

TENTATIVE MINUTES**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Tuesday, November 6, 2001

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:03 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Maria R. Cirincione, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Dr. Hairston shared results of an informal survey regarding field trips.

He also informed Board members that the State Superintendent of Schools has made an announcement that information on the latest MSPAP scores will be withheld until January due to inconsistencies in some of the scores.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 5:04 p.m.

Mr. Arnold distributed copies of the Board of Education's goals for 2001-2002. He also informed Board members of an art exhibition, reception, and awards ceremony on November 7 to honor students whose art work has been exhibited at the Whiteford, Taylor, & Preston law firm.

At 5:08 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved the Board go into closed session to consult with counsel regarding potential litigation and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(7) and (a)(8). The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Ms. Saffran-Brinks advised the Board of the status of a case recently heard by the Board.

Ms. Saffran-Brinks reviewed revisions to a legal document to be considered by the Board this evening.

Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 5:10 p.m.

Ms. Saffran-Brinks informed Board members of a matter dealing with potential litigation and a recommendation for settlement.

Mr. Haines and Dr. Krempel advised the Board on a matter dealing with potential litigation.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

At 6:48 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:35 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Maria R. Cirincione, 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. Carolyn Ross-Holmes, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools; staff members; and 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 Gina Miller and Jen Wynberry, two Baltimore County Public Schools students, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in Baltimore County Public Schools.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the open and closed session minutes of September 25, 2001, and October 11, 2001, Mr. Arnold declared the minutes approved as presented.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston announced that Dr. Margaret Kidder, Coordinator in the Office of Psychological Services, was featured in the November issue of *Baltimore* magazine. She was quoted extensively in the article, "Analyze This." The article addressed mental health care in the Baltimore region.

Dr. Hairston also announced that the school system's ParentMobile is the grand prizewinner of the 2001 National Telecommunications Partnership award. Formal recognition will occur later this month in Washington, DC, and at another awards ceremony in Anchorage, Alaska.

Finally, Dr. Hairston announced that Baltimore County Public Schools was the recipient of a \$50,000 check from First Financial Federal Credit Union. Twenty-three (23) of our schools were participants and recipients of a grant award for technology and instruction. Ms.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Cont.)

Thea Jones and Mr. Gregory Barlow were commended for their involvement in this project. Ms. Sharon Norman was also recognized for coordinating this effort. Congratulations were extended to the schools and their principals.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Ettinger, Chair of the Board's Curriculum Committee, informed the audience of a visit to Sussex Elementary School by herself, Mr. Hayden, and Mr. Walker. The group's objective was to become informed about the implementation of Curriculum and Instruction strategies at the school. They were impressed with the collaboration taking place between school-based staff and the staff of ESS. Ms. Ettinger used the terms "collaboration" and "focused service" to summarize what was observed during the visit.

Mr. Hayden stated he observed students who were focused and working hard. Mr. Walker commended Sussex's principal and staff for their outstanding efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

Revisions to Policy 1230 – Area Educational Advisory Councils

Mr. Arnold noted an amendment to the proposed revisions to Policy 1230 – Area Educational Advisory Councils. A Board member recommended that "4. Scope" be placed at the beginning of the Policy before "1. Organization."

On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved the amended revisions to Policy 1230 – Area Educational Advisory Councils.

Field Trips and Foreign Travel

Ms. Ettinger moved acceptance of the Superintendent's recommendation regarding foreign travel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker.

Mr. Teplitzky stated he was in favor of the intent of the recommendation, especially as it related to the need to monitor planned field trips for safety up until the time of departure. He voiced his opposition of the final version because it prohibited all foreign field trips for the entire school year. He agreed the Board needs to be responsible and err on the side of safety, but stated the proposal goes too far and represents the wrong decision at this time. He also stated that since the recommendation was presented two weeks ago, he has received a great deal of input from the public, most of it being against the ban on foreign travel. Mr. Teplitzky noted the value of foreign travel stating it is an experience that cannot be duplicated in the classroom. He suggested that trips be reviewed on an individual basis. His proposal would be for constant review of the safety and security of the people on the trip up to the last moment.

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Field Trips and Foreign Travel (Cont.)

Mr. Teplitzky stated his belief that the decision as to whether or not students go on foreign field trips should be left to the parents. On the financial side, Mr. Teplitzky suggested the requirement of travel insurance so there would be no significant risk of financial loss. With respect to the security issues, the school and the sponsors would conduct an initial review. A further review by the Executive Director of Schools or someone in a higher position would also take place. Mr. Teplitzky believes the decision as to whether students go on foreign field trips should not be left to the school principal.

Mr. Hayden moved to amend the recommendation by deleting the first sentence and inserting "foreign," before "out-of-state and overnight field trips" wherever it appears in the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung.

Mr. Hayden stated parents should make the decision as to whether their children should be allowed to participate in foreign field trips based on the circumstances at the time.

