



TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:11 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, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Arnold reviewed possible work session dates with the Board.

At 5:20 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved adjournment of the open session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hayman and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:30 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, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, 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 Jason Stubblefield, a student at Towson University, 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 Reports of the Public Hearing, January 22 and February 7, 2002, and the open and closed session minutes of January 29, 2002, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Arnold thanked everyone who participated in this year's budget process—staff, administration, and the public. He noted the status quo budget presented last month was based on a mark determined by County officials. Mr. Arnold stated that should additional money become available, the Board has developed for County officials a priority list to address certain areas.

Ms. Ettinger suggested making the first two priorities distinctive. Mr. Sasiadek proposed placing the first two priorities on a separate page for emphasis.

Mr. Kennedy suggested sharing information regarding COLA funding in other counties with our County officials. He stated we must remain competitive to attract high quality employees.

Mr. Arnold thanked the County Executive for his support in the past.

Mr. Arnold noted the student member was ineligible to vote on the operating budget according to State law. On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved the Proposed Fiscal Year 2003 Operating Budget in the amount of \$993,000,492.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Haines, Ms. Burnopp, and Mr. Goodhues with regard to the preparation and revision of the proposed operating budget.

Dr. Hairston announced that the Engineering Society of Baltimore presented Engineering Education Leadership Awards to Charlene Bonham, Manager of Career and Technology Education, and Robert Kemmery, Principal of Eastern Technical High School, on February 22.

Dr. Hairston informed the audience and Board of his attendance at yesterday's grand opening of the Police Athletic League (PAL) Center at Mars Estates Elementary School. The Superintendent stated he was impressed by the community's turnout for the opening and with the staff's engagement with the community.

MSPAP DISCUSSION

Ms. Flynn, Executive Director of Assessments, introduced Assessment staff members Ms. Carla Zamerelli-Clifford, Ms. Kathy Corley, and Ms. Mandi Kirsch, who assisted with the Power Point™ presentation. The presentation reviewed the history of education reform in Maryland over the last 20 years. Ms. Flynn's presentation also reviewed the purposes of MSPAP, its goals, how MSPAP is scored, and the Visionary Panel recommendations.

MSPAP DISCUSSION (Cont.)

Mr. Arnold noted that other boards of education have taken positions with regard to MSPAP. He stated he had requested the Board's Curriculum Committee to discuss this issue and draft a letter of concern to the State Superintendent of Schools for discussion tonight.

With regard to the Visionary Panel recommendations, Mr. Kennedy asked Ms. Corley to suggest changing one of the recommendations to include placing high-qualified teachers and principals in ALL schools.

Mr. Walker stated that the recommendation should continue to provide for placing high-quality teachers in underachieving schools.

Ms. Ettinger, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, read the draft of the letter to Dr. Grasmick.

Mr. Hayden stated that he could not support the option of suspending the test for 2002 because of the possible fiscal impact to special education and Title I programs. He noted that woven into many of our state funding formulas is the requirement that the school system provide testing results currently available through MSPAP. Mr. Hayden also stated that the Montgomery County resolution begins with the presumption that there are significant problems and inappropriate results. It was noted that MSDE hired three (3) separate organizations to look at MSPAP as presented last year when concerns were first raised. Mr. Hayden stated that MSPAP was not intended to be a yearly evaluative process but rather intended to look at progress over a period of time, and it has provided significant and important information. He agreed there is room for improvement in MSPAP, and MSDE should be given more time to make those improvements. He further stated that to suspend testing this year would cause a disruption in the ability to use the data already collected.

Mr. Kennedy asked for a staff explanation of how suspension of the testing would fiscally impact the school system. Mr. Boone will report back to the Board with this information.

Dr. Hayman stated he would not support the contents of the letter nor would he support it as a mechanism for bringing about change in an area that needs to be changed. He expressed his concern about the groups who feel a sense of urgency regarding MSPAP and do not appear to have that same sense of urgency when it comes to the achievement gap, the disparity in the placement of students in special education and gifted and talented, and other critical issues. Dr. Hayman stated the process would not work because things happen in this country based on political, economic, and cultural realities. He suggested addressing the issue in several areas.

- 1) Philosophically – Take the posture of “plan to teach” and “leave no child behind.”

MSPAP DISCUSSION (Cont.)

based on this data. At the end of the year when the testing is done, teachers evaluate themselves. Dr. Hayman stated we have to sit down with the people who are making the decisions and indicate our desire to work together cooperatively to improve the process.

- 3) Dr. Hayman stated he plans to mobilize the community and urged others to do the same. He noted that if parents decide this is not the right thing, there would be changes. Dr. Hayman would like to create a network that looks at leadership capacity as opposed to identifying a leader or group of leaders.
- 4) Develop a plan of action--Dr. Hayman suggested tonight's report should have included information on where we are, what we have done to improve, and what we plan to do to move forward. He urged everyone to join forces to make a difference in what's happening throughout the county's schools.

Mr. Sasiadek thanked the Curriculum Committee for drafting the letter and voiced his support for the letter as written.

Ms. Ettinger noted that there are long-term and short-term issues with regard to MSPAP, and the letter addresses the short-term. She stated the long-term issues deserve the Board's greatest attention and participation.

As a member of the Curriculum Committee, Ms. Jung voiced her support of the letter but asked for additional time to consider the issue since several good points were brought up during the discussion, as well as to give staff time to prepare additional information for the Board's consideration. She suggested the matter be tabled.

Mr. Kennedy moved to table action on the letter to the State Superintendent with regard to MSPAP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Kennedy asked Mr. Boone and staff to contact various agencies and offices to obtain the information requested.

RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

Mr. Grimsley recognized Ms. Sara Brower, whose appointment as Assistant Principal at Rodgers Forge Elementary School was approved at the February 12th Board meeting.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Dr. Hayman, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the personnel matters as presented on Exhibits C, D, and E. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board approved items 1 and 2.

1. Contracted Services: Water Treatment for Critical Systems – Three-Year Bid
2. Oracle Software License

FINANCING RESOLUTION

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved a financing resolution for school buses.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-12. The Board approved these recommendations.

1. Boiler Room Roof Replacement – Dundalk Elementary School
2. Parking Lot Improvements – Pinewood Elementary School
3. Elevator Upgrades – Loch Raven High School
4. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Carney Elementary School
5. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Glyndon Elementary School
6. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Lansdowne Elementary School
7. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Red House Run Elementary School
8. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Seneca Elementary School
9. Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Summit Park Elementary School

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

10. Increase Contingency Authorizations for Major Maintenance Renovation Projects – Various Schools
11. Contingency Fund -- Miscellaneous Metals – New Town Elementary School
12. Fee Acceptance – Design Services for Temperature Control Upgrades at Eastern Technical High School

FY 2002 REVENUE SUPPLEMENT

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved a revenue supplement in the amount of \$9,838,650.

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board voted to support HB 492 – School Buying Consortium-County Boards of Education-Procurement-Exceptions.

On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board voted to support HB 1010 – Prohibition Against Possession of Portable Pagers on School Property – Repeal in Baltimore County.

RESOLUTION

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Ms. Jung, the Board adopted a resolution opposing the use of public funds for private education. Mr. Grzymiski abstained from voting on this item.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council minutes, January 2002.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Thursday, March 7, 2002, the Board will conduct a work session on elementary class size/local school size at 6 p.m. at Greenwood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

- On Monday, March 11, 2002, the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education will meet at 7:00 p.m. at Greenwood.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2002, 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 at all open sessions.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Thomas Raybon, President of the Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC), updated the Board on BCSC's February activities as well as those planned for the rest of the school year.

Ms. Teresa LaMaster, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked the Board for tabling the MSPAP issue so that she could receive feedback from her group. She shared the varying views of some parents of children with disabilities regarding MSPAP. There are parents whose children don't participate in the program that feel the issue doesn't affect them. They feel their children's needs become less important because they are not contributing to their school's scores. Other parents, whose children take part in the test, feel the test makes no sense. They feel their child is not benefiting from the experience, and the test is not a reliable measure of what they can do. The third group of parents, Ms. LaMaster stated, are struggling to have children with disabilities recognized more within the testing system, as it exists. She urged the Board in their letter to Dr. Grasmick to speak to the issue of training teachers, administrators, and other school system personnel so the data can be interpreted and understood.

Ms. Lora Williams, a representative of AFSCME, asked the Board to reconsider position upgrades for grounds personnel and bus drivers. She noted bus drivers have been waiting 10 years for an upgrade. Ms. Williams also asked the Board to consider increasing the shift differential for 2nd and 3rd shift employees and providing a reasonable COLA for their employees.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, thanked the Board for approving the budget and including priorities for COLAs and computers for teachers. She stated that public comment would be helpful and appropriate in assisting the Board with its decision regarding MSPAP. She noted the advisory councils support the resolution with respect to the Governor's inclusion of funding for private education.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Mr. Boyd Crouse, Chair of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, asked that any policy dealing with electronic communication devices be very specific and that violations be detailed. He also thanked the Board for its position on public funds for private education.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a member of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, thanked the Board for approving the contracts for Seneca and Dundalk Elementary Schools. He also stated his supported for the Board's technology for teachers priority. Mr. Crum reiterated some of the purposes of MSPAP and stated standards for the test should not be reduced.

Ms. Paula Simon, President of the Council of Administrative and Supervisory Employees (CASE), shared the Council's appreciation for the Board's willingness to provide public forums as a venue for expressing ideas and concerns. She also conveyed the Council's appreciation to the Board for its willingness to meet individually to share and discuss concerns that relate to all CASE employees.

Ms. Laura Nossel, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, thanked Ms. Burnopp and her staff for the information session regarding the budget and for providing budget information to the local PTA units. She stated that at the Maryland State Department of Education meeting today, it was mentioned that the state is looking at electronic dissemination of information regarding statewide Essential Curriculum and how disadvantaged our teachers will be if they don't have computers in their classes. The Board was thanked for its position on public funds for private education. Ms. Nossel shared her understanding that the Maryland PTA will consider the position of suspension of MSPAP. She shared PTA Council's appreciation of the Board's consideration and discussion of MSPAP.

Mr. Michael Franklin, Vice President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, indicated that closing the achievement gap will be a very high priority for the Council under his anticipated leadership next year, and the group will do whatever is necessary to "get the job done."

Ms. Cheryl Bost, Vice President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, thanked the Board for including COLAs as a top priority. This reflects the Board's commitment to help attract and retain qualified teachers in Baltimore County. With regard to MSPAP, Ms. Bost stated that TABCO has always supported accountability but has not always supported the implementation and use of this data. TABCO believes revisions need to be made and that there is a need for a valid assessment tool.

Mr. Rodger Janssen thanked staff for its effort in providing information at a recent budget meeting. He mentioned two statements made earlier during the MSPAP discussion by Mr. Hayden that appeared to be contradictory.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Ms. Susan Katz, President of the Owings Mills High School PTSA, urged the Board to obtain input from all stakeholders, including students, teachers, administrators, and parents, when developing a policy on electronic communication devices.

Mr. Arnold announced the appointment of former Board President Dunbar Brooks to the Maryland State Board of Education.

At 9:29 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

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