

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 4:53 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. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, 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.

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

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

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), and (a)(8) and upon motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board commenced its closed session at 4:55 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 4:55 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. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, 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 the following staff members were present: Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff; Mr. William Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, Northwest Area; Dr. Robert Tomback, Assistant Superintendent, Northeast Area; Mr. Lyle Patzkowsky, Assistant Superintendent, Central Area; Edward Novak, Esq., Assistant General Counsel; 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.

J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent, entered the room at 5:05 p.m.

Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 5:11 p.m.

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

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (cont)

Dr. Peccia and Dr. Arrington exited the room at 5:16 p.m.

Mr. Bennett provided legal advice to the Board regarding hearing officer's opinions in the case to be considered this evening.

Ms. Murphy asked staff members to exit the room at 5:20 p.m. Board members discussed the Superintendent's contract.

At 6:12 p.m., Mr. Pallozzi moved the Board adjourn for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Ms. Harris and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:34 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. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, 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 Miss Yvette Pappoe, a student at Randallstown High School, followed by a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Dr. Hairston noted that there was a change to tonight's agenda; item X, New Business, Consideration of the Superintendent's Contract, has been pulled.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Open Minutes of February 5, 2008; the Open and Closed Minutes of February 13, 2008; and the Public Hearing on the Vincent Farm Elementary School Boundary Changes of February 27, 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

Ms. Rebecca Palardy, President of the Baltimore County Student Council and Superintendent's Student Council Advisory Group, reported on its annual lobbying trip to Annapolis and the Maryland State Convention.

Dr. Francine Schaffer, a representative of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, introduced Kimberly and Laura Davidov, a student and mother who shared their experiences with the virtual instruction program.

Ms. Jan Thomas, Chair of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, stated that when the capital budget was proposed no one spoke about the movement of Ridge Ruxton to Mays Chapel or the adding 400 seats to Ridge Ruxton. She stated that the Board needs to make the process transparent and review all possibilities. Ms. Thomas asked Board members to consider visiting Ridge Ruxton School.

Mr. Clifford Collins, Chair of the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on its meeting held March 4. He stated that the council supports an increase in teachers' salaries. Mr. Collins urged the Board to review its strategies for retaining and hiring teachers.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Chair of the Baltimore County Education Coalition, stated that it is a huge disappointment that Thornton, or Bridge to Excellence, was not funded. With respect to Towson overcrowding, Ms. Kennedy urged the Board to do what is best for the students.

Mr. Stephen Crum, Chair of the Career & Technology Education Advisory Council, reported on the council's visit to Chesapeake High School to review the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program.

Ms. Susan Katz, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, reported on the PTA's annual Reflections Award Ceremony held at New Town High School. Students created works of art in six categories and over 1,000 projects were submitted. Ms. Katz announced that the council's next meeting would be held on March 13, 2008, at Loch Raven High School.

Ms. Jan Thomas, Chair of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, introduced Ms. Laura Mullens, PTSA President of Ridge Ruxton School, expressed concern over the proposed funding of the 400-seat addition on tonight's agenda.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, expressed concern that the Superintendent and Board were unwilling to include COLAs for teachers and all employees in the FY 2009 budget. She urged the Board to not consider giving an increase to the Superintendent since other employees are not receiving COLAs. Lastly, Ms. Bost provided to Board members a letter on behalf of the teachers at the three alternative governance schools with respect to the structuring plans.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

There was no Superintendent's report for this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Education Policies

The Board Policy Committee, represented by Ms. Harris, recommended approval of seven policies. This is the third reading.

Mr. Janssen moved to approve the seven policies as presented. Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Mr. Hayden motion to amend this policy by deleting paragraph G, which states, "A Board member may not accept complimentary tickets to attend events that the Board member may know or have reason to know are from or on behalf of political candidates or elected officials." The motion was seconded by Ms. Flynn. The motion failed (in favor-2; opposed-10).

The Board approved the following proposed policies (in favor-11; opposed-1).

