

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Wednesday, February 13, 2008
(*rescheduled to Thursday, February 14, 2008*)

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 5:30 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., Ms. Joy Shillman, and Miss Audrey Dittman. In addition, Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff, and staff members were present.

Ms. Murphy reminded Board members of community functions and Board of Education events scheduled in February and March.

Board member, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, entered the room at 5:32 p.m.

Mr. Pallozzi moved that the student member be permitted to participate in closed session collective bargaining discussions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden 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. Pallozzi, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:35 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:35 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., Ms. Joy Shillman, and Miss Audrey Dittman. In addition, Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff, and the following staff members were present: Dr. Robert Tomback, Assistant Superintendent, Northeast Area; Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent, Southwest Area; Ms. Jean Satterfield, Assistant Superintendent, Southeast Area; J. Stephen Cowles, Esq., Staff Attorney; Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Governmental Relations; 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 discussed with Board member the status of collective bargaining negotiations.

Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 5:40 p.m.

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

At 5:59 p.m., Mr. Pallozzi moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:27 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Ms. Donna Flynn, Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., Ms. Joy Shillman, and Miss Audrey Dittman. 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 Michael Saks, a student at Catonsville High School, followed by a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Report on the Board of Education Work Session of December 11, 2007; the Open and Closed Session Minutes of January 8, 2008; the Report on the Public Hearing of January 15, 2008; and the Report on the Board of Education Work Session of January 23, 2008, Ms. Murphy declared the minutes approved as presented on the Web site.

Ms. Murphy 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, Ms. Murphy 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

Mr. Bernard Hennigan, a representative Chair of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, introduced Ms. Leah Hinson who highlighted the benefits of the Kenwood High School's evening program. Miss Jessica Schultz, a current student of the evening program, commented that the program has given her a second chance to earn a high school diploma.

Ms. Jan Thomas, Chair of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on January's joint meeting of the advisory councils and introduced Ms. Mary Pat Kahla, who encouraged the Board to fund the Chinese cultural expansion program. Ms. Thomas announced that its next meeting would be held on February 21 at Loch Raven High School with the topic on field trips.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Ms. Susan Katz, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, expressed concern that with the adoption of Policy 3160 in 2007, school personnel are asking the PTA to sponsor high-risk activities previously school-sponsored. She stated that the liability must not shift from the school system to PTA's nor must PTA's bear the burden of disappointment and backlash. Ms. Katz announced that its next meeting would be held on Thursday, March 13, at Loch Raven High School.

Ms. Jan Thomas, Chair of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, reported on its February 11 meeting with the discussion around the academic learning program. She stated that if BCPS wants to move towards the least restrictive environment (LRE), teams at the school level need to understand how to make it work for the child.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, stated that veteran teacher salaries are not comparable as mentioned at the Board's work session. Baltimore County's starting salary for those coming into teaching with a masters degree rank 11 out of 22; working 15 years with a masters degree rank 19 out of 24; and teachers with a masters plus 30 credits with 15 years' rank 16 out of 24. Ms. Bost stated that a 2% salary increase keeps salaries at status quo when other counties of similar structure will realize 5% or more.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

There was no Superintendent's report this evening.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Governmental Relations, recognized the administrative appointments made at the January 22, 2008 Board meeting:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>BOBETTE WATTS-HICCOCK</u> (Effective January 23, 2008)	Mediation Program Assistant/ Legislative Liaison State of Maryland Commission of Human Relations	EEO Officer Office of Personnel Services Department of Human Resources

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2009

Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the initial budget request and the proposed exhibit for this evening noting the following changes:

- A detailed restructuring proposal has been developed that includes additional costs of approximately \$885,768, and reallocates some of the originally proposed costs for supplies and materials to teacher training stipends.
- Fixed charges reduced by \$761,108 to offset the increased cost of school restructuring.

Ms. Burnopp noted that the total budget for all funds remains at \$1,505,614,151.

Mr. Pallozzi commented that no teacher raises were placed in the proposed budget. Mr. Pallozzi asked Ms. Fromm if the superintendent spoke with the county executive about the raises with Ms. Fromm responding affirmatively. Mr. Pallozzi asked Ms. Murphy if anyone from the Board spoke with the county executive about teacher raises. Ms. Murphy responded that she and Mr. Parker met with the county executive and were informed that with the fiscal situation as such there would be no COLA's funded for county or school system employees.

