

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

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:10 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, 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.

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Ms. Jung, the Board approved the participation of the student board member in negotiation discussions.

At 5:11 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters, consult with counsel for legal advice, and to discuss matters relative to negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Ms. Ettinger and unanimously approved by the Board.

**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

Mr. Grimsley reviewed the recommended appointment to the Ethics Review Panel. After discussion, the Board decided to table the item.

Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 5:38 p.m.

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

Mr. Grimsley asked for the Board's direction with respect to a negotiations request from one of the employee groups.

Ms. Saffran-Brinks updated the Board with respect to a settlement negotiation. She advised the Board of its options. After discussion, the Board advised Ms. Saffran-Brinks how to proceed.

Ms. Murray entered the room at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Teplitzky sought counsel's advice with respect to a legal compliance issue.

Ms. Saffran-Brinks advised the Board regarding a contract bid.

At 6:42 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ettinger and approved by the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Cont.)

Dr. Hairston also announced that several schools in Baltimore County have been included in a report, *Dispelling the Myth Revisited*, by The Education Trust. The report identified over 4,500 high poverty and/or high minority schools nationwide scoring in the top 1/3 of their states. Deer Park and Bedford Elementary Schools were included in the list of schools with over 50% minority enrollment that achieved at this high level. Lansdowne and Sandy Plains Elementary Schools were identified as high achieving schools with over 50% of their enrollment receiving free or reduced lunches. McCormick Elementary School was included on the list as a high achieving school with both minority students and those receiving free or reduced lunch exceeding 50%.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

Mr. Grimsley recognized Peggy DeCrispino, whose appointment to Assistant Principal at Catonsville Elementary School was approved by the Board December 4<sup>th</sup>.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Single Audit Report—Mr. Sanford Teplitzky, Chair of the Budget and Audit Committee, introduced Mr. Pat Boyce from KPMG, who reported that the audit was completed without significant problems. KPMG issued an unqualified opinion which, Mr. Teplitzky noted, constitutes a positive finding for the system. Mr. Boyce recognized the excellent cooperation from Ms. Burnopp, Ms. Parker, and their staffs.

Mr. Teplitzky stated that with respect to the Single Audit Report, KPMG found no instances of material non-compliance on the system level. There were some instances of non-compliance at the program level identified that will require corrective action. Mr. Teplitzky noted the administration has prepared a corrective action plan that should address the issues identified by KPMG.

- B. Report on Professional Development Center—Ms. Mary Jacqe Marchione, Director of Professional Development, described for the Board, through a Power Point™ presentation, the electronic Professional Development process and Professional Development calendar.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Teplitzky, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits E, F, and H. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.) Exhibit G was tabled.

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board approved items 1-3.

1. Assignment of Employee Assistance
2. Supplies Contract: Ice Melt
3. School Buses

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-15. The Board approved these recommendations. Mr. Hayden abstained from discussion and voting on items 5, 10, and 13.

1. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Chatsworth School
2. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Deep Creek Elementary School
3. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Fullerton Elementary School
4. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Harford Hills Elementary School
5. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Hernwood Elementary School
6. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Milbrook Elementary School
7. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Relay Elementary School
8. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Shady Spring Elementary School
9. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Seventh District Elementary School
10. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Warren Elementary School

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

11. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Woodbridge Elementary School
12. Science Classroom Renovations – Carver Center for Arts and Technology
13. Science Classroom Renovations – Sparrows Point High School
14. Reroofing Project – Catonsville Middle School
15. Networking/Electrical Upgrades – Deep Creek Middle School, Loch Raven Academy, Middle River Middle School, and Pine Grove Middle School

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Minutes of the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council meeting
- B. Enrollment Forecast
- C. Third Party Billing Annual Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- Schools and offices will be closed from Monday, December 24, 2001, through Tuesday, January 1, 2002, for the Christmas Holiday. Schools will be closed for students on Wednesday, January 2, 2002, for Professional Development Day. Schools will reopen for students on Thursday, January 3, 2002.
- On Wednesday, January 9, 2002, the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Middlesex Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Monday, January 14, 2002, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at 5:00 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 at all open sessions.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Nancy Tobias, the Coordinating Resource Teacher for the Home Instruction Program for Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY), introduced the speaker for the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, Ms. Judith Wilson-Burkes.

