

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

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 4:02 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, 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 asked for a volunteer to participate in a commencement ceremony next month. Mr. Walker will attend.

Mr. Arnold announced that a work session on the achievement gap will be held on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in ESS.

At 4:04 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to consult with counsel regarding legal advice and potential litigation pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), and (a)(8). The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

Ms. Saffran-Brinks advised Board members with regard to a contract that the Board will consider this evening.

Dr. Hayman entered the room at 4:17 p.m.

Ms. Saffran-Brinks advised the Board of a matter dealing with potential litigation. After discussion, the Board advised her how to proceed.

Ms. Jung reviewed a recommendation for a Board-appointed position.

Mr. Grimsley reviewed the appointments and transfers on tonight's agenda.

At 5:58 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and approved by the Board.

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:42 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, 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

OPEN SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

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 Ms. Dianne Gilbert, Chief of Staff in the County Executive's Office and Educational Liaison for the County Executive, 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 Report of the Board of Education Work Session, March 19, 2002, and the open and closed minutes of March 26, 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston informed the Board and audience that 150 teachers were honored last evening at a dinner hosted by the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce.

He also announced that at TABCO's Recognition and Retirement Dinner, a number of teachers were recognized for their contributions to student success and a quality instructional program in their schools.

The Superintendent announced that at a ceremony held last week, the Board of Education recognized the Ethics Award winners from each high school in Baltimore County. At the same program, the Board also recognized 38 National Merit Scholars. Dr. Hairston noted that this year's number is almost twice the number of last year's Scholars.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Office of Career and Technology Education held its annual recognition banquet and presented awards to 138 outstanding seniors for their achievement in their courses of study and for their contributions to their schools and community. Two \$1,000 scholarships were also awarded.

Dr. Hairston announced that fourth and fifth graders from Hebbville Elementary School placed first in the Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) competition. This is the fifth year in a row that Hebbville students have competed and were victorious.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Cont.)

Dr. Hairston noted that Jill Myers, Athletic Director at Franklin High School, has been named the State Athletic Director of the Year by the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association.

Recently, 140 ninth grade GT American Government students attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Model Congress at Loch Raven High School. Students researched, wrote, and submitted bills within the jurisdiction of a Congressional committee.

The Superintendent announced the Division of Business Services has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO).

### RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Randall Grimsley, Executive Director of Human Resources, recognized the administrators whose appointments were approved at the April 23, 2002, meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the revisions to Policy 6500 – Research and Testing.

### REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Report on Proposed School Calendar 2003-04 – Ms. Sharon Norman, Director of Communications, reviewed the process used in developing the calendar as well as the feedback received from stakeholder groups and individuals. She also provided information from other school systems' calendars, such as starting dates, dates of Spring Break, and the number of snow days. Ms. Norman shared highlights of the proposed calendar. She noted the public will be invited to comment at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, and the Board will be asked to vote on the calendar on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Hayman expressed his concern about the number of early dismissals on Fridays for elementary and middle school students. He also shared his concern that during the week of November 24<sup>th</sup>, elementary students would attend school only one day. He suggested the deletion of the terms "Christmas" and "Easter." Finally, Dr. Hayman asked for information to explain some of the terms, such as "Team Planning for Instruction," "Milestone Assessments," and "Professional Study Day."

REPORTS (Cont.)

- B. Report on Proposed Revisions to Policy 5550 – Disruptive Behavior – Mr. Rauenzahn, Director of Student Support Services, highlighted proposed changes to the policy. Mr. Arnold noted there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed changes at the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the Board is scheduled to vote on the policy at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Hayden and Ms. Murray shared their concern that the proposed language with regard to electronic communication devices is extremely narrow.

Dr. Mohler stated the language attempts to balance the need for a safe and orderly instructional atmosphere with the need and the desire of parents and the community for students to have access to cell phones and other electronic communication devices. The language attempts to apply a common sense approach. It also attempts to educate students as to the appropriate and inappropriate use of cell phones. Dr. Mohler noted that this is the first effort to revise our cell phone policy and suggested that we let this play out over the coming year, receive feedback, and revisit the policy next year.

Dr. Hayman felt the language in the cell phone policy lacked uniformity in administration of the policy with respect to school officials having the ability to determine other times and locations. The time or location could vary from school to school. Dr. Hayman suggested that the definition of some ambiguous terms, such as “fighting,” should be included. Dr. Mohler responded saying that a glossary of terms is available for use by administrators and Superintendent’s Designees to ensure standard application.

Mr. Kennedy asked about other school systems’ cell phone policies. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that this proposed policy is very similar to other systems. Some counties do allow use of cell phone on their school buses. He also noted that only one case of disciplinary action had been taken in all the counties with a cell phone policy.

Mr. Sasiadek suggested placing the proposed policy revisions on the school system’s web site and invite feedback.

Mr. Teplitzky commended the committee for crafting a cell phone policy that allows its use at appropriate times and for committing to revisit the issue next year. He cautioned about broadening the language. Mr. Teplitzky stated this policy is a legitimate and appropriate first step in allowing appropriate use of cell phones.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Ms. Ettinger noted that the Board reviews the behavior policy annually and makes changes as required.

- C. Report on Proposed Revisions to Policies 3111-Budget: Planning and Preparation, 3112-Budget: Operating Budget, and 3113-Transfers and Supplements – Ms. Burnopp reviewed the proposed revisions to the policies, noting that most were of a technical nature.

With regard to Policy 3112, Mr. Teplitzky suggested wording in the first paragraph be changed to state the Superintendent will make every effort to submit a budget to the Board of Education in January.

Mr. Arnold noted the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes on May 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Board will vote on the proposed changes at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- D. Update on Title I School Choice Option—Mr. Boone noted that federal law requires Baltimore County Public Schools to continue implementing the Title I Public School Transfer Options next school year. During 2002-03, students from Powhatan and Winfield Elementary Schools and Woodlawn Middle School will be eligible to request transfers. Mr. Boone noted that because Sussex Elementary School has experienced two years of adequate progress, it is no longer required to participate in the process. The process for 2002-03 continues under procedures similar to those presented to the Board and used during this school year. Improvements to the process include:

- Transportation must be provided from eligible schools for families who select transfers for their children,
- Families will receive information earlier this year to enable them to make a decision before the end of the 2001-02 school year, and
- Students whose families select transfer will begin the new year at their new schools.

Ms. Cassell reviewed the factors used to determine which schools are eligible to receive students.

Mr. Boone noted that schools identified this year have benefited from the Academic Intervention Teams and supervision from Curriculum and Instruction personnel.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Dr. Hayman commended the staff, students, and parents at Sussex for being removed from the list. He stated his hope that the experiences that made their removal from the list possible would be shared with Winfield and Powhatan.

Mr. Teplitzky shared his concern about the cost of transportation for transporting students to eligible receiving schools across the county.

Mr. Boone noted that this year, one student from Sussex Elementary School applied for and was granted a transfer. Eight students from Woodlawn Middle School were granted transfers, and two returned to Woodlawn.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the personnel items as presented on Exhibits F, G, H, I, and I-1. (Copies of the exhibits are attached to the formal minutes.)

APPOINTMENT TO ETHICS REVIEW PANEL

On motion of Mr. Teplitzky, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved an appointment to the Ethics Review Panel.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Mr. Teplitzky pulled item 7 for further discussion, and Mr. Hayden pulled item 11 for further discussion. On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved items 1-6, 8-10, and 12-14.

1. eCatalog Contracts
2. Broadcast Quality Digital Television Character and Graphics Generator
3. Contracted Services: Emergency Hazardous Material Clean-up
4. Contracted Services: Servicing of Underground and Above Ground Storage Tanks
5. Enzyme Treatment Program – Five-Year Contract
6. Equipment Contract: Audio and Video Equipment – Two-Year Bid

CONTRACT AWARDS (Cont.)

8. Interpreting Services – First One-Year Extension
9. Microsoft License Agreement – Two-Year Extension
10. Printing: BEBCO Forms
12. Services Contract – US Communities – Board Authority Additional Purchasing Options
13. Special Education: Intensity “V Program” – Second One-Year Extension
14. Universal Virus Protection System for Baltimore County Public Schools – One-Year Extension.

Item 7

Mr. Hayden noted an irregularity in the exhibit among vendors who bid the same interest rate but whose total interest figure differed. He suggested contacting the vendor in such cases to determine if an error has been made. Mr. Hayden also suggested that the Budget and Audit Committee review financial bids.