- Proposed Changes to Policy 4003 – PERSONNEL: General-Sexual Harassment
- 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
- 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

Proposed Boundaries for Vincent Farm Elementary School

Ms. O'Hare moved approval of the Boundary Committee's recommendation, Scenario 2A, for Vincent Farm Elementary School (exhibit I). The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson.

Mr. Hayden asked what significant difference there would be if the boundary line was moved to Route 40 instead of Route 7. Dr. Tomback, Northeast Area Assistant Superintendent, responded that moving the boundary would not create enough relief for Chapel Hill Elementary School. The primary purpose for opening Vincent Farm Elementary School was to relieve Chapel Hill Elementary School of overcrowding. Mr. Hayden asked whether there would be vacant space in Chapel Hill Elementary School if the boundaries remained the way they are. Ms. Pamela Carter, Strategic Planning Specialist, responded that the committee has looked at all of the possibilities and by using Scenario 2A's recommended boundaries, Chapel Hill Elementary School would be under capacity by approximately 150 seats. If the boundary line is moved east of Route 7, Chapel Hill would be 88 seats under capacity. If the boundary was moved far east of Route 40, Chapel Hill would be 60-70 seats under capacity.

The Board unanimously approved the Scenario 2A.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. The Board adopted the following resolution proclaiming March as Professional Social Work Month:

WHEREAS, *Professional social workers have over a century of experience helping individuals, groups, families, and organizations make changes that benefit the common good; and*

WHEREAS, *School social workers, employed in jurisdictions across this country since 1906 and were the nation's first visiting teachers, continue today to provide psycho-educational services, after-school enrichment programs, and family support to help children experience success in school; and*

WHEREAS, *School social work services provides assistance to students with poor academic progress, poor social-emotional adjustment, and severe environmental stressors that interfere with learning; and*

WHEREAS, *School social workers, licensed and certified, identify barriers to learning, provide therapeutic interventions in support of academic achievement to assist students in becoming more available for learning; and*

WHEREAS, *School social workers collaboratively assist staff in developing social-emotional learning objectives to assist students in meeting with academic success; and*

WHEREAS, *School social workers provide links between the home and school; and locate or partner with community resources to promote students' academic achievement; and*

WHEREAS, *School social workers advocate that all students can achieve success in schools that are nurturing, safe, and orderly environments; and*

WHEREAS, *School social workers continue to promote the development of programs that encourage parental participation in schools; to increase student engagement and achievement; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED *That the Board of Education of Baltimore County extends its deepest appreciation to school social workers for their continuous support of public education, their skilled interventions to support the teaching and learning process, and for their dedicated and committed services to students and their families; and be it further*

RESOLVED *That the Board of Education of Baltimore County does hereby proclaim the month of March 2008 as Professional Social Work Month.*

- B. **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 recommends approval of these policies. This is the first reading.

REPORTS (cont)

- Proposed Changes to Policy 4006 – PERSONNEL: General-Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6115.1 (renumbered to Policy 6116) – INSTRUCTION: Patriotic Exercises
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 6141.1 – INSTRUCTION: Curriculum-Experimental Programs
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6166 – INSTRUCTION: Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

C. **Report on Connections Academy** – Mr. Dale Rauenzahn, Executive Director of Student Support Services, provided an update on Baltimore County’s Virtual Instruction Program (BCVIP). Joining Mr. Rauenzahn were Ms. Mikki Revenaugh, Vice President of Connections Academy and current principal of Connections Academy, Ms. Sandy Philpot. Mr. Rauenzahn noted that the information would be provided in three parts:

- Student Demographics – The table below shows the grade distribution of students in BCVIP, with a specific breakdown of those “enrolled at start” (the formerly home schooled students) and those entering the program mid-fall from the Home and Hospital program through January 2008.

<i>Grade Level</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
Enrolled at Start	4	9	5	2	6	5	16	4	15	22	12		100
Home/Hospital				1					1	1	1	2	6
Total	4	9	5	3	6	5	16	4	16	23	13	2	106
Withdrawn		2	4	1	2	2	4	2	3	2	2	1	25

- Reviewed two virtual school lessons
- Case history of current students

Ms. Harris asked how the BCVIP differs from home schooling. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that these children are now being schooled by BCPS use through this vendor. This was a pilot year, and ideally, BCPS sees this program being a complimentary to the Home and Hospital program.

Ms. Shillman asked if more home and hospital students could benefit from this program. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that is because of the program’s delivery system, BCPS needed students that would be served by the Home and Hospital program for a full year; few students remain for such an extended length of time. Ms. Shillman asked if BCPS receives a federal “credit” for this program. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that BCPS receives FTE from the state and county for students enrolled in the BCVIP. He noted that this year is a pilot year; therefore, the cost is free to the school system for this year.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Hayden asked whether there are other competitive programs available and whether BCPS be comparing data with those programs. Mr. Rauenzahn responded affirmatively; an RFP will be generated in this spring so that other companies will be able to bid.

Ms. Johnson asked how soon BCPS would receive the MSA results from the program. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that the results should be received in August or September of 2008.

Ms. Shillman asked whether students who are suspended for non-violent offenses, would be able to participate in this program. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that this is a long-term program not a short-term program. Ms. Shillman would like to see this program assist alternative students.

Mr. Janssen asked if BCPS was aware of any constitutional challenges in other states. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that challenges are based on funding source but that BCPS will monitor these cases.

Mr. Rauenzahn presented two virtual instruction lessons and three student scenarios, which demonstrated the flexibility and management of this program to meet the needs of the students.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits O, P, Q, and R (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes).

H.E. OPINION IN CASE #08-05

On a motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board approved that the hearing examiner's opinion in case #08-05 be affirmed (favor-9; opposed-0; abstained-2). Miss Dittman did not vote.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS

The Building and Contracts Committee, represented by Ms. Shillman, recommended approval of items 1-17 (Exhibit S). Ms. Shillman separated items 16 and 17 for further discussion.

The Board approved these recommendations.

1. MBU-525-05 Contract Modification: Stage Curtains--Provide, Clean, Repair, and Install Stage Curtains and Systems, Track, Scrim and Parts and Materials-Hardware

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

2. JMI-610-08 Boiler/Pressure Vessel/Hot Water Generator Installations, Repairs, Inspections, Preventative Maintenance, and Parts
3. JMI-625-08 Building Renovations - Alterations
4. JMI-720-08 Grant Manager, Measurement of Teacher and School-based Administrator Technology Literacy Grant
5. JMI-629-08 Motor Vehicles
6. MBU-569-08 Plumbing
7. JMI-623-08 Professional Video Equipment and Associated Services
8. JMI-636-08 Sedans
9. JMI-712-06 Contract Modification: Renovations – Old Court Middle School
10. JMI-642-06 Contract Modification: Design/Build Window and Exterior Door Replacement – Stemmers Run Middle School
11. PCR-261-07 Contract Modification: Renovations - Sudbrook Magnet Middle School
12. JMI-757-07 Contract Modification: Design Services for Systemic Renovations - Sudbrook Magnet Middle School
13. MBU-556-08 Additions and Renovations – Food Services Warehouse
14. MWE-894-08 Automatic Temperature Control Replacement – Hernwood Elementary School
15. MWE-896-08 Exterior Lighting Upgrade – Warren Elementary School

Item #16

Ms. Shillman stated that if this design fee is for an addition to Ridge Ruxton School, the design should include cafeteria and multi-purpose rooms separate from the current Ridge Ruxton students.

Mr. Hayden stated that this matter should be not handled at this time. Board members need time to talk with the community and see whether other alternatives are available.

Ms. Harris commented that while optimal ideas about Ridge Ruxton School were available, if the Board did not like it the school system would receive nothing, based upon her understanding of negotiations with the county executive. Ms. Harris believes that this is not optimal but may be the only option for which BCPS receives funding from the county government.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

Ms. O'Hare stated that she felt the Mays Chapel site was a good solution for the needy students. Ms. O'Hare also commented that with all the development occurring in Baltimore County, the school system has not paid attention to infrastructure needs; the county has not set aside land for schools, only for developing. Ms. O'Hare would like to see the Mays Chapel property on the table again for consideration.

Mr. Janssen stated that one of the concerns he raised in the committee meeting was the school system is not serving the needs of current and/or future students. He concurs with Mr. Hayden's comments to look further into the issue with more depth.

Mr. Janssen moved to defer this item. Ms. O'Hare seconded the motion. The motion carried to defer item #16, Request to Negotiate: Consultant Services – Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Services for Elementary School Addition (in favor-10; opposed-1). Ms. Flynn opposed deferring this item. Miss Dittman did not vote.

Item #17

Ms. Shillman stated that the high school design would be for a new George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology.

Ms. O'Hare stated that, in light of the many needs within the school system, she believes that \$65 million would be better spent elsewhere, including beginning an air conditioning program, or moving our most needy schools to the top of the list.

Ms. Harris expressed concern that the proposal made is to build a new high school in the area and include George Washington Carver Center as a magnet school. She believes that adding to several schools is not good for the students. Ms. Harris asked the Superintendent what would happen if the Board failed to act on this contract. Dr. Hairston responded that it would put the school system behind. Dr. Hairston noted that the school system is short on building and development sights.

Mr. Hayden stated this is an optimal sight and would be very well serviced. This high school also provides an excellent educational opportunity for students. Ms. Murphy concurred with Mr. Hayden's comments.

On a motion of Mr. Pallozzi, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board approved item 17 (in favor-8; opposed-3). Ms. O'Hare, Ms. Harris, and Ms. Johnson opposed this item. Miss Dittman did not vote.

17. JMI-631-08 Request to Negotiate: Consultant Services –
Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Services for New High School
Design

CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

The Curriculum Committee, represented by Ms. Johnson, recommended approval of the curriculum programs being presented this evening.

- On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the Scopes and Sequences for Core Areas of Mathematics, Science, English/Language Arts, and Social Studies, as presented in exhibit T.
- On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved the Revised Kindergarten Guides for Language Arts and Mathematics, as presented in exhibit U.

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. He also introduced Edward J. Novak, Associated General Counsel, who would be succeeding him in Annapolis.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. New Superintendent's Rule 4003 – PERSONNEL: General-Sexual Harassment
- B. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 6161.3 – INSTRUCTION: Supplementary Materials
- C. Financial Report for months ending January 31, 2007 and 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Murphy made the following announcements:

- The Central Area Education Advisory Council will hold its capital pre-budget meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at Dumbarton Middle School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Northeast Area Education Advisory Council will hold its capital pre-budget meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at Pine Grove Middle School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Southwest Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at Winfield Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Schools and offices will be closed for Spring Break from March 21 thru 28, 2008. Schools and offices will reopen on Monday, March 31, 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- On Wednesday, April 2, 2008, the Board of Education's Spring Recognition Ceremony will be held at Loch Raven High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 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.

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 2361

No one from the public signed up to speak on this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 3420

No one from the public signed up to speak on this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 8339

No one from the public signed up to speak on this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 8340

No one from the public signed up to speak on this policy.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Cathy Forbes expressed her thanks to the Board for voting to restudy the Ridge Ruxton school proposal.

Mr. Dennis King thanked the Board for deferring the consultant services for an addition at Ridge Ruxton School.

Ms. Alyson Bonavoglia echoed comments of two previous speakers. She asked that capital solutions come from BCPS and not from county government.

Ms. Michelle Lane stated that while the Board may need to consider an addition to Ridge Ruxton School, she asked the Board to consider that medically fragile children would have the opportunity to associate with children and, hopefully, develop friendships with them.

Mr. Mohammad Jameel asked the Board to give the calendar committee direction to add one Muslim holiday to the school calendar.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business, the Board adjourned its meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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