

## TENTATIVE MINUTES

### BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Monday, November 18, 2002

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:01 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, 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.

The Board reviewed dates for meeting with a constituent group. Ms. Zepp will contact the group's President with the suggested dates.

Board members were reminded to turn in their registration forms for the national conference by December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Murray advised her colleagues that a group of parents from New Town Elementary School may be present tonight to address the Board.

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

At 5:05 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to discuss matters relative to negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, § 10-508(a)(1) and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and unanimously approved by the Board.

### CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

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

Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 5:07 p.m.

Mr. Grimsley reviewed with Board members a negotiations proposal for a particular employee group.

Mr. Capozzi advised the Board of the status of negotiations with the various employee groups.

Mr. Haines advised the Board on matters dealing with the composition of one of the negotiating teams.

At 6:07 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker 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 members were present: Ms. Sarah D. Bormel, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, 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. Joseph 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 Mr. Evan Broderick, a junior at Franklin 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 October 10, 2002, Mr. Arnold declared the minutes approved as shown on the website.

Mr. Arnold informed the audience of the previous sessions in which Board members had participated in the afternoon. Mr. Arnold welcomed Delegate Robert Zirk into the meeting.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston expressed his appreciation to Ms. Daisy Mc Tighe and the Office of Art for the art exhibit hosted by the law firm of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston. Mr. Hayden was thanked for his law firm's hospitality.

Dr. Hairston congratulated Eastern Technical High School for receiving exemplary status of its Allied Health program from the National Dissemination Center for Career and Technical Education. Eastern's principal, staff, and community were also congratulated for this honor.

### RECOGNITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Grimsley recognized Ms. Laurie Jones and Mr. Brian Bailey whose appointments were approved at the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

REPORTS (Cont.)

- A. On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board adopted a resolution proclaiming November 20, 2002, as Educational Support Personnel Day. The resolution was received by Ms. Gloria Collins, Vice President of the Baltimore (County Instructional) Assistants and Clerical Employees.
- B. Report on Proposed Revision to the *Blueprint for Progress* (First Reader)-Ms. Johns and Ms. Audette provided a PowerPoint™ presentation on the proposed revision to the *Blueprint for Progress*. Ms. Johns recognized the members of the work group and expressed appreciation to the Coalition of Advisory Councils for their recommendations and suggestions. Members of the Coalition who were present were recognized. She spoke of the Superintendent's charge to the group and how the *Blueprint* was aligned with the *No Child Left Behind Act*, the *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act*, the Visionary Panel, and the Maryland School Assessments.

Ms. Audette highlighted changes in the Belief Statements and additional Performance Goals. It was noted that Board action on the proposed revisions is expected to take place on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Sasiadek made the following suggestions:

- Under Performance Indicators for Goal 1, detail what is expected of elementary and middle school students.
- Include a statement reflecting support of the arts at all levels of instruction.
- Under Key Strategies for Goal 2, provide more assistance to integrate ESOL families into the community.
- Under Key Strategies for Goal 6, item "f," consider the use of another word for "train" throughout the *Blueprint*.
- Under Key Strategies for Goal 8, item "c," consider the use of another word for "equitable."
- In the Glossary of Terms, under "Accuplacer," include students who are not college bound.

Mr. Sasiadek commended the committee and its leadership for the hours of work that went into the revised *Blueprint*.

Ms. Ettinger suggested that the system's commitment to fine arts be reflected in 2.2, under Performance Indicators for Goal 1. She also

REPORTS (Cont.)

proposed including statements similar to 1.8, but for mathematics.

In Belief Statement 4, Ms. Bormel suggested using a more positive term than "adequate." She also suggested that in the "Glossary," under "Advanced Placement Program (AP)," change "exempted" to "maybe exempted." Ms. Bormel suggested producing a condensed version of the *Blueprint*, that is more concise, in addition to the original document.

Mr. Kennedy thanked the committee for deleting the goal of having 100% membership in local PTA's. Mr. Kennedy also questioned item k, under "Key Strategies for Goal 1," as to whether the number of books listed is too great. He also questioned how the books are chosen and if the reading list includes classics as well as contemporary reading.

Mr. Grzymiski suggested expanding the wording in Performance Goal 2 to include parents. He also asked that an additional Performance Indicator be included to specifically reference business and community members.

Mr. Teplitzky expressed his appreciation to Ms. Johns and Ms. Audette for removing the education jargon from the *Blueprint*, thus making it easier to read and understand. He cautioned against shortening the document as suggested by Ms. Bormel. Mr. Teplitzky stated that it is critical for people to understand how difficult it is to move the system and students in the right direction. He also inquired as to whether standards could be tied to Performance Indicators in the later goals.

Mr. Hayden suggested expanding Key Strategy "e" to include many opportunities for professional development for all teachers, noting that by 2005 - 2006, all teachers will need to be "highly qualified."

Ms. Murray noted the importance of sharing the final document with businesses and the community.

Ms. Ettinger stated that it is important for this document to be shared with elected officials and others who are involved in helping the school system realize these goals. She further stated that it is essential for everyone to understand the impact of the various pieces of legislation as well as the funding attached to them.

Mr. Walker expressed his desire to see under "Key Strategy for Goal 1," a strategy written specifically for special education students.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Dr. Hairston thanked Ms. Johns, Ms. Audette, and the committee members who participated in the revision.

Mr. Arnold announced the public would have each a chance to comment on the proposed revisions at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and the Board would vote on the revisions at the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. If a work session is needed, one will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. That decision will not be made until December 3<sup>rd</sup>, however.

- C. Board Discussion of De Jong Report Recommendations — Ms. Fromm, Executive Director of Planning and Support Operations, introduced Ms. Carolyn Staskiewicz and Mr. Matthew Cropper of De Jong & Associates, who provided a PowerPoint™ presentation on overcrowding at New Town Elementary School.

Ms. Staskiewicz stated that the student population in the Northwest Area is projected to increase by 1,300 by 2010, which is 1,200 over state capacity. There is also a projection of 7,098 single family detached homes planned for possible development. Those homes could generate over 4,000 students. It was noted that boundary adjustments are a short-term fix; new construction of at least one, if not two, elementary schools in the Northwest Area is recommended. Other short-term solutions that could be considered are annexing about 150 students to two other elementary schools, relocating, double shifts, year-round school, alternative spaces, and maintaining an enrollment cap. Ms. Staskiewicz stated De Jong recommends a review of the school system's redistricting, a capital improvement plan, and a district-wide Facilities Master Plan.

Mr. Arnold announced the timeline for consideration of the De Jong study:

- First Quarter 2003 — Work session(s) and public comment
- Board Consideration of Recommendations — Spring 2003.

Mr. Hayden noted that apartments were not considered in the housing information presented, which would add to the projection of 4,258 additional students. This would mean new construction of a couple elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. He suggested coordination take place with County officials to refine the housing information and so County fiscal authorities have a complete understanding of the urgent need for new schools in the Northwest Area. Mr. Hayden stated that the focus should not be on Northwest boundaries, but be expanded to adjacent areas as soon as possible.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Ms. Murray asked if the projections included a large number of multi-family in the area, to which Ms. Staskiewicz responded it did not.

Mr. Kennedy inquired if State funds would be forthcoming to assist with the new law requiring all children to attend full-day kindergarten in 2007. He also asked if there would be classroom space to place these children. Ms. Fromm stated that plans to accommodate full-day kindergarten students were placed in the capital budget. Ms. Burnop added the State has formed a study group to look at how they would take on the challenge of funding the additional space needed. Mr. Kennedy spoke of the critical need to look at our facilities on a systemwide basis as soon as possible.

Mr. Kennedy also stated that it is not reasonable to expect children from the Southwest or Northwest Area to travel long distances to attend a school on the opposite side of the county that may have available classroom space. He stated the County authorities must be convinced that if they are going to develop areas of the county, they should contribute toward funding for schools in those areas.

Ms. Jung suggested obtaining additional information that would provide the general pattern of the age of families and children and the time at which those children reach college age.

Ms. Ettinger urged staff to consider feeder patterns so that families could remain in their communities over the long term. She also spoke of the need to look at schools in terms of programs, not just numbers. Ms. Ettinger spoke about having the best information to share with County and State officials so they understand the needs. She expressed the hope that short-term solutions would have a minimum negative impact on students and families.

Mr. Teplitzky voiced his opinion that the State's process for new construction is flawed because schools can't be built based upon projections—the students must already be in the houses. He suggested the County and State discuss the process for deciding upon new construction and the size of new schools.

Ms. Jung stated that site acquisitions should be an on-going process.

### PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

Ms. Jung informed the audience that the personnel items were discussed prior to the Board's vote in public session.

### CONTRACT AWARDS

Mr. Sasiadek pulled item #1 for further discussion. On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved items 2- 4.

2. Contracted Services: Blueprint and Text Reproduction
3. Supply Contract: Various Ceiling Tiles and Supplies
4. Supply Contract: Various Fencing Supplies

#### Item #1

Mr. Sasiadek inquired if the automobiles being purchased were additional or replacing older vehicles. Mr. Gay responded that these automobiles were replacing older vehicles. The vehicles being replaced would then go into the pool and replace older pool cars.

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved item #1.

1. Automobiles

### BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-5. The Board approved these recommendations. Mr. Arnold noted that Building Committee items are discussed prior to the Board's vote in public session.

1. Environmental Consulting Services – Maiden Choice School
2. Environmental Consulting Services – White Oak School
3. Change Order – Science Room Renovation – Dulaney High School
4. Change Order – Design Services and Construction Administration for Reroofing Project – Lansdowne Middle School

BUILDING COMMITTEE (Cont.)

5. Change Order – Architectural/Engineering Design Services – New Town High School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- Schools and offices will be closed on November 28 - 29, 2002, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 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 any matter that might come before the Board in the form of an appeal, as well as any personnel matters. Speakers were also reminded to observe the time limit and to include their address on the sign -ups sheets so staff could respond to their concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Evan Broderick, a representative of the Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC), advised the Board of recent bills passed by BCSC's General Assembly with respect to better health in schools through vending machines and air conditioning of schools. BCSC is presently advertising for its annual COBCO Food Drive, and the Middle School Leadership Conference will take place in a few days at Essex Community College.

Mr. Ron Dapkunas, Chair of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, described the group's successful mentoring program, now in its third year. He explained the program's objective and how the learning exercises focus on team building, cooperation, and problem solving. Mr. Dapkunas stated the success of the program is measured by its growth. Board members were invited to attend any of these sessions.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked Dr. Hairston for his recent bulletin which reinforces the requirements that students receiving special education services be educated in the least restrictive environment in their homes. She suggested replacing the term that appears in the memo "disabled students" with "students receiving special education services." Ms. Nelson was pleased with the proposed revisions to the *Blueprint for Progress*, particularly the changes to the "Belief Statements." Ms. Nelson reminded Board members that funding for special education programs and for students

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

requiring special education services is a federal and state mandate. She stated the Thornton Commission determined State funding for students receiving special education services should increase by 250% by fiscal year 2005. Ms. Nelson noted that funding will be delivered in the form of block grants. She shared the concern of parents that funding for special education services will be lost in the block grant format.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, thanked everyone involved who make our schools good places for students to learn. With regard to the overcrowding report by DeJong, she noted that schools in the Northeast Area will soon face the same problems as in the Northwest, especially at the high school level. Ms. O'Hare suggested a good charge for the advisory councils would be to assist the Board in communicating with the elected officials. She stated that parents want their children to attend good schools in their neighborhoods. Finally, Ms. O'Hare spoke positively of the standardized curriculum that is being developed for middle school students.

Dr. Ella White Campbell, Chair of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group (MAAG), spoke of the crisis situation that exists in the Northwest and Southwest Areas with respect to student overcrowding. She invited Board members to visit Featherbed Lane Elementary School to see the environment in which teachers are working. Dr. Campbell noted that the DeJong study did not include the large number of agency placed students. She urged the Board to meet as soon as possible with the County Council, the County Planning Board, and the newly elected County Executive and Governor to advance its position for relief from overcrowding in the Northwest and Southwest Areas. Dr. Campbell promised the support of MAAG and the community.

Ms. Jan Thomas, a representative of the PTAC Council of Baltimore County, complimented the Board on its level of community input on the *Blueprint for Progress*. She shared her observations from the pre-budget meetings held recently. There is some confusion in the community about the difference between the capital budget and the operating budget. PTAC Council is developing a brochure to address this issue. Ms. Thomas also shared her observation that perhaps a better time to hold the capital budget hearing would be in the spring, rather than September. She also shared the three top budget issues that came out of the pre-budget meetings—teachers' salaries, class size, and technology in some form. It was noted there is a need for a technology position in each school.

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTAC Council of Baltimore County, noted that at a recent state conference, 25% of the delegates were from Baltimore County. He also recognized several schools that received awards at the conference. Mr. Franklin suggested adding a performance standard to the *Blueprint*—the national PTA's Parent/Family Involvement School Excellence Award.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County (TABCO), invited Board members to TABCO's annual legislative breakfast this weekend. He introduced two teachers from Arbutus Elementary School, Ms. Linda Poag and Ms. Connie Lemon. Ms. Poag spoke on behalf of Ms. Lemon, who is a hearing impaired employee and uses the services of a hearing service dog. Ms. Poag asked the Board to add hearing aid coverage for adults to the school system's health insurance package or make available a voluntary provision that would underwrite the purchase of hearing aids and/or assistive devices