

APPROVED MINUTES (6/10/08)

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 4:03 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., and Ms. Joy Shillman. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

The Board entertained oral argument in Hearing Examiner's Case #06-37/#07-06. The matter was heard in closed session.

In addition to the above listed Board members, the following persons were present for oral argument: the Appellant; Damon Felton, Esquire, Maryland State Teachers Association Attorney; Saurabh Gupta, Esquire, MSTTA Attorney; Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esquire, General Counsel; Edward Novak, Esquire, Assistant General Counsel; P. Tyson Bennett, Esquire, Legal Counsel to the Board of Education; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education.

The proceedings of the hearing were recorded by a court reporter.

Board members deliberated on the case.

The hearing was concluded at 5:08 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 5:15 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, 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 May and June.

Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Board member, entered the room at 5:16 p.m.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), and (a)(9) and upon motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:18 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:18 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. 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; Ms. Lisa Sampson, Assistant to the 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; Mr. Daniel Capozzi, Staff Relations Manager; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., General Counsel; Edward 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 members the status of collective bargaining negotiations.

Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 5:20 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 three cases to be considered that evening.

At 5:37 p.m., Ms. O'Hare moved the Board adjourn closed session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson and approved by the Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION

Ms. Murphy reviewed with Board members the proposed changes to the Board's meeting configuration and scheduling.

Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Chief Financial Officer, entered the room at 5:38 p.m. Ms. Burnopp explained how purchasing matters would be presented under the Board's proposed format.

At 6:24 p.m., Mr. Parker moved the Board adjourn from administrative function session 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 7:30 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. 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 Meredith Sears, a student at Rodgers Forge Elementary 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 Open and Closed Minutes of April 8, 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. Mary Jane Dicus, a representative of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, introduced Rob Brown, a student attending Western School of Technology's evening school, who shared with Board members the benefits he has received from the program.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Chair of the Baltimore County Education Coalition, stated that the coalition supports a new elementary school in the Towson area.

Mr. Stephen Crum, Chair of the Career & Technology Education Advisory Council, reported on the awards banquet, where 131 CTE students were honored. Mr. Crum also announced the winners of the 2008 CTE Scholarship awards.

Ms. Susan Katz, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, noted that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week. Ms. Katz introduced Ms. Teresa Streb who announced that the PTA had received a \$10,000 grant from the Baltimore County Department of Health for a Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Ms. Jan Thomas, Chair of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee, stated that the special education committee is pleased with the plan being presented to the Board this evening.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, noted that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week. Ms. Bost distributed to Board members copies of a speech given at the County Council FY09 operating budget.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston yielded his time to Ms. Johnson, who commended Milford Mill Academy's students for a wonderful performance in the play "The Journey of People in America." She also recognized Woodlawn High School robotics team for its outstanding achievement in robotics.

Mr. Janssen applauded the students who had participated in the 11th Annual Dance Festival held at Patapsco Center for Arts and Technology on April 26, 2008.

Ms. O'Hare congratulated those students who were recognized for their achievements as National Merit Scholars, National Achievement Scholars, and Ethics Award winners at the ceremony held on May 1.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board approved the following resolution for Ms. Thea Jones:

- WHEREAS, *The International Society for Technology in Education has honored Thea Jones with their prestigious 2008 Outstanding Leader Award; and*
- WHEREAS, *Ms. Jones, supervisor of instructional technology for Baltimore County Public Schools, was selected for this singular international honor from a pool of candidates representing up to 70 countries; and*
- WHEREAS, *In winning this honor, Ms. Jones brings recognition to the quality of instructional technology in Baltimore County Public Schools and its use as a tool to enhance the critical learning experience between teacher and student; and*
- WHEREAS, *Under her leadership and direction, the Office of Instructional Technology has worked to: infuse technology into the written curriculum; develop and implement e-Learning initiatives; and support instructional technology through the use of liaisons and integration teachers; now, therefore, be it*
- RESOLVED, *That the Board of Education, herewith assembled in regular session on the sixth day of May, in the year two thousand and eight, expresses to Thea Jones, on behalf of the citizens of this county, our deepest appreciation and gratitude for her service; and be it further*

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS (cont)

RESOLVED, *That the Board herewith extends its best wishes for her good health, happiness, and continued success.*

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

State Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Nancy Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools, explained that building a new elementary school or an addition is a local decision and not a state decision. However, she stressed that it is the Individual Education Plan (IEP) of an individual child that will direct both placement and services for that child.

Dr. Carol Ann Baglin, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Special Education, reiterated Dr. Grasmick's statement that the decision about servicing a child is determined by the IEP. Dr. Baglin noted that the least restrictive environment (LRE) is also a consideration. Each public agency must ensure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities for special education and related services. Dr. Baglin also noted that MSDE has made available to school systems a Technical Assistance Bulletin to help clarify these issues. Maryland is ranked 47 in the nation with respect to having students with disabilities in separate schools.

Ms. O'Hare asked what role the parent plays in the process in determining placement. Dr. Baglin responded that parents are part of the IEP team. The IEP team reviews the facts related to a specific child and makes the placement decision. Ms. O'Hare asked whether students at Ridge Ruxton School have been properly placed. Dr. Baglin responded that she would only know that by reviewing each individual child's IEP.

Mr. Parker asked about the composition of the IEP team. Dr. Baglin responded several members are required; anyone that has knowledge of the child can attend. She stated that safeguards are in place to ensure that the right people are at the IEP meeting.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>DAMIEN B. INGRAM</u> (Effective July 1, 2008)	Assistant Principal Woodlawn Middle School	Principal Woodlawn Middle School
<u>SABRINA C. JAMES</u> (Effective July 1, 2008)	Teacher/Resource Bridge Center	Assistant Principal Woodlawn High School

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS (cont)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>CHRISTY MOORE-GERMAN</u> (Effective July 1, 2008)	Teacher/Special Education Lansdowne High School	Assistant Principal Woodlawn High School
<u>RYAN J. WARFEL</u> (Effective July 1, 2008)	Teacher/Mathematics Cockeysville Middle School	Assistant Principal Lansdowne Middle School

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Education Policies

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

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Ms. O'Hare, the Board approved the following:

- 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

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 its recommendations. This is the first reading.
 - Proposed Re-adoption of Policy 3113 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Budget-Transfers and Supplements

REPORTS (cont)

- Proposed Re-adoption of Policy 3122 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Fiscal Services-Classification of Expenditures
- Proposed Re-adoption of Policy 3123 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Fiscal Services-Reporting
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 3124 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Fiscal Services-Other Source Funds
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 3131 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Auditing-External Audit
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6111 – INSTRUCTION: School Calendar
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 6161.2 – INSTRUCTION: Equipment and Supplies
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6163.1 – INSTRUCTION: School Libraries (renumbered a 6163)
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6174 – INSTRUCTION: Summer School
- Proposed Changes to Policy 6500 – INSTRUCTION: Research and Testing Assessment

B. **Report on Proposed 2009-2010 School Calendar** – Ms. Kara Calder, Chief Communications Officer, stated the school calendar’s objective is to advance student achievement and align activities to support teaching and learning. This is the first reading of the proposed calendar.

C. **Report on Proposed Special Education Staffing Plan for 2008-2009** – Ms. Pat Lawton, Director of Special Education, and Ms. Marcella Franczkowski, Coordinator of Placement, Birth-to-Five, provided an overview of the proposed plan. Ms. Lawton noted the approved staffing plan is due to the Maryland State Department of Education on or before July 1, 2008. The review process included community input sessions and a public comment session. The following program and staffing recommendations were discussed:

- Expanding inclusive opportunities for three-year-old population
- Continuing to support early childhood inclusion
- Increasing number of home school behavior and learning support services at the middle and high school level
- Expanding the use of resource room support in home schools
- Relocating cluster classes to support consistency of instruction
- Transferring 54.0 special education teacher FTEs and 11.0 paraprofessional FTEs from Third Party Billing funding to the operating budget

REPORTS (cont)

- Collapsing 14 cluster classes in comprehensive schools and five cluster classes in public separate day schools, and
- Requesting increase in salary for personal assistants.

This is the first reading of the special education staffing plan.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes).

HEARING EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board approved that the hearing examiner's opinion in case #08-21 be affirmed (favor-9; opposed-0). Miss Dittman did not vote.

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board approved that the hearing examiner's opinion in case #08-24 be affirmed (favor-9; opposed-0). Miss Dittman did not vote.

On a motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Ms. Shillman, the Board approved that the hearing examiner's opinion in case #08-28 be affirmed (favor-9; opposed-0). Miss Dittman did not vote.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS

The Building and Contracts Committee, represented by Ms. Shillman, recommended approval of items 1-21 (Exhibit AA). Mr. Sines noted a change to the description of item 20. It should read, "That the Board of Education approves the Consultant Services – Architectural/ Engineering (A/E) Services contract to Design Collective for the DESIGN of a new elementary school in the Towson area." Ms. Johnson separated item 7, and Mr. Hayden separated item 20 for further discussion.

The Board approved item 1-6, 8-19, and 21.

1. JMI-635-08 Converting Microfilm Records to Digital Searchable Format and Associated Services
2. JNI-718-08 Financing – School Buses, Trucks, and Sedans
3. MWE-811-08 Grounds Equipment Trailers
4. MWE-805-08 Laboratory Testing for Potable Water

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

5. JNI-722-08 Plumbing Equipment and Supplies – Kenwood High School
Technology Education Department
6. MWE-808-08 Roofing Inspection Services
8. PCR-213-06 Contract Modification: Systemic Renovation – General John Stricker
Middle School
9. MBU-581-08 Roof Replacement – Arbutus Elementary School
10. MWE-810-08 Serving Lines and Kitchen Hood Replacement – Arbutus Middle
School
11. JNI-710-08 Boiler Replacement – Chesapeake High School
12. MBU-574-08 Locker Rooms and Support Areas Renovations – Kenwood High
School
13. JMI-638-08 Phase I Penthouse Abatement and Floor Sealing – Perry Hall High
School
14. JNI-711-08 Roof Replacement – Pikesville Middle School
15. MWE-812-08 Restroom Renovations Construction Contract – Rodgers Forge
Elementary School
16. MBU-571-08 Providing and Installing Split System Air Conditioners in
Telecommunications Closets
17. MBU-565-08 HVAC System Upgrades – Western School of Technology
18. RGA-199-07 Fee Acceptance: Consultant Services – Architectural/ Engineering
Services for George Washington Carver Center for Arts and
Technology
19. JMI-632-08 Request to Negotiate: Consultant Services – Architectural/
Engineering Services for Woodlawn High School Auditorium and
Gym Renovations
21. N/A Request for Approval: Educational Facilities Master Plan and
Comprehensive Maintenance Plan FY 2008

Item #7

Ms. Johnson asked what the replacement materials are. Ms. Patricia Baltzley, Director of Mathematics, responded that the replacement materials are teacher materials, student consumable books, and updated curriculum from the vendor.

The Board approved item 7.

7. MWE-820-08 Summer School Math Curriculum

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

Item 20

Mr. Hayden asked how the school system can send out a consultant when the Board has not approved a site for the new elementary school. Mr. Sines responded that a firm conducted a site assessment study and part of that study was to review current school sites. Mr. Sines stated that the recommendation before the Board this evening is to construct a new stand-alone comprehensive elementary school on the Ridge Ruxton property. Mr. Sines also noted that any decision to defer any option will make it impossible to provide additional seats for students to occupy by September 2010. Ms. Michele Prumo, Executive Director of Planning and Support Operations, stated that a new elementary school would provide relief for Rodgers Forge Elementary. If the school system does not act tonight, Rodgers Forge Elementary would have two additional relocatables next year, bringing the number of relocatables to nine. Any further delays could mean that students would need to be annexed. Mr. Sines noted that the school system is aiming for a minimum of 400 seats, which would be the first of a multi-tiered phase to relieve overcrowding in the Towson area.

Ms. O'Hare asked why Option 1 was better than Option 2 and whether a traffic study was being considered. Mr. Sines stated that the school system has to have a minimum yield of 400 students. This is an award of contract for the design team to accommodate 400 seats or more. Mr. Sines noted that site traffic conditions are a critical part of the studies; the school system will always attempt to separate regular vehicular traffic from student transportation services, which has not yet been resolved. The school system believes it can accommodate ample parking, traffic flow, and 400-student seats.

Mr. Hayden expressed the following concerns: no geo-technical data has been reviewed; stream water is in the back of the property; and possible hazardous traffic conditions on Charles Street

Mr. Hayden asked whether Hampton, Cromwell, and the Pleasant Plains Elementary School sites were considered in the assessment study. Mr. Sines responded that in attachment II, 24 sites were reviewed; attachment IV indicates the sites that BCPS commissioned in the study. Mr. Hayden hopes that there will be some additional consideration of the adjacent site to the proposed new elementary school.

Mr. Janssen expressed concern that if the Board approves the contract this evening, the consultant could come back and state that the school system is on a critical path and that the cost could be prohibitive. Mr. Janssen believes that the school system will not be successful in building a separate elementary school, and he will not support building an addition to Ridge Ruxton School. Mr. Sines stated that the committee amended the exhibit to remove the word "addition;" the exhibit now reflects a new elementary school in the Towson area. If the school system had hesitancy with moving this project forward and achieve the objective, the contract would not be placed on the agenda for approval.

BUILDING AND CONTRACT AWARDS (cont)

Miss Dittman asked whether other overcrowding relief would include Hampton and Stoneleigh Elementary School additions and whether the school system has begun looking at options for possible future overcrowding of middle and high schools in the Towson area. Mr. Sines responded that the FY 2010 capital improvement plan is in the process of being developed and that this site assessment will serve as the primary method for changing future relief strategies. Part of the relief strategy would be constructing permanent structures and moving away from relocatables.

Mr. Parker asked whether the new elementary school would have a separate gymnasium, cafeteria, and separate entrance. Mr. Sines responded affirmatively.

The Board approved item 20 (favor-9; opposed-1). Mr. Janssen opposed this item.

20. JMI-630-08 Request to Negotiate: Consultant Services –
Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Services for Elementary School

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Revised Superintendent's Rule 1260 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement-School Volunteers
- B. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 2351- Report on Monthly Fire Drills
- C. Revised Superintendent's Rule 3410 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Transportation Services-Responsibilities and Duties
- D. Revised Superintendent's Rule 3530 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Physical Plant Services-Safety and Security
- E. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 6145.4 – INSTRUCTION: Curriculum-Public Performances and Exhibitions
- F. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 6145.7– INSTRUCTION: Curriculum-Guidelines for Drama Productions
- G. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 6164.8 – INSTRUCTION: Health Education
- H. MSDE Bi-annual Financial Status Report for Period Ending March 31, 2008
- I. Financial Report for months ending March 31, 2007 and 2008
- J. Central Area Education Advisory Council Capital Pre-budget Meeting of March 13, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Murphy made the following announcements:

- The Southeast Area Education Advisory Council will hold its capital pre-budget meeting on Monday, May 12, 2008, at Norwood Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Northeast Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at Glenmar Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 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. The Board will host the Community College of Baltimore County's Board of Directors on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.
- The Baltimore County Board of Education will hold a public hearing to seek input about BCPS' FY2010 Capital Budget needs on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. on the Greenwood campus in the ESS Building. Sign-up for the public to comment will begin at 6:00 p.m.

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 1210

Ms. Susan Katz stated that the PTA Council for Baltimore County fully supports the proposed changes to this policy. However, the Council offers a recommended change: the word "actively," used in association with school staff participation in local PTAs, has been recommended for deletion. Ms. Katz asked that this word be retained.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 1270

Ms. Susan Katz stated that while policy 1270, as revised, falls short of completely adopting the new National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, it does acknowledge “parents/guardians, families, and community members as active partners in promoting student achievement.” Therefore, it is stronger than the previous version, and the PTA Council supports the proposed changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 1300

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED DELETION OF POLICY 4140

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Antonia Fowler requested the Board create a supplemental budget transfer for the Baltimore County Virtual Instruction Program (BCVIP). She asked the Board to look at the big picture and consider that virtual education is a very cost-effective education alternative.

Mr. Joshua Fowler reiterated the comments made by the previous speaker and asked the Board to support the BCVIP.

Mr. Chris Parts asked that the decision-making process for school construction be open and transparent. Secondly, he asked that a clear criterion for evaluation of school sites be made available.

Ms. Cathi Forbes thanked the Board for its vote earlier on a new elementary school in the Towson area at the Ridge Ruxton school site.

Mr. Joshua Glikin stated that accountability creates results and pressure solves everything. He urged there be accountability in building the new elementary school.

Ms. Judy Weber stated that she commended the Board for its decision on a new elementary school in Towson. She hopes that parking is considered in the feasibility study.

Mr. Dennis King thanked the Board for voting to add a new elementary school in the Towson area.

Ms. Natalie Miller asked the Board for a supplemental budget transfer to continue the virtual instruction program (BCVIP).

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Ms. Mary Gregory commented that the overcrowding issue in the Towson area should never have occurred and believes that the best solution was the Mays Chapel site.

Following public comment, Mr. Janssen noted that a traffic light study had been requested by the Building and Contracts Committee for the Ridge Ruxton site.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business, the Board adjourned its meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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