Ms. Jung also shared her support of Mr. Teplitzky's and Mr. Hayden's comments. She stated that, in her opinion, to deny all foreign travel at this time is wrong.

Dr. Hayman expressed disappointment that the recommendation was not changed based on community responses. He was also troubled by the lack of urgency of the system and the Board to address other "terrifying situations" in the schools.

Mr. Walker voiced his support of the Superintendent's recommendation and questioned why the school system isn't trying to provide this experience to the 98% of the student population that do not participate in foreign travel. He shared his thoughts that perhaps the same kind of enthusiasm seen in the debate of this issue be brought to other important issues.

Mr. Grzymiski shared his concern about the possibility of students being stranded in a foreign country.

Ms. Ettinger thanked the members of the public who contacted Board members in the last two weeks. She stated that due to the unusual situation, her vote would be cast on the side of safety in hopes that next year, when the issue comes up again, the Board won't be faced with the same situation.

Mr. Sasiadek urged his colleagues to vote their conscience.

Mr. Kennedy noted that while Americans are being urged to return to their daily life and routines, once the school sanctions a trip, the perception might exist among parents and the community that students will be safe on the planned trip. He felt the Board should be prudent and stated he would vote in favor of the recommendation.

Field Trips and Foreign Travel (Cont.)

Ms. Ross-Holmes noted the benefits her child received by traveling overseas, but also noted that safety of students is of utmost importance.

Ms. Cirincione stated that everyone agrees foreign travel is valuable but recognized that we are in a unique situation. She shared her position that student safety should be first and foremost in considering this recommendation.

Dr. Hayman noted that the proposed amendment gives the administration flexibility to cancel the trip because of safety considerations. He also questioned why there isn't more encouragement for student participation in foreign travel, noting some schools have scheduled four or five foreign trips and some schools have none scheduled.

By a vote of 4-8, the amendment failed. Mr. Teplitzky, Dr. Hayman, Ms. Jung, and Mr. Hayden voted in favor of the amendment. Mr. Arnold, Mr. Sasiadek, Ms. Cirincione, Mr. Walker, Mr. Grzymiski, Ms. Ross-Holmes, Ms. Ettinger, and Mr. Kennedy voted against the amendment.

The original motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation passed by a vote of 8-4. Mr. Teplitzky, Dr. Hayman, Ms. Jung, and Mr. Hayden cast the dissenting votes.

University of Maryland Baltimore County-Urban Teacher Education- Partnership Agreement

Dr. Dezmon, Assistant to the Superintendent for Equity and Assurance, explained the program offered by the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) would provide financial and professional support to student participants in exchange for a long-term commitment for them to teach in high needs elementary and middle schools in the Baltimore County Public Schools. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, Baltimore County would commit \$114,000 (\$28,500 each for four interns) to be funded exclusively through a state dedicated Compensatory Education Grant. Dr. Dezmon stated that UMBC would be expending funds to support these interns and maintain the programs in the selected schools. She noted the program represents an important step in the school system's efforts to recruit and retain quality teachers in our high needs schools.

In response to a question from Mr. Walker, Dr. Dezmon indicated the selection of interns would be the responsibility of UMBC.

Mr. Sasiadek inquired about who determines the amount of the stipend for supervising teachers. Dr. Dezmon responded the stipend is established by the college.

Dr. Hayman moved approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Education of Baltimore County and the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Ms. Jung seconded the motion.

University of Maryland Baltimore County Partnership Agreement (Cont.)

Ms. Ettinger inquired if supervision of the interns will be a joint responsibility, to which Dr. Dezmon replied affirmatively.

Mr. Grzynski questioned how assignment of student interns is determined. Dr. Dezmon stated that under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, interns entering the program must agree to work in a school designated as a high needs school.

The Board approved the partnership agreement with the University of Maryland Baltimore County for an Urban Teacher Education program.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Resolution Proclaiming November 14, 2001, as Educational Support Personnel Day – Ms. Marcella Kehr, President of the Baltimore (County Instructional) Assistants and Clerical Employees, invited Board members to attend the local celebration on November 12th. She also informed the Board that Governor Glendening has declared November 14th as Maryland Educational Support Personnel Day.
- B. Review of Policy and Rule 8130 – Internal Board Policies – Organization – Ms. Johns stated that as a result of the Board's retreat discussion, staff has established a process for the review of policies. Staff's recommendation is to maintain the current language in Policy 8130. New Rule 8130 puts in place a process for reviewing policies and regulations on a regular basis. Ms. Johns noted a correction in #3 of the rule.

Mr. Arnold asked that the Board's goal of implementing policy review be tied into this new rule.

Ms. Ettinger was supportive of the new rule stating that it provides an appropriate process for constructive review.

Mr. Arnold announced the public will be given an opportunity to comment on November 20th, and the Board will vote on the policy recommendation on December 4th.

At Mr. Teplitzky's request, Ms. Fromm provided a follow-up on bus driver shortage in Baltimore County. She stated that, at the present time, there is one certified driver for every Baltimore County Public School route.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits F, G, and H. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved items 1-4.

1. On-Call Elevator Maintenance and Repair
2. System Programmer
3. Time and Materials Roof Repair Services
4. Lumber

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-9. Mr. Kennedy noted a correction in Exhibit N, deletion of the next to last paragraph.

Mr. Teplitzky pulled items 1 and 4; Mr. Hayden pulled item 5.

The Board approved recommendations 2, 3, and 6-9.

2. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Pleasant Plains Elementary School
3. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Woodmoor Elementary School
6. Change Order – Design Services for Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School
7. Change Order – Design Services for Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Mars Estates Elementary School
8. Change Order – Design Services for Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Owings Mills Elementary School
9. Major Maintenance Renovation Projects – Increase Contingency Authorization – Various Elementary Schools

Items 1 and 4

As recommended by the Building Committee, the Board approved items 1 and 4. Mr. Teplitzky abstained from discussion and voting on these items.

1. Hazardous Material Abatement for Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Hawthorne Elementary School
4. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Sussex Elementary School

Item 5

As recommended by the Building Committee, the Board approved item 5. Mr. Hayden abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

5. Change Order – Design Services and Construction Administration for Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Battle Grove Elementary School

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Minutes of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council meeting, June 13, 2001
- B. Special Education Inclusion Grants
- C. Advanced Placement Incentive Program: Higher Standards for Student Achievement
- D. New Rule 2373 - Public Information Act Requests: Schedule of Fees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Monday, November 12, 2001, the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education will meet at Greenwood at 7:00 p.m.
- On Tuesday, November 13, 2001, the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Holabird Middle School at 7:30 p.m.
- On Wednesday, November 14, 2001, the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Arbutus Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

- Also on November 14, 2001, the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Elmwood Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.
- On November 7, 2001, between 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Whiteford, Taylor, and Preston will host an art exhibit and awards ceremony honoring students whose art work has recently been exhibited at the firm.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2001, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 4:45 p.m. After the Board adjourns to meet in closed session, followed by a brief dinner recess, the open meeting will reconvene at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome at all open sessions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Arnold reminded speakers to refrain from discussing personnel matters or any other matters that might come before the Board in the way of an appeal.

Mr. Thomas Raybon, President of the Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC), informed Board members of BCSC's first General Assembly meeting on October 4th and noted the next General Assembly meeting would take place tomorrow. Mr. Raybon shared his excitement at the number of registrations received for BCSC's annual Middle School Conference.

Ms. JoLynn Chadwick, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Gifted/Talented Education, noted that the topic at the last meeting was "Distance Learning." She shared the committee's disappointment that some of the practical issues will probably prevent expansion to many of the schools. Board members were invited to attend the group's next meeting on November 14th, where information will be presented to help 7th, 8th, and 9th graders plan and make decisions about their high school years. Finally, Ms. Chadwick noted that her committee cares very much about schools that have an "unhealthy" Gifted/Talented program.

Ms. Teresa LaMaster, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, provided a follow-up on her previous comments on the achievement data. She questioned the difference in the CTBS data and the MSPAP data with regard to the number of second graders reading at or above grade level.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a representative of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, voiced his agreement with the Board's decision to ban foreign travel for this school year. Based on his review of the budget book, specifically the school performance indices, Mr. Crum suggested changes at some schools. He noted, in some cases, there is an inverse ratio between how much money the school receives and how well the school performs.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Lynn Sklar, Chair of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, informed Board members of a change in the council's meeting format. Board members were invited to attend the next meeting on November 28th at Loch Raven Academy at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Barbara Dezmon will be the speaker.

Ms. Laura Nossel, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, thanked Board members for their support of the Fall Workshop and Reception. She also recognized Sudbrook's jazz ensemble and the culinary students of Western School of Technology and Environmental Science for their contribution to the evening. Ms. Nossel also thanked school system staff that assisted with the program. Ms. Nossel expressed the Council's appreciation for the additional time provided for the public to share its feelings on the foreign travel issue. She extended congratulations to the school system for the awards received by the ParentMobile. She expressed concern that MSPAP scores will be released later than normal and noted that this will have an impact on instruction. Finally, Ms. Nossel shared her concern regarding future funding for capital projects and the need for qualified maintenance personnel to keep the projects up and running so that we don't find ourselves in the same situation from a few years ago.

Mr. Rodger Janssen expressed his support of the Board's vote to ban foreign travel this school year. He commended staff for producing a fair and equitable travel policy in a short amount of time, but shared his disappointment the recommendation did not include more options. He inquired about the status of the implementation of the safety and security portion of the reorganization study.

At 8:58 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jung and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer