

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, January 14, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 3:55 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Sarah D. Bormel, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, J. Robert Haines, Esquire, Deputy Superintendent for Business Services, and staff members were present.

In addition to the above listed Board members, also in attendance were Margaret Howie, Esquire, Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; Carol Saffran-Brinks, Assistant County Attorney, and Ms. Denise Zepp, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education.

The record was opened in Hearing Examiner's Case #01-38. The Appellant did not appear, and the Board voted to dismiss the case. The record was closed at 4:02 p.m.

Mr. Grzymiski entered the room at 4:15 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board voted to permit Sarah Bormel to participate in discussions relative to negotiations.

At 4:55 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters, consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, consult with counsel about potential litigation, and to discuss matters relative to negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, § 10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), (a)(8), and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Grimsley reviewed the appointment on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Capozzi provided Board members a status report on negotiations.

Ms. Saffran-Brinks advised the Board of a proposed settlement.

Ms. Saffran-Brinks offered legal advice on a matter dealing with potential litigation.

At 5:52 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and approved by the Board.

The Board hosted members of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education for dinner.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:33 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Sarah D. Bormel, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools; staff members; members of various civic, employee, and community organizations were present as was the media.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by Ryan Speigle, a graduate of Pikesville High School, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the open and closed session minutes of December 3, 2002, Mr. Arnold declared the minutes approved as presented on the website.

Mr. Arnold informed the audience of the previous sessions in which Board members had participated earlier in the afternoon.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston announced that the Essex - Middle River Chamber of Commerce recognized a number of schools on the county's east side last Friday night.

Dr. Hairston also recognized Board President Donald Arnold as the recipient of the Valued Hours Award by the Fullwood Foundation this past Saturday morning.

RECOGNITION OF APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Grimsley recognized Arlene Fleischmann, whose appointment to Director of the Department of Professional Development was approved at the December 17th meeting. Mr. Grimsley also recognized Amanda Adelaide Rodrigues Smith, whose appointment to the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council was also approved on December 17th. Ms. Phyllis Edmonds was also recognized. Her appointment to EEO and Compliance Officer was approved November 18th.

OLDBUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the revisions to Policy 3121 - Funds.

OLDBUSINESS(Cont.)

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the revisions to Policy 3123 – Reporting.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the revisions to Policy 3131 – External Audit.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the revisions to the *Blueprint for Progress*.

Mr. Kennedy thanked Ms. Johns and Ms. Audette for the positive way changes and suggestions were implemented after recent Board meetings.

Mr. Teplitzky stated the *Blueprint* will guide the Board in policy decisions and in reviewing the budget.

REPORT

The Board received the following report:

Presentation of the Proposed Operating Budget for the Baltimore County Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2004 — The total general fund request for FY 2004 is \$856,900,741, a 6% increase over FY 2003. Highlights of the Superintendent's budget proposal include:

- ❑ Expanding half -day kindergarten program to full -day at 10 elementary schools,
- ❑ Reducing the student -teacher ratio in all K- 2 classrooms,
- ❑ Two (2) FTE's, materials, and other resources for the development of identified gifted and talented children in 20 Title I schools,
- ❑ High quality professional development opportunities for special education, mathematics, and technology teachers,
- ❑ An increase in the hourly rates for evening high school teachers,
- ❑ Step increases for employees, and
- ❑ Implementation of an Army JROTC program at Patapsco High School.

Mr. Arnold announced the Board would conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget on January 29th and conduct a work session on February 4th. There will be an additional opportunity for public comment at the February 11th meeting with a vote expected on February 26th.

Several Board members suggested the inclusion of salary increases for employees. Mr. Grzymiski suggested looking at the issue of reimbursement.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Dr. Haymann noted the difficult economic times we face and stated the school system will need to do more with less.

Mr. Arnold thanked the Board and staff for their hard work in preparing the budget request. Dr. Hairston recognized the staff members who worked to develop the budget.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits G, H, I, J, and K. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

CONTRACT AWARDS

Mr. Teplitzky pulled item 2. On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved items 1 and 3.

1. Diplomas, Diploma Covers, and Certificates
3. Moving/Relocating Modular Classrooms

Item 2

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved item 2. Mr. Teplitzky abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

2. Leasing Portable Modular Classrooms

CONTINGENCY INCREASE

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board agreed to an increase in the contingency for the major maintenance renovation project at Chadwick Elementary School.

REVISED FISCAL YEAR 2004 STATE AND COUNTY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Teplitzky moved approval of the Revised Fiscal Year 2004 State and County Capital Budget Request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy.

With respect to Featherbed Lane Elementary School, Mr. Kennedy inquired about the plan for the road. Dr. Krempel noted that this work appears on page 2 at a cost of \$225,000.

REVISED FISCAL YEAR 2004 STATE AND COUNTY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

(Cont.)

The new road will provide a drop-off point and relieve congestion and safety concerns. Dr. Krempel noted that the school staff is positive about the new road.

Ms. Ettinger urged other Board members to attend the IAC appeal hearing on January 22nd. She stated that Board absence or presence will be noted.

Mr. Arnold thanked County Executive Smith and his staff for their diligence in fighting for our county and for stressing the importance of what is needed in these difficult times. He stated he looks forward to continuing to work with Mr. Smith.

The Board approved the revised fiscal year 2004 County and State Capital Budget recommendations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Wednesday, January 15, 2003, the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Woodmoor Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2003, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2003, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at 4:30 p.m. After the Board adjourns to meet in closed session, followed by a brief dinner recess, the open meeting will reconvene at approximately 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome to all open sessions. Mr. Arnold noted that the Board is scheduled to meet with area advisory councils during the dinner hour.

Mr. Arnold reminded speakers to refrain from discussing any matter that might come before the Board in the form of an appeal, as well as any personnel matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Amethyst Danesie, President of the Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC), commented on the recent successful Middle School Conference. She noted BCSC is planning a trip to Annapolis in February to meet with legislators.

Mr. Kalli Mallik, a representative of the Advisory Group for Alternative Programs, spoke about an afternoon middle school program that serves 145 expelled students. He also spoke

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

about the Evening and Saturday High Schools that serve expelled, withdrawn, and adult students. Mr. Mallik noted that it is anticipated that about 2,000 students will have attended all three programs by the end of the school year.

Ms. Jo Lynn Chadwick, Chair of the Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education, noted that at the group's last meeting, Ms. Paynter provided a report on the state of the program. Ms. Chadwick noted there are new parents attending meetings and they are impressed with what is being done. There are some programs that are not specifically directed at the gifted and talented student, but support or complement the gifted and talented program. She noted parents are concerned about an academic atmosphere that is exciting and interesting. These other programs promote that kind of atmosphere. Ms. Chadwick stated that these initiatives do not cost a great amount of money.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked the Board for hosting the group for dinner this evening. With respect to the implementation of the *No Child Left Behind Act*, she reminded the Board that many special education children are in self-contained, segregated settings. Ms. Nelson stated that while teachers will be required to be highly qualified, the very qualified special education teachers may not be, perhaps, highly qualified in core content areas.

Mr. Carl Bailey, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, noted the committee was pleased to see additional funding for special education teachers. He shared the group's concern about the significant funding increase for non-public placement. Mr. Bailey also shared the group's interest in the 32.2 FTE's for certificate bound students.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, stated the advisory councils and Coalition members look forward to working together to secure operating funds for the school system. A meeting with the County Executive will be requested. Ms. Kennedy offered the support of the Baltimore County School Coalition at the IAC hearing next week. On January 22, advisory council officers will meet to review councils' progress and to review recommendations and the status of recommendations made last summer. The findings will be shared with the Board on January 28th.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, noted Mr. Lawrence's presentation on the Maryland School Assessment Program at the group's last meeting. She shared an idea for an academic achievement handbook. The handbook would describe expectations for the year and be distributed at the start of school. Ms. O'Hare noted that a few members of the advisory council would be interested in working on this idea. Ms. O'Hare thanked the Superintendent for including a salary increase for Evening High School teachers in the budget. With regard to the proposed JROTC program at Patapsco, Ms. O'Hare noted the success of the JROTC program at Parkville High School.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Marcella Kehr, President of the Baltimore (County Instructional) Assistants and Clerical Employees (BACE), expressed her disappointment that COLA's and reclassification were not part of the budget request. She urged the Board to be honest with the county officials and the public about the cost of educating our children.

Mr. Clifford Collins, a representative of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, spoke of a recent meeting at which parents had an opportunity to share concerns with three principals from the Northwest and Southwest Areas. Recommendations will be presented to the Superintendent.

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, shared PTA's support of the proposed budget. He expressed his belief that the school system deserves full funding of the budget request. He stated funding authorities need to realize that a world-class education costs money. Mr. Franklin agreed with an earlier comment made by Mr. Kennedy regarding paying professional staff what they deserve or risk losing them.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, commented on County Executive James Smith's commitment to education as put forth in his "Blueprint for Education in Baltimore County." Mr. Beytin noted there are many positive proposals in the budget request, and he commended Board members for their desire to raise salaries, but he noted that if negotiations continue to go in the current direction and salary increases for teachers are not part of the budget package, he fears decimation of the teaching force.

There were no speakers to testify on the proposed revisions to Policy 3124 – Accounting and Cash Management.

Dr. George Hohl, representing the Association of Elementary School Administrators (AESA), spoke about three issues. First, Dr. Hohl urged the Board to include in the budget request all of the necessary funds to reach the goals in the *Blueprint for Progress*, as well as to be competitive with other major school systems in the area. The Board was urged to propose the total package needed for the school system to move forward at a faster pace. Second, Dr. Hohl shared AESA's belief that it is time to eliminate the TABCO Teacher Perception Survey. He stated that more positive, productive ways to determine perceptions of parents and school staff could be invaluable. Finally, Dr. Hohl requested that educators at every level be proactive in shaping the implementation of the *No Child Left Behind Act* into a manageable form.

Ms. Pamela Williams, a Randallstown High School parent, noted the overcrowding at the school and requested immediate relief. She also asked for additional time for staff development for the school's teachers.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Tonya Williams, a Randallstown High School parent, noted the excessive number of false alarms at Randallstown because of crowded hallways and requested the status of work order to place boxes over the alarms.

Mr. Ellis Barksdale, a Randallstown Elementary School parent, noted the school's renovations are not yet complete, almost a year after the stated completion date. He also suggested the African cultural curriculum start in elementary school.

At 9:42 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer