

APPROVED MINUTES – 02/10/09

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, January 27, 2009
(*rescheduled to Thursday, January 29, 2009*)

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 5:32 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, and Mr. H. Edward Parker. In addition, J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent, and staff members were present.

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

Board member, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, entered the room at 5:36 p.m.

Board member, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, entered the room at 5:44 p.m., and Ms. Valerie A. Roddy entered the room at 5:45 p.m.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1) and (a)(9) and upon motion of Ms. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Pallozzi, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:46 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:46 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., and Ms. Valerie A. Roddy. In addition, J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent, and the following staff members were present: Dr. Patricia Abernethy, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Jonathan Brown, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. William Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, Northwest Area; Dr. Robert Tomback, Assistant Superintendent, Northeast Area; Ms. Lisa Samson, 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; Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Daniel Capozzi, Staff Relations Manager; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., General Counsel; Ron Miller, Esq., Knight, Manzi, Nussbaum & LaPlaca, P.A.; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

Mr. Capozzi updated Board members on negotiations with collective bargaining units.

Mr. George Sarris, Director, Office of Budget and Reporting, entered the room at 5:49 p.m.

Ms. Burnopp, Mr. Sarris, and Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 6:25 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (cont)

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

On motion of Ms. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board adjourned closed session at 6:27 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION

Board members discussed a potential change to its meeting schedule.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 6:56 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, and Miss Annette Karanja. 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, followed by a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Dr. Hairston removed "item IV, Work Session Reports, Report on Proposed Changes to Policy 1220 – Citizens Advisory Committee," from the agenda.

Ms. Murphy informed the audience of the sessions in which Board members had participated earlier in the afternoon.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Board of Education Policies** – Ms. Meg O’Hare 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 1110 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Communications with the Public – Publications, Radio, Television, and Web sites – Ms. Johnson recommended adding the word “public” to the title to read, “Media, **Public** Relations, and Publications...”
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 2300 – ADMINISTRATION: Administrative Operations
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 2310 – ADMINISTRATION: Administrative Operations – Organizational Units and Structural Relationships
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 2320 – ADMINISTRATION: Administrative Operations – Line of Responsibility
 - Proposed Deletion of Policy 2330 – ADMINISTRATION: Administrative Operations – Councils and Committees
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 5320 – STUDENTS: Activities – Organizations
 - Proposed Changes to Policy 8140 – INTERNAL BOARD POLICY: Operations – Formulation of Administrative Regulations
- B. **Report/Discussion on the Proposed FY 2010 Operating Budget** – Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the operating budget process and timeline with Board members.

January 27	Board Work Session
February 10	Board Adopts Budget
March 1	Board Proposed Budget Book goes to County Executive
By April 15	County Executive Presents Budget to County Council
By May 31	County Council Adopts budget
July 1	BCPS implements FY2009 budget

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. Burnopp explained the design and structure of the work session book. She noted that the percentage above maintenance of effort (MOE) is 11.5%; however, the average above the MOE increases for 1999-2009 was 3.4%. The proposed operating budget request is 57.8% of BCPS' operating budget. The proposed budget totals \$1,249,397,948.

Ms. Burnopp stated that, when the proposed budget was original presented, there were some revenue assumptions. BCPS does not know if those assumptions proposed in the budget will remain through the end of the state legislative session. Some areas that could be impacted are:

- Decrease of \$5.3 million in geographic cost index.
- Change of formula for non-public placement in the range of \$6.3 million.
- Reduction of \$795,000 to the aging school program.
- Reduction of approximately \$900,000 for professional certification stipend for teachers.

Ms. Burnopp reviewed current salary scales for various collective bargaining units. She stated that one proposal is to raise AFSCME, Food and Nutrition Services, and temporary services salaries to a minimum of \$10.00 per hour. Ms. Burnopp also noted that state funding for the teachers' retirement/pension program is \$86 million. Depending on what occurs during the legislative session, some of that funding could be shifted to Baltimore County.

Ms. Johnson asked what happens beyond step 26 of the teachers' salary scale. Ms. Burnopp responded that step 26 is the top of the scale. Ms. Burnopp noted that, as part of negotiations, the school system could add additional steps so that a teacher would not cap-out at step 26.

Mr. Janssen asked whether BCPS would need raise funds if any costs of the pension program are shifted to the county. Ms. Burnopp responded affirmatively.

Mr. Parker asked whether the school system has the option to add steps above step 26. Ms. Burnopp responded affirmatively. J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent, stated that the proposed budget provides the resources to attempt to add steps to the salary scale.

Ms. Burnopp provided a summary of each budget item by performance goal, redirects, and one-time items. She corrected the redirect request for a Homeland security teacher; the one full-time equivalent (FTE) is for Dundalk High School.

REPORTS (cont)

Next, Ms. Burnopp responded to Board members questions that had been forwarded to her prior to the work session.

- Ms. Murphy asked what portion of the one-time request for instructional materials would be for eMaterials. Ms. Burnopp responded that \$713,625 of the planned purchases is for on-line access to eMaterials.
- Ms. Roddy asked for historical data on salary increases for management supervisory, and support staff. Ms. Burnopp stated that 2005 increases were 2% to 4%; 2006 was an average of 3% increase; 2007 was 3% increase; 2008 was 4% increase; and 2009 was 0% increase.
- Ms. Roddy asked for historical data on teachers' salaries compared to other school systems. Ms. Burnopp distributed information on salary increases over the last ten years by county; a straight percentage increase from 1999 to 2009.
- Mr. Janssen inquired about school allocations. He noted that that proposed operating budget appears to cut schools' funding in half. Ms. Burnopp stated that non-salary dollars are held back until the school system knows where each student will be attending school for that fiscal year.

Board members then posed questions about other portions of the budget.

With respect to the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. O'Hare inquired about the allocation of \$430,181 to the Assistant Superintendent of Humanities. Ms. Burnopp explained that amount is a total with components in other offices. Ms. O'Hare also asked for an explanation of the \$7,000 cost under *Instructional Textbooks and Supplies*. Ms. Burnopp responded that this funding is for supplies to maintain the office, copies, phone costs, and general maintenance of that office. Ms. O'Hare asked where the funding for programs, such as *Language!*, could be located within the budget. Ms. Burnopp responded that on page 148 of the proposed budget book, there is an increase of \$3.8 million for one-time purchase of systemwide textbooks and associated professional development. For purchases of textbooks over \$25,000 as a unit, Ms. Burnopp stated that staff would bring these contracts to the Board, through the Building and Contracts Committee, for approval.

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. O'Hare asked how many schools currently have the program and how many schools would like to have the 100-Book Challenge program. Ms. Burnopp responded that 22 schools currently have the program, 30 schools are interested in the program, and the proposed budget is for 13 additional schools to receive the program.

Mr. Janssen expressed concern that the career and technology education program was not keeping pace with inflation and that the proposed budget shows a decrease in funding. Ms. Burnopp stated that the program is grant funded.

With respect to the virtual classroom at Chesapeake High School, Ms. Johnson asked who is working on the software development and who will own the application. Dr. Hairston responded that BCPS will own the software application. Dr. Hairston stated that there is a memorandum of understanding between Lockheed Martin, Johns Hopkins University, UMBC, Northrup Grumman, and BCPS with regards to who contributes to this project.

Ms. Roddy asked whether there is any increase to health care premiums that would be borne by the employees. Ms. Burnopp responded that there is no change over the current structure; however, if the rates were to increase, the employee would pay a percentage of that increase.

Mr. Janssen noted his support of the virtual school at Chesapeake High School.

Ms. O'Hare expressed disappointment that AVID funding is decreasing. She also was concerned that there is approximately \$355,000 for school counseling but \$2 million for athletics. She stated that the ratio of counselors to students is extremely high. Regarding the AVID program, Ms. Burnopp stated that page 155 of the proposed operating budget book shows the budget within central office only and not teachers at a school. On page 11 of the work session binder, three positions have been redirected to support the AVID expansion at a cost of \$176,000. Ms. O'Hare asked if any of these positions are for middle schools. Dr. Patricia Abernethy, Chief Academic Officer, responded that the four middle schools are Deep Creek, Golden Ring, Pikesville, and Old Court.

With respect to instrumental music teachers, Ms. Johnson asked how many students would have access to musical instruction with the 7.2 FTEs in the budget. Mr. Haines responded that this would raise the number of teaching positions that would then be divided among the schools based on student population. Ms. Burnopp responded that the plan is to have 5,400 fifth grade students, 7,500 fourth grade students, with a total of 354 fourth grade classrooms.

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. O'Hare inquired about the funding of \$500,000 for instructional textbooks and supplies under the Office of Special Programs, PreK-12. Ms. Sonja Karwacki, Executive Director for Special Programs, PreK-12, stated that the additional funding was for the 100-Book Challenge program.

Dr. Hairston noted that this budget does not reflect any reduction in force or reduction in health benefits for employees.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. *Annual Report on Results*
- B. Financial Report for months ending November 30, 2007 and 2008
- C. MSDE Biannual Financial Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Murphy made the following announcements:

- On Wednesday, February 4, 2009, the Board of Education's Fall Recognition Ceremony will be held at Parkville Middle School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Southeast Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, February 9, 2009, at Sussex Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 5:30 p.m. The Board will then adjourn to meet in closed session. The open session will reconvene at approximately 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome to all open sessions. The Board will be hosting the Baltimore County Student Council for dinner on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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