May 2007, forty elementary schools (20 reading and 20 mathematics) utilized the program with standing machines in building. All other elementary schools took a reading benchmark test. Scanned forms were sent to the Office of Student Data so that the information could be entered into the computer so that teachers could have instant access to the data.

Mr. Hayden asked if there is any data that reflects the significant difference in the performance of those schools that have had the equipment. Ms. Lichter responded that the Office of Research, Accountability, and Assessment is reviewing the results and hopes to have a report to the Board in the near future.

Ms. Harris inquired about the extra tests being incorporated into classroom work. Ms. Lichter responded the majority of the tests were already part of the classroom work. Teachers no longer need to create spreadsheets.

Ms. O'Hare asked if this information will help the teacher have a more comprehensive picture of a student to provide feedback to parents. Ms. McMahon responded that BCPS is working with the vendor to develop a parent report.

### **Safari Montage**

Ms. Della Curtis, Coordinator of Library Services, provided an update on the implementation of Safari Montage.

- BCPS teachers are using Safari Montage at the rate of 284,000 videos in three-month timeframes.
- Top 50 titles used by BCPS teachers represent content in the sciences (51%), mathematics (18%), literature and art (16%), and social studies (14%).

- Forty-one Education Channel products are now accessible to the educational community via the Safari WAN server.

Board members requested a copy of Ms. Curtis' presentation.

Mr. Janssen asked for examples of the content of the mathematics videos. Ms. Curtis responded fractions, geometry, measurement, multiplication, money, and numbers sense.

Ms. Shillman asked if there will be a way to measure the effectiveness of this program next year. Ms. Curtis responded that the Office of Library Information Services will work with the Office of Research, Accountability, and Assessment to measure the impact of the program.

Ms. Murphy asked if other departments within the school system could benefit from Safari Montage. Ms. Curtis responded that Mr. Jeff Lifton, Education Channel Manager, will assess the needs of other curriculum offices to use Safari Montage as a platform to distribute content throughout the system. The school system is also researching another feature called Safari Live, which could connect live from school to school.

Ms. O'Hare asked whether a principal could look at the usage and see if student performance and achievement are affected. Ms. Curtis responded that over a period of time, the school system could eventually measure performance and achievement.

Ms. Harris asked if the school system could track who uses and does not use Safari Montage. Ms. Curtis responded that BCPS needs to build bridges to other data warehouses to get the big picture; the capability does not presently exist.

Ms. O'Hare asked if BCPS has the capability to add English literature plays to Safari Montage. Ms. Curtis responded affirmatively and that the school system is working with its producers and curriculum offices regarding digital rights to make sure the plays can be placed on the Safari Montage server.

### **Board Usage**

Mr. Arnold encouraged Board members to continue to use technology effectively and efficiently. Mr. Arnold stated that if Board members have any questions regarding laptops to contact Mr. Dan Scroggs.

### **Proposed Resolution**

Mr. Arnold reviewed the proposed resolution suggested by the National School Boards Association regarding H.R. 648, *No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007*. Mr. Arnold stated that a similar resolution from this Board would be under consideration at a future meeting.

The work session concluded at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer

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