Mr. Hayden motioned that the budget be increased by \$150,000 for a professional staff position reporting directly to the Board of Education. Mr. Janssen seconded the motion. Ms. Flynn stated that another option would be to take one of the four positions from the Office of Research, Accountability, and Assessment.

Ms. Harris asked if this individual would be an executive director to the Board. Mr. Hayden responded that this individual would be able to ask questions and request research information and analysis on various topics for the Board.

Ms. Shillman stated that while this is a good idea, she is not in favor of adding funding to the budget. Mr. Hayden stated that if this person is to report to the Board, monies must be redirected from another department.

Ms. Flynn stated that she cannot support adding funding to the budget but asked to recast a motion and redirect one of the existing positions that would address Ms. Shillman's concerns.

Mr. Hayden and Mr. Janssen withdrew their motions.

Ms. Flynn motioned to amend the budget by redirecting one of the four positions in the Office of Research, Accountability, and Assessment to the Board of Education's budget for a Board Specialist. Mr. Janssen seconded the motion.

Mr. Parker stated that while he agrees with the idea, there needs to be more time to study the position thoroughly. Mr. Hayden commented that the Board has the ability to redirect funding at any time.

Ms. Murphy commented that if this position is approved by the Board, then the Board would evaluate this position's effectiveness in the same manner other positions are evaluated. She stated that this is the public money, and the Board must ensure that it is spent wisely.

The Board approved the amendment to the budget (favor-8; opposed-1). Mr. Parker opposed the amendment. Miss Dittman, student representative, did not vote on the budget.

Mr. Janssen asked if there was an increase in the career and technology education budget. Mr. Burnopp responded no.

Ms. Shillman expressed concern that more money is spent on athletics than music and art. Mr. Hayden shared Ms. Shillman's concern and requested a report on the five-year projections in the area of Fine Arts.

Ms. Johnson stated that while the Chinese language program is an awesome program, BCPS needs to place its resources where they are needed the most. Ms. Johnson motion to redirect \$152,945 allocated for the Chinese language program to the AVID expansion program. There was no second motion.

Mr. Hayden motioned to increase the instructional salary budget for enhancing the AVID program by \$152,945. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. Ms. Johnson stated that she cannot support a Chinese language program when too many students are not getting the education they deserve. Mr. Hayden commented that the Board should not be shy about making a recommendation that the budget number should be higher.

Mr. Janssen stated that he supports the motion with the understanding that once the budget is approved that the Board could choose to move funds into the AVID program at a later date.

Mr. Parker commented that the budget must support all BCPS students and programs. He stated that the superintendent has brought to the Board a good budget that serves all students in this county. Mr. Parker stated that to solve this problem Maryland school boards need taxing authority to raise funds.

After further discussion, the motion failed (favor-3; opposed-3; abstained-3).

Ms. Harris motioned to accept the superintendent's proposed budget as amended. Mr. Hayden seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call.

OLD BUSINESS (cont)

Ms. Flynn	Yes	Mr. Pallozzi	Abstained
Ms. Harris	Yes	Mr. Parker	Yes
Mr. Hayden	Yes	Ms. Shillman	Yes
Mr. Janssen	Abstained	Ms. Murphy	Yes
Ms. Johnson	No		

The motion failed (favor-6; opposed-1; abstained-2).

Mr. Pallozzi stated that he will change his vote to “yes” with a note that he is disheartened that teachers did not receive a COLA.

The Board approved the superintendent’s proposed budget with an amendment that redirects one of the four positions in the Research, Accountability, and Assessment office to the Board of Education budget (favor-7; opposed-1; abstain-1). Student representative, Miss Dittman, did not vote.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Board of Education Policies** – Ms. Frances Harris, Chairperson of the Board Policy Committee, stated that the Board of Education’s Policy Committee met to consider the policies presented this evening, and that the committee is recommending approval of these policies. This is the first reading.
- Proposed Changes to Policy 4003 – PERSONNEL: General-Sexual Harassment
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 5320 – STUDENTS: Activities-Organizations – Mr. Hayden recommended that this policy go back to the Policy Review Committee to ensure that it meets the intent of the law.
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 8360 – ETHICS CODE: Definitions
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 8361 – ETHICS CODE: General
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 8362 – ETHICS CODE: Gifts-Gifts to the Board of Education, Schools, and Offices within the School system – Mr. Hayden suggested that item “G” be removed from the policy. The policy will move forward to the second reading on February 26, 2008.
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 8364 – ETHICS CODE: Financial Disclosure
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 8365 – ETHICS CODE: Lobbying Disclosure
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 8366 – ETHICS CODE: Ethics Review Panel

REPORTS (cont)

- D. **Report on the Proposed Vincent Farm Elementary School Boundary Changes –** Dr. Robert Tomback, Assistant Superintendent, Northeast Area, reviewed the recommendation for Vincent Farm Elementary School made by the Boundary Study Committee. He stated the participants were presented with four scenarios from which to choose. Results indicated that Scenario 2A was favored by 86% of the group responses and by 67% of the individual responses. At its final meeting, the Boundary Study Committee voted unanimously to recommended scenario 2A. Under scenario 2A, Vincent Farm Elementary School would open with a boundary that would allow its enrollment to grow by nearly 300 students, thereby accommodating anticipated development within portions of the current Chapel Hill and Glenmar Elementary Schools boundaries that Vincent Farm Elementary would serve. Dr. Tomback noted that the Board would hold a public hearing on February 27, 2008, at Stemmers Run Middle School with a final decision slated to occur on March 11, 2008.

Mr. Janssen asked if the committee anticipated the attraction of students that are currently not enrolled in public school with Dr. Tomback responding affirmatively. Mr. Janssen asked if the proposed boundary changes would relieve Joppaview Elementary School. Dr. Tomback responded that the primary purpose of Vincent Farm Elementary School was to relieve overcrowding at Glenmar Elementary and Chapel Hill Elementary schools. Mr. Janssen expressed concern that Joppaview Elementary will be at 96% capacity. Mr. Janssen asked if the learning cottages would remain at Chapel Hill Elementary with Dr. Tomback responding affirmatively. Mr. Janssen asked why students were moving across two other elementary schools instead of attending the closer elementary school. Ms. Pamela Carter, Office of Strategic Planning, stated that Middlesex Elementary School was included in the boundary change because that area is a satellite area. She stated that because of density, the school system needed to shrink Glenmar Elementary's boundary to the smallest possible size, which would leave approximately 50 available seats. The satellite area has approximately 164 students. If the satellite area were placed in the Glenmar boundaries then Glenmar would be overcrowded; if the satellite area were placed into Vincent Farm boundaries, then there would be no relief for Chapel Hill Elementary. Therefore, the committee believed it was unwise to move that satellite area at this time.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits L, M, N, O, P, and Q (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 R). Mr. Janssen abstained from voting on item 13 and separated item 19 for further discussion.

The Board approved items 1-18.

1. PCR 205-06 Contract Modification: Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act Building Re-inspections and Management Plans
2. MBE-520-07 Contract Modification: Fueling Stations Upgrades
3. RGA-165-08 Contract Modification: Grant Development Service
4. PCR 299-08 Glass and Glazing Products
5. RGA-163-08 On-line Catalog Platform
6. PCR 289-08 Overhead Doors and Folding Doors Repair and Maintenance
7. MBU-557-08 Painting Services
8. PCR 208-08 Production Photocopy Equipment
9. MWE-890-08 School Bus Tire Recapping
10. JMI-613-08 Tennis Court and Running Track Repair Materials and Associated Equipment
11. JMI-622-04 Contract Assignment: HAZMAT Clean-up/Disposal Services
12. PCR-213-06 Contract Modification: Systemic Renovations – General John Stricker Middle School
13. MWE-824-06 Contract Modification: Systemic Renovation – Holabird Middle School
14. MBU-557-06 Contract Modification: Systemic Renovation – Ridgely Middle School
15. JMI-716-08 Contract Modification: Systemic Renovation – Sparrows Point Middle/High School
16. PCR-285-08 Roof Replacement – Cockeysville Middle School
17. MWE-891-08 Exterior Lighting Upgrade – Franklin Elementary School
18. MWE-895-08 Exterior Lighting Upgrade – Owings Mills Elementary School

Item 19

Mr. Janssen expressed concern with increasing capacities at high schools and that the school system is creating warehouses instead of high schools.

The Board approved item 19 (favor-7; opposed-3). Ms. Harris, Mr. Hayden, and Mr. Janssen opposed this item.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

19. JNI-721-08 Request to Negotiate: Consultant Services – Architectural/ Engineering (A/E) services for Addition at Loch Raven High School

FY 2009 STATE AND COUNTY CAPITAL BUDGET

Ms. Burnopp presented the revised FY 2009 state and county capital budget and the revised FY 2009-2014 county capital request. Three projects have been moved in the state request from FY 2010 to FY 2009. The projects are to construct additions at Dogwood Elementary School, Cedarmere Elementary School, and Loch Raven High School.

Ms. Shillman asked why the auditorium upgrades to Woodlawn High School were listed twice. Ms. Burnopp responded that this is the same project: page 2 is the summary page and page 9 is the detail of the county budget by fiscal year. Ms. Shillman stated she cannot vote in favor of a budget that includes upgrades to multi-use courts, tennis courts, and extra parking for elementary schools when the money should be redirected for rest room upgrades and school air conditioning.

Mr. Hayden motioned to approve the proposed revised state and county capital budgets. Mr. Pallozzi seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call.

Ms. Flynn	Yes	Mr. Pallozzi	Yes
Ms. Harris	Yes	Mr. Parker	Yes
Mr. Hayden	Yes	Ms. Shillman	Abstained
Mr. Janssen	Abstained	Ms. Murphy	Yes
Ms. Johnson	Abstained		

The motion failed (favor-6; abstained-3). Student representative, Miss Dittman, did not vote.

Mr. Michael Sines, Executive Director of Physical Facilities, addressed the Board in response to Ms. Shillman's concerns. He noted that the capital program incorporates the air conditioning issue. He stated that the school system has incorporated air conditioning at the middle school level and is incorporating the air conditioning component in each bid specification at the high school level. When bids come in, the Board can accept or reject the bid based on real dollar cost factors. Mr. Janssen commented that no motion has been placed on the table for discussion. Ms. Murphy stated that the information being presented by Mr. Sines is helpful to the Board and the public.

Mr. Sines stated that unless the Board adopts a budget this evening, there would be no state capital budget. Ms. Burnopp commented that the three additions being added to the budget would not be considered by the state if not approved by the Board tonight.

Ms. Shillman motioned to amend the budget and redirect approximately \$8 million from multi-use courts, tennis courts, and parking lots with the exception of Campfield Elementary School towards upgrading rest rooms and/or air conditioning. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

FY 2009 STATE AND COUNTY CAPITAL BUDGET (cont)

Mr. Pallozzi expressed concern that taking the funding from athletics at this time could either hurt the programs or jeopardize students seeking scholarships.

Ms. Harris asked why Campfield Elementary needs a parking lot more than the other schools listed on the budget. Ms. Shillman responded that Campfield Elementary is an infant and toddlers program for children that have some type of disability. Parents need to park closer to the school for safety reasons.

Mr. Hayden motioned to amend the motion to reinsert the budget as previously proposed. Mr. Parker seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call.

Ms. Flynn	Yes	Mr. Pallozzi	Yes
Ms. Harris	Yes	Mr. Parker	Yes
Mr. Hayden	Yes	Ms. Shillman	Abstained
Mr. Janssen	Abstained	Ms. Murphy	Yes
Ms. Johnson	Abstained		

The motion failed (favor-6; abstained-3). Student representative, Miss Dittman, did not vote. P. Tyson Bennett, Esq., Board's Counsel, noted that the vote currently taken was to amend Ms. Shillman's motion. Ms. Shillman's motion is now on the floor and was seconded by Ms. Johnson.

Ms. Harris asked if tennis courts have to be in schools. Mr. Sines responded that if the school system knowingly and actively disregards the conditions and safety components relative to fields, the Board puts itself at risk. The list of needs will not be reduced by deferring projects. Mr. Sines stated that if the tennis courts are not replaced or repaired, then they need to be removed.

Ms. Harris asked whether the school system needs a portion of the \$8 million to repair parking areas that are poorly damaged. Mr. Sines responded that the more damage that takes place through inclement weather and normal use vehicles could be parking over potholes. He stated that it is a matter of securing the funding.

Ms. Johnson asked if air conditioning was included in the Catonsville High School renovation project. Mr. Sines responded that air conditioning is within the scope of the project and the budget estimates. Ms. Johnson asked how many high schools do not have air conditioning. Mr. Sines responded that part of the capital budget in front of the Board this evening includes feasibility studies for eight high schools. The limited renovation program allows BCPS' leverage and opportunities that it has never had before.

The vote was taken by roll call.

Ms. Flynn	No	Mr. Pallozzi	No
Ms. Harris	No	Mr. Parker	No
Mr. Hayden	No	Ms. Shillman	Yes
Mr. Janssen	No	Ms. Murphy	No
Ms. Johnson	Yes		

FY 2009 STATE AND COUNTY CAPITAL BUDGET (cont)

The motion failed (favor-2; opposed-7).

Mr. Hayden motioned that the capital budget previously submitted by the Board be amended by increasing the state request by Dogwood Elementary School in the amount of \$2,480,000, Cedarmere Elementary School in the amount of \$1,940,000, Loch Raven High School in the amount of \$6,930,000, and that the county request be increased with respect to Loch Raven High School in the amount of \$9,440,000. Mr. Pallozzi seconded the motion.

Mr. Janssen requested advice from counsel since the original budget did not pass. Mr. Bennett stated that the Superintendent's recommendation was "for the Board to adopt the superintendent's revised budget", and the vote failed. The motion now is to adopt only a portion of what the Superintendent recommended. Mr. Janssen stated that the motion sounds like a change in the agenda. Mr. Bennett stated that Roberts' Rules allows a Board to deal with a different motion or substitute motion as long as it is germane to the main topic. Since the main topic is an adoption of a capital budget, this motion would be germane.

Ms. Harris asked about the \$2 million for the Towson Area Overcrowding. Ms. Burnopp responded that only the title changed and not the dollar amount. The title was Mays Chapel.

The vote was taken by roll call.

Ms. Flynn	Yes	Mr. Pallozzi	Yes
Ms. Harris	Yes	Mr. Parker	Yes
Mr. Hayden	Yes	Ms. Shillman	Yes
Mr. Janssen	Abstained	Ms. Murphy	Yes
Ms. Johnson	Yes		

The Board approved the amended state request for Dogwood Elementary School in the amount of \$2,480,000, Cedarmere Elementary School in the amount of \$1,490,000, Loch Raven High School in the amount of \$6,930,000, and the county request be increased with respect to Loch Raven High School in the amount of \$9,440,000 (favor-8; abstain-1). Student representative, Miss Dittman, did not vote.

LEGISLATION 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.

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted to oppose HB15 – Task Force on Classroom Indoor Air Quality Standards (favor-9; abstained-1).

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted to oppose HB21 – Education-Compulsory Attendance – Age of Withdrawal (favor-9; abstained-1).

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted unanimously to oppose HB23 – Maryland Green Buildings Standards of 2008.

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board voted unanimously to support HB49 – Maryland High School Assessment Test Results.

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted unanimously to oppose HB367 – Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation – Consolidation of Workforce Development Functions-Transfer of Adult Education and Literacy Services and Education Programs for Correctional Facilities.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board voted to oppose SB77 – Children in Informational Kinship Care Relationship (favor-8; opposed-2).

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted unanimously to support SB150 – Creation of State Debt-Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2008, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. FY08 Financial Report for months ending December 31, 2006 and 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Murphy made the following announcements:

- The Southwest Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, at Baltimore Highlands Elementary School beginning at 7:00 pm.
- The Central Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at Loch Raven High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2008, in observance of Presidents' Day. Schools will reopen for students and teachers on Tuesday, February 19, 2008.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 4:30 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 officers of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group on February 26, 2008, from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold a public hearing on the proposed boundaries for Vincent Farm Elementary School on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, at Stemmers Run Middle School beginning at approximately 7:00 p.m. Sign-up for the public to comment begins at 6:00 p.m. Each speaker will be allotted three minutes to present his/her topic to the Board.

Ms. Murphy 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.

Ms. Murphy also asked speakers to observe the light system, which lets the speaker know when time is up. She asked speakers to conclude their remarks when they see the red light.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 6000

No one from the public spoke on this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 6115

No one from the public spoke on this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 6120

No one from the public spoke on this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 6145

No one from the public spoke on this policy.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked that stakeholders work with him to stop HB 954 and pursue an elected school board.

Mr. Mohammad Jameel stated that the last four county budgets have tied the school board's hands. Mr. Jameel believes that the Board should solicit for taxing authority.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:54 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

bls