On motion of Dr. Hayman, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board approved item 7. Mr. Teplitzky and Mr. Arnold abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

7. Financing: Cars, Trucks and School Buses – Four-Year Bid

Item 11

Mr. Hayden suggested the contract extension be extended for up to one year. On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved item 11 as amended.

11. Providers for 403(b) Plan – Six-Month Extension

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Kennedy, representing the Building Committee, recommended approval of items 1-15. Mr. Hayden pulled item 4; Mr. Teplitzky pulled item 6. The Board approved recommendations 1-3, 5, and 7-15.

1. Running Track Resurfacing – Dulaney High School
2. Running Track Resurfacing – Loch Raven High School

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

3. Gym Renovations – Middle River Middle School
5. Parking Lot Lighting – Various Schools
7. Fee Acceptance – Design Services for Reroofing Project – Golden Ring Middle School
8. Fee Acceptance – Design Services for Reroofing Project – Parkville Middle School
9. Fee Acceptance – Design Services for Reroofing Project – Parkville Middle School
10. Fee Acceptance – Consultant Services for ADA Surveys and Evaluation – Five Middle Schools
11. Change Order – Reroofing Project – Edmondson Heights Elementary School
12. Change Order – Design Services for Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Timonium Elementary School
13. Change Order – Site Work Contract – New Town High School
14. Joint Use Agreements – Chapel Hill Elementary and Randallstown Elementary Schools
15. Increase Contingency Authorization for IT Communication Cabling for Major Maintenance Renovation Projects – Various Elementary Schools

Item 4

As recommended by the Building Committee, the Board approved item 4. Mr. Hayden abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

4. Parking Lot Improvements – Warren Elementary School

Item 6

As recommended by the Building Committee, the Board approved item 6. Mr. Teplitzky abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

6. Asbestos Abatement – Major Maintenance Renovation Projects –  
Hernwood Elementary School

LEASED SPACE

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved an amended lease agreement for additional space at the Pulaski Park offices to house the Support Services office of the Department of Human Resources.

BUDGET SUPPLEMENT FOR FY '02

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Hayman, the Board approved a budget supplement in the amount of \$3,195,980.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

Minutes from the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council meeting,  
April 2002.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Tuesday, May 21, 2002, the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Hawthorne Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- On Wednesday, May 22, 2002, the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at the Rolling Road Office at 7:30 p.m.
- Also on Wednesday, May 22, 2002, the Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Milbrook Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2002, in observance of Memorial Day.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 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 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome to all open sessions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, a representative of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Special Education, shared her concern that a representative from Special Education was not included on the committee that reviewed Policy 5550. She was also concerned that the harassment portion of the policy did not mention students with disabilities.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a representative of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, voiced his agreement with Mr. Hayden regarding the restrictive elements of the cell phone policy. He stated parents and students should know what is and what is not permitted. Mr. Crum also stated this policy is a very good first step. Mr. Crum informed Board members of his attendance at the recent County Council budget hearing. He also noted a recent music program at Kenwood High School.

Mr. Lorenzo Foxworth, a representative of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group, commended the students at Hebbville Elementary School for their recent success. He spoke about how success is measured. Mr. Foxworth also expressed his concern with the number of agency-placed students in the Northwest and Southwest Areas and questioned why there is such a high concentration of these students in those areas.

Ms. Laura Nossel, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, congratulated students who were Baltimore County Reflection winners. She noted that some have gone on to the national competition. Ms. Nossel recognized some of the Baltimore County schools that received awards at the PTA Council's annual awards program. She also noted her participation in the Vision 2030 hearings as a facilitator. With regard to the cell phone policy, Ms. Nossel agreed with Dr. Hayman's comments noting the need for consistency. Letters to Dr. Hairston and Mr. Arnold outlining the PTA Council's concerns about parent involvement and possible solutions will be sent. Finally, Ms. Nossel noted that the Council's leadership training will take place next month via Distance Learning.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers' Association of Baltimore County, thanked Board members for supporting, participating in, and attending last week's recognition dinner. He spoke about research that has been done on the teacher shortage. The research shows the solution to the current teacher shortage is retention of the current teaching staff. Mr. Beytin noted that Baltimore County Public Schools hired 3,000 teachers over the last three years. Six hundred resigned within the first year, and another 300 resigned by the end of the second year. He stated that 60% would have remained with proper support.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Mr. Arnold announced the Board will conduct a work session on the achievement gap and study possible solutions and alternatives on Monday, June 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Greenwood.

At 9:25 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer

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