

APPROVED MINUTES – 03/10/09

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in closed session at 5:16 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. James E. Coleman, Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, and Mr. David Uhlfelder. 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 February and March.

Dr. Hairston distributed to Board members information related to Governor O'Malley's remarks at the State Board of Education meeting of February 24, 2009.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Articles, §§10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), and (a)(9) and upon motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Uhlfelder, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:23 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:23 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. James E. Coleman, Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, and Mr. David Uhlfelder. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and the following staff members were present: J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Patricia Abernethy, Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff; 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. Alpheus Arrington, Director, Human Resources; Mr. Daniel Capozzi, Staff Relations Manager; Edward J. Novak, Esquire, Associate General Counsel; Andrew W. Nussbaum, Esquire, Counsel to the Board of Education; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

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

Mr. Capozzi exited the room at 5:27 p.m.

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

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

On motion of Mr. Hines, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION

Board members discussed a potential adjustment to this evening's agenda.

At 6:35 p.m., the Board adjourned for a brief dinner recess.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 6:52 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Mr. James E. Coleman, Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, and Mr. David Uhlfelder. 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 Ms. Teresa Streb, followed by a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools, and in memory of Mrs. Margaret Vondersmith, mother of Board member, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare.

Dr. Hairston removed item IV, New Business, "Consideration of Hearing Officer's Opinion in Case #08-18 and Consideration of Hearing Officer's Opinion in Case #09-27," from the agenda. Dr. Hairston added under item V, Work Session Reports, "Report on School Construction in the Southeast Area." The Board unanimously approved the addition of this item to 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. Parker, seconded by Mr. Hines, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on exhibits A and A-1 (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes).

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

Edward J. Novak, Esquire, Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Policy Matters, reviewed with the Board proposed legislation currently under consideration by the General Assembly.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board voted to oppose HB26 – Public Schools – Children with Anaphylactic Allergies – Reduction of Risk.

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted to take no position on HB183 – Lottery for Schools Act of 2009.

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted to oppose HB189 – Respiratory Illness Prevention Act.

On motion of Mr. Hines, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted to oppose HB379 – Education - Reporting Requirement – Class Size.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose HB505 – Education – High School Assessment Requirement.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose HB533 – Cooperative Purchasing Agreements – Requirements and Expansion of Use (favor-7; abstained-1). Mr. Uhlfelder abstained from voting on this item.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose HB588 – Education – Public Schools – Standardized Course Numbering System.

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted to oppose HB632 – Education – New Teachers – Classroom Management Training.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose HB792 – Education – Collective Bargaining – Topics of Negotiation.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose SB100 – Public Schools and Child Care Centers – Artificial Color Additives – Prohibition.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose SB101 – Public Health – Warning Labels and Prohibition on Color Additives in Food.

On motion of Mr. Hines, seconded by Ms. Harris, the Board voted to take no position on SB111 – Public Health – Food Allergen Labeling – Vending Machines.

SCHOOL LEGISLATION (cont)

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose SB139 – Education – High School Assessment Requirement.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose SB569 – Education – Collective Bargaining – Topics of Negotiation.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose SB673 – Fairness in Negotiations Act.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose SB710 – State Retirement and Miller Pension System – Local Employer Contributions – Educators and Educational Staff.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Hines, the Board voted to oppose SB754 – Vehicle Laws – School Buses – Prohibition on Permitting Sitting on Floor or Standing.

On motion of Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board voted to oppose SB903 – Education – High School Assessment – Graduation Requirement - Prohibition.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

A. **Board of Education Policies** – Ms. Frances Harris 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 2361 – ADMINISTRATION: Administrative Operations-Student Carriers – Ms. Roddy asked what other types of information would be distributed to schools. Anjanette Dixon, Esquire, Associate General Counsel, responded, that an example would be a new business moving into the area would make a request to distribute flyers to promote their business.

Ms. Johnson inquired about items related to a community event or activity. Ms. Dixon responded that the event, activity, or business would need to have an established partnership with the school. The only exceptions would be local school matters, PTA materials, and materials pertaining to activities of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

REPORTS (cont)

- Proposed Deletion of 3141 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Fiscal Services-Pensions
- Proposed Changes to Policy 3142 (renumbered to 4009) – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Fiscal Services-Employee Insurance
- Proposed Changes to Policy 4100 – PERSONNEL: Professional
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 4113 – PERSONNEL: Certification

- B. **Report on the Naming of the New Towson Elementary School** – Mr. Lyle Patzkowsky, Assistant Superintendent of the Central Area, proposed to Board members that the new elementary school in Towson be called West Towson Elementary. Mr. Patzkowsky stated that a review of historical records of the area was conducted where the facility is to be built, and input from the five school communities that will be affected by the new school. This is the first reading.

Ms. Roddy asked whether the communities at-large were surveyed. Mr. Patzkowsky responded that the school system sought input from the five school communities and not the communities at-large.

- C. **Report on School Counseling Program** – Mr. Dale Rauenzahn, Executive Director of Student Support Services, explained that the presentation would focus on the counselors' role in course advisement.

Dr. Lynne Muller, Coordinator of School Counseling Services, stated that, beginning in elementary school, school counselors work with students and parents to ensure the completion of a rigorous program of study with an in-depth academic/career focus. College Days, career fairs, and transition meetings with middle school counselors all serve as opportunities for the encouragement for highly rigorous academic performance. Academic advisement at the high school level is woven into everything the school counselor does. Every individual counseling session is focused on helping remove barriers so students can be successful academically.

Dr. Muller reviewed data indicating the advisement by school counselors is effective. Advisement has resulted in:

- College Readiness Courses increasing from 505 students in 2007-08 to 773 students in 2008-09.
- Students enrolling in parallel enrollment at CCBC increased significantly.

REPORTS (cont)

- Advance Placement (AP) courses continue to increase each year, with increases reflecting growth over 968 students since 2005.
- Increases in the number of students in higher level courses over the past few years including:
 - Enrollment in Grade 9 gifted and talented (GT) course enrollment increased to 4,524 students by 2007-2008.
 - Enrollment in Grade 10 AP increased by over 200 students from 2005 to 2008. The number of Honors level students increased by over 500 students for the same time period.
 - Enrollment in Grade 11 AP courses increased by 246 students from 2005-2006 to 2007-2008. The number of students enrolled in GT courses increased from 1,947 in 2005-2006 to 2,222 in 2007-2008.
 - Enrollment in Grade 12 AP courses increased from 5,526 in 2005-2006 to 5,795 in 2007-2008.

Mr. John Komosa, Guidance Department Chairperson at Lansdowne High School, and Ms. Kere Patterson, Guidance Department Chairperson at Woodlawn High School, explained how course advisement worked at each of their schools.

Mr. Hines asked whether there were enough counselors and how many times a year a student meets with a school counselor. Ms. Patterson responded that school counselors meet with each student a minimum of twice a year; however, depending upon the need of the student, the counselor can meet with the student more frequently.

Mr. Uhlfelder stated that the Board recently met with the Baltimore County Student Council, and that the students shared with the Board that counselors placed a heavy emphasis on AP courses and that electives were ignored. Ms. Patterson stated that, prior to the registration process, counselors at Woodlawn High School meet with department chairpersons from each content area to review the courses being offered the following school year including electives. Students receive details of all available courses (including electives) prior to completing their schedules for the next school year. Mr. Komosa stated that students at Lansdowne High see every course available to them. He noted that students have a commitment to take at least one Fine Arts course to balance out their schedules.

Ms. Roddy asked how many counselors are allotted to a high school. Dr. Muller responded there is one counselor for each elementary school and one counselor for each 350 students at the secondary level. Ms. Roddy asked how counselors address a student who is not college-bound. Ms. Patterson responded that the counselor will find out what the students' interests are and begin promoting elective courses to ensure the students' success. Dr. Muller noted that BCPS has a career and technology program for those students not attending college.

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. Johnson asked whether there was a minimum amount of time that each counselor is required to spend with a student. Ms. Patterson and Mr. Komosa responded that it depends on what type of advisement is being provided to the student as well as the need of that particular student.

Ms. Murphy asked whether a counselor follows a student for his/her entire high school career or whether the school system uses a grade-level model. Dr. Muller responded that the counselors follow the students either by grade or alphabetically.

- D. **Report on Student Health Issues** – Ms. Sonja Karwacki, Executive Director of Special Programs, PreK-12, provided Board members with an overview of the program promoting student wellness and the prevention of obesity. The eight components of BCPS' wellness program are:

- Health education
- Physical education
- Health services
- Food and nutrition services
- Coordinator student support services
- Healthy school environment
- Employee wellness
- Community collaboration

Mr. Uhlfelder asked how BCPS students compare nationally to others in obesity. Ms. Sally Nazelrod, Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Dance, responded that BCPS has instituted FITNESSGRAM in Grades 4-9. FITNESSGRAM is a national fitness assessment, which measures three components of students' physical fitness: aerobic capacity; body composition; and muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility. BCPS has electronic body mass analyzers; students enter their height, weight, and gender, and then a body fat calculated score is provided to the student. Students receive a report card that teaches the student what they need to do in order to improve their score.

Mr. Hines asked whether the excessive use of video games had been considered as a factor. Ms. Karwacki stated that she is unaware of any discussions on the topic. She noted that some new video games, such as Wii, promote exercise and activity.

Ms. Johnson stated that the school system should consider extending the physical education requirement.

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. Roddy asked whether there are any measurable outcomes. Ms. Karwacki responded that data is being collected by various offices.

- E. **Report on Education Foundation** – Mr. Donald Arnold, President of the Baltimore County Public Schools' Education Foundation and former member of the Board of Education, reviewed the mission and purpose of the Education Foundation, which is to provide “consistency in how funds are raised and maintained for specific purpose, projects, and other fund raising organizations and activities.”

Mr. Parker asked how much of the funds received is restricted or targeted. Mr. Arnold responded that approximately 80% of the funds are for restricted projects.

Ms. Harris asked how the work of the Education Foundation is communicated to schools and teachers. Mr. Arnold admitted that communicating and promoting the Education Foundation needs improvement.

Mr. Parker asked whether an individual teacher could apply for Foundation funds. Mr. Arnold responded in the affirmative; however, the Foundation requires that the principal sign off on the project.

- F. **Report on School Construction in the Southeast Area** – Dr. Hairston stated that currently concept discussions are underway in the Dundalk High School and Sollers Point Technical High School communities regarding options in improving the educational environment and academic programs. Dr. Hairston informed the Board that, working together with county government, the school system can enhance the educational environments and academic programs of Dundalk High School and Sollers Point Technical High School.

Mr. Parker stated that the Board is looking forward to seeing a report in the near future on this topic. Dr. Hairston stated that as meetings occur, updates will be provided to the Board.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Financial Report for months ending December 31, 2007 and 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Murphy made the following announcements:

- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold a public hearing on the proposed boundaries for Chesapeake Terrace/Edgemere Elementary Schools on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at Sparrows Point High School beginning at approximately 7:00 p.m. Sign-up for the public to comment begins at 6:00 p.m. Each speaker will be allotted three minutes to present his/her topic to the Board.
- The Central Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at Riderwood Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Southeast Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 9, 2009, at General John Stricker Middle School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Five community forums have been scheduled to give parents and the public another opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Baltimore County Public Schools Special Education Staffing Plan for 2009-2010. The meetings will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2009, and will be held in the following locations:
 - Church Lane Elementary School
 - Charlesmont Elementary School
 - Dogwood Elementary School
 - Padonia International Elementary School, and
 - Vincent Farm Elementary School
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

/bls