Ms. Burkes explained how she became involved with the HIPPY program and how it has benefited not only her, but her son as well. She noted her child will be among the first group of children to complete the two-year HIPPY program at Baltimore Highlands Elementary School in June 2002. Ms. Burkes stated she plans to continue her service to Baltimore Highlands as a HIPPY paraprofessional and to encourage parent involvement in their children's education.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a representative of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, thanked Ms. Maggie Kennedy and the Board members who participated in the recent general meeting of advisory councils. He also asked the Board to review and modify the system's policy dealing with cell phones. Finally, Mr. Crum spoke about the excellent Winter Concert at Kenwood High School.

Ms. Patricia Ferguson, a representative of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group (MAAG), expressed the hope that the Board and staff would listen to, and address, the concerns of MAAG and the NAACP. Ms. Ferguson also shared the group's concern about ADC groups in the Northwest and Southwest Areas. She shared her understanding that the State allocates funds for these projects, and the money is placed in the General Fund. Ms. Ferguson voiced her hope that these funds get to where they are needed.

Ms. Laura Nossel, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, encouraged the Board to support the Thornton Commission recommendations. She noted the grim outlook in Annapolis this coming session and expressed appreciation for any dialogue between the Board and legislators. With regard to her comments at the previous meeting regarding traffic at the Joppa View Elementary School, Ms. Nossel stated that Delegate Redmer has requested a traffic study of the area. She shared that information will be sent to her from the State Department of Education regarding the recommendations for the State's direction for the grading of MSPAP. On the cell phone issue, Ms. Nossel stated this would be discussed at the PTA's January meeting. The students of Oakleigh Elementary School were commended for reading over 5,000 books thus far as part of Reading Across America program.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, thanked Board members for attending TABCO's recent Legislative Breakfast. He was also pleased the Superintendent was able to attend the recent General Assembly meeting, where he engaged in a question-and-answer session with the representatives. Mr. Beytin thanked the Board for the productive exchange of ideas at a recent dinner. Finally, Mr. Beytin applauded the school system for its efforts in working with teachers and other stakeholders for the re-opening of Hawthorne Elementary School. Special "thanks" were extended to Ms. Johns, Mr. Haines, and Mr. Dent of the Distribution Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Bernadette Caldwell questioned why grandparents and other relative caregivers experience difficulty enrolling their grandchildren or family members in school, when it is clear that the relative is the caregiver. Even though her situation has been resolved, her personal experience in enrolling her grandchild was long and drawn out.

State Senator Delores Kelley noted the legislation introduced last year that dealt with the issue presented by the previous speaker. In the upcoming session, Senator Kelley stated legislators would try to "tighten" last year's legislation so that relative caregivers, who are not legal guardians, will not go through the difficulty shared by Ms. Caldwell. She noted that the definition of the children in informal kinship care will place them in the same posture as children who are placed by State child placement agencies. Funding will follow the child from any Maryland county from which the child was previously domiciled with his/her parents, to the county where the relative caregiver, often the grandparent, resides. The possibility of audits by the State Department of Education will exist. A local board may request an audit if there is suspicion of fraud. Senator Kelley recognized the relative caregivers and members of the AARP in the audience.

Mr. Kennedy, Chair of the Building Committee, thanked the County and State authorities that provide funding for the many school construction projects undertaken by the school system. He also announced that the contracts for the major renovation projects on tonight's agenda came in approximately \$800,000 less than anticipated. Mr. Kennedy stated this is a reflection of the hard work of the Facilities staff.

At 8:52 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer