

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 5:39 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: 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., and Ms. Joy Shillman. 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 April and May.

Ms. Murphy distributed a proposal before the Board with respect to piloting a change to the Board meeting configuration. Ms. Murphy asked Board members to review the proposal for further discussion at the next meeting.

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 5:49 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:49 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: 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: J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff; Mr. William Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, Northwest Area; Dr. Robert Tomback, Assistant Superintendent, Northeast Area; Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent, Southwest Area; Ms. Jean Satterfield, Assistant Superintendent, Southeast Area; Mr. Lyle Patzkowsky, Assistant Superintendent, Central Area; Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Governmental Relations; Dr. Alpheus Arrington, Director, Personnel Staffing; Mr. Daniel Capozzi, Staff Relations Manager; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., General Counsel; Edward J. Novak, Esq., Assistant General Counsel; 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.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (cont)

Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 6:04 p.m.

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

Mr. Bennett provided legal advice to the Board regarding hearing officers' opinions in two cases to be considered this evening.

At 6:40 p.m., Ms. Harris 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 7:36 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: 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 Captain Thomas Busch, 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 Open and Closed Minutes of February 26, 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

Dr. Al Thompson, a representative of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, introduced Ms. Brittany Williams, a student at Dundalk High School, who shared with Board members how she had personally benefited from the high school evening program.

Ms. Jan Thomas, Chair of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on the council's capital pre-budget hearing, which had over 120 attendees. Ms. Thomas introduced Ms. Alyson Bonavoglia, who stated that she was glad to see that item 24 of the contracts exhibit was a feasibility study and not a design study.

Mr. Peter Mattes, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on its March 19 capital pre-budget meeting. He also stated that the Northeast Council is requesting the Board to conduct a land-use study to purchase new land for a high school in the northeast area.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, a representative of the Baltimore County Education Coalition, introduced Ms. Laura Mullen, who stated that by adding a 400-seat addition to Ridge Ruxton School the least restrictive legal principle is negated thus violating the education plan in IDEA.

Mr. Stephen Crum, Chair of the Career & Technology Education Advisory Council, reported on its meeting with respect to scholarship awards. He also announced that the Career and Technology Education dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

Ms. Susan Katz, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, introduced Ms. Doreen Garrett, PTSA President of Woodlawn High School, who talked about some of the positive things occurring at the school due to restructuring. Ms. Garrett also requested that Woodlawn High School receive seasoned, certified teachers; additional security; and textbooks for students.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, asked the Board to consider a budget supplement to include at least a 2% or 3% COLA.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston acknowledged the attendance of Senator Jim Brochin (Maryland State Senate, District 42).

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. O'Hare moved to authorize the Board president to execute the Superintendent's contract. The motion was seconded by Ms. Harris.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS (cont)

In absentia, Ms. Flynn requested her statement be read by Mr. Hayden.

Mr. Hayden stated he would vote against the contract this evening.

The Board approved the authorization of the Board President to executive the Superintendent's contract (in favor-10; opposed-1). Mr. Hayden opposed the Superintendent's contract.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Governmental Relations, recognized the administrative appointments made at the March 11, 2008 Board meeting:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Randolph C. Smith (Effective March 12, 2008)	Supervisor Architect Department of Physical Facilities	Manager Construction/Renovations Department of Physical Facilities

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Education Policies

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

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board approved the following proposed policies:

- Proposed Changes to Policy 3420 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Transportation Services-Routes and Services
- Proposed Changes to Policy 8339 – INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Operation-Appeal Before Hearing Examiners
- Proposed Changes to Policy 8340 – INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Operation-Appeal Before the Board of Education

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Report on Proposed Board Meeting Schedule for 2008-2009** – Ms. Murphy reviewed the proposed Board meeting dates for the upcoming year with Board members. The Board will vote on the proposed schedule at the April 22, 2008 Board meeting.
- 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 is recommending approval of these policies. This is the first reading.
- Proposed Changes to Policy 1260 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement-School Volunteers
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 3410 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Transportation Services-Responsibilities and Duties
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 3530 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Physical Plant Services-Safety and Security
 - Proposed Deletion of Policy 6145.4 – INSTRUCTION: Curriculum-Public Performances and Exhibitions
 - Proposed Deletion of Policy 6145.7 – INSTRUCTION: Curriculum-Guidelines for Drama Productions
 - Proposed Deletion of Policy 6164.8 – INSTRUCTION: Health Education
- C. **Report on Safe Schools** – Mr. Dale Rauenzahn, Executive Director of Student Support Services, highlighted some of the initiatives that BCPS has implemented concerning gangs and gang awareness, and the Gang Resistance Education (GREAT) program, now piloted at the Crossroads Center. Ms. Glenda Myrick, Coordinator of Safe and Drug Free Schools, reviewed BCPS’ partnership with the Baltimore County Police Department and the goals and strategies developed to address the gang issue.

Captain Thomas Busch, Facilitator of Safe Schools, stated that, at the present, BCPS does not have a problem with hard-core gangs in the schools. When an incident occurs in the community and schools, precinct commanders work with SROs and school administrators to quickly address the issue. Officer Tony Barr, School Resource Officer (SRO) at Parkville High School, reviewed a specific program that he developed at the school by viewing students’ MYSPACE Web sites and discussing issues with parents.

Mr. Hines asked Officer Barr how was he able to be successful in getting parents involved. Officer Barr responded that he contacted each parent and explained that their child may be involved in unsuitable activities.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Parker asked what has been the reaction of students once the parent/guardian has been informed. Officer Barr responded that students spoke of why they initially became a gang member. He also noted that parents were concerned about how the student could leave the gang safely. Officer Barr commented that parents meet weekly with a 90% attendance rate and that students accompany the parents to the meeting.

Ms. Johnson asked approximately how many gangs currently exist in Baltimore County and is that number growing. Officer Barr responded that while he is unsure how many gangs exist in the county; this particular gang had 30 to 40 members.

Mr. Janssen asked if there was a profile on why some students would join gangs. Officer Barr responded that students join for popularity; students do not understand what it means to be part of a gang. Mr. Janssen asked whether the next step would be to add onto this program. Ms. Myrick stated that BCPS can expand this program into other schools.

Mr. Parker asked whether the recruitment of gangs is community- or school-based. Officer Barr responded it is a combination of both.

Using the Safari Montage Resource Portal, Mr. Rauenzahn showed a harassment and bullying video created by students at George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

HEARING OFFICERS' OPINIONS

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board approved that the hearing examiner's opinions in cases #07-39 be affirmed (in favor-10; opposed-0; abstained-0). Miss Dittman did not vote on this item.

On a motion of Mr. Pallozzi, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board approved that the hearing examiner's opinions in cases #08-13 be affirmed (in favor-10; opposed-0; abstained-0). Miss Dittman did not vote on this item.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS

The Building and Contracts Committee, represented by Ms. Shillman, recommended approval of items 1-25 (Exhibit S). Mr. Janssen separated item 24 for further discussion; Ms. Shillman separated item 25 for further discussion.

The Board approved items 1 through 23.

1. Contract Modification: Prefabricated Traffic Signs
2. Electrical Installations, Repairs, Upgrades, and Preventative Maintenance
3. Lamps, Large
4. Resolution: Financing of Vehicles
5. Contract Modification: Systemic Renovation – General John Stricker Middle School
6. Contract Modification: Systemic Renovation – Pine Grove Middle School
7. Contract Modification: Systemic Renovation – Sparrows Point Middle/High School
8. Contract Modification: Systemic and Programmatic Renovation – Sudbrook Magnet Middle School
9. Contract Modification: Systemic Renovation – Woodlawn Middle School
10. Split System Air Conditioner – Berkshire Elementary School
11. Exterior Door Replacement and Installation – Dundalk High School
12. Chiller Replacement Construction Contract – Greenwood Executive Building C
13. Unit Ventilator Replacement – Hawthorne Elementary School
14. Locker Replacement and Installation – Golden Ring Middle School, Middlesex Elementary School, and Stemmers run Middle School
15. Lecture Hall Renovations – Owings Mills High School
16. Serving Lines and Kitchen Hood Replacement – Ridgely Middle School
17. Fee Acceptance: Feasibility and Design Services – High School Renovations at Dundalk High School
18. Fee Acceptance: Feasibility and Design Services – High School Renovations at Franklin High School
19. Fee Acceptance: Feasibility and Design Services – High School Renovations at Hereford High School
20. Fee Acceptance: Feasibility and Design Services – High School Renovations at Kenwood High School
21. Fee Acceptance: Feasibility and Design Services – High School Renovations at Milford Mill Academy

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

22. Fee Acceptance: Feasibility and Design Services – High School Renovations at Parkville High School
23. Fee Acceptance: Feasibility and Design Services – High School Renovations at Sollers Point Technical High School

Item #24

Mr. Hayden requested clarification on the “negotiating for the preparation of feasibility studies” and the inclusion of “addition project.” Ms. Shillman stated the feasibility studies are a separate consideration and staff will bring those studies to the Board. Mr. Hayden stated that, as the feasibility study moved forward, he would like the property bordering Highland Avenue, West Allegheny Avenue, and Central Avenue be consider for a new elementary school.

Ms. O’Hare expressed a concern with the word “addition” in the exhibit. Ms. O’Hare moved to amend the exhibit by removing the word “addition” from the description of the exhibit. Ms. Harris seconded the amendment.

Mr. Parker stated that the Board wants a comprehensive feasibility study and should be careful of the wording. Mr. Sines stated that BCPS will not have seats available if the school system does not move forward with the project. BCPS staff would like to have the flexibility to bring back viable recommendations to the Board. BCPS will provide a very specific charge to the design team, working with the Law Office and MSDE. The second beginning point would be to begin an educational specification for whatever recommendation the Board will support.

Ms. Murphy stated that the Board has stated it wants to be data-driven. If the Board fails to see the data, then we are failing children. The Board’s intent is to look at the broadest possibilities for the children.

Mr. Janssen concurred with Ms. Murphy’s statement. He stated that the Board would need to review the feasibility study and then make a sound decision based on the data.

Ms. Shillman stated the reason for the use of “addition” is budgetary. The Board needs to consider an addition as well as a new building.

Mr. Pallozzi stated that he is in favor of completing the feasibility study to find out what possibilities are available.

The Board approved amending the exhibit by removing the word “addition” from the exhibit (in favor-9; opposed-1; abstained-1). Ms. Murphy opposed the amendment, and Ms. Shillman abstained from voting.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

The Board approved the recommendation from the Buildings and Contract Committee to negotiate for the preparation of feasibility studies.

24. Request to Negotiate: Consultant Services – Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Services for Addressing Towson Area Elementary School Overcrowding

Item #25

Ms. Shillman noted that this item required a two-part vote: 1) easement for right-of-way on US Route 1; and 2) the placement of four banner poles on Perry Hall Elementary School.

On a motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board approved “securing the right-of-way, easements, and/or other rights necessary for highway construction improvements to US-1.”

Ms. Shillman stated that the Perry Hall White Marsh Business Association is requesting permission to place four banner poles on the school property to promote the community’s activities.

Ms. Harris stated that these are four poles spaced in front of the school and across the street to display community’s activities. The signs would have to be approved by the school system before posting.

Ms. Shillman believes the signage sets a precedent and recommended that the Board vote against this item.

Ms. O’Hare asked what would be placed on the banners. Mr. Sines responded that the type of banner would measure 21 inches by 36 inches.

On a motion of Mr. Pallozzi, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board approved the request to place four banner poles on Perry Hall Elementary School (in favor-8; opposed-3). Ms. Harris, Mr. Parker, and Ms. Shillman opposed the item.

25. Request for Right-of-Way: Perry Hall Elementary School

CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

The Curriculum Committee, represented by Ms. Johnson, recommended approval of the 46 Mathematics Curriculum Guides, K-12, as presented in exhibit T (in favor-10; abstained-1). Miss Dittman abstained from voting on this item.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Governmental Relations, reviewed key pieces of legislation considered by the General Assembly that affect Baltimore County Public Schools.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 6120 – INSTRUCTION: Objectives of the Instructional Program
- B. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 6161.4 – INSTRUCTION: Written Request from Pupils for Information Pertaining to Studies
- C. Policy Editing Conventions

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Murphy made the following announcements:

- The Northwest Area Education Advisory Council will hold its capital pre-budget meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at Woodholme Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Southwest Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at Catonsville High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Central Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at Riderwood Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 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 Board will host the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks for dinner on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

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 4006

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED DELETION OF POLICY 6115.1 (renumbered to 6116)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED DELETION OF POLICY 6141.1

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 6166

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Yara Cheikh stated that the Hampton Association supports a new elementary school in the Towson area. She also shared her concerns of an addition to Ridge Ruxton School and asked for greater transparency regarding the Loch Raven High School addition.

Mr. Mohammad Jameel ask the Board to approve one holiday, Eid-al-Fitr, in the 2009-2010 school calendar.

Ms. Donna McDonough expressed concern that all teachers will not be receiving a COLA. She stated that teachers' workload has increased, planning time constant, and no increase.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Mr. Ori Shebazz expressed his appreciation for the AVID funding. He requested assistance at Woodlawn High School with respect to intervention between administration and teachers.

Dr. Bash Pharoan stated that the calendar committee did not present any data to close schools on one religious holiday and that the Board is not extending the same to other minorities.

Ms. Kanual Rehman asked the Board to add two Muslim holidays to the school calendar.

Ms. Judy Weber expressed discouragement that a new special education school would not be built on the Mays Chapel site and asked the Board to reconsider the Mays Chapel feasibility study.

Mr. Dennis King asked the Board not to add an addition to the Ridge Ruxton School.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business, the Board adjourned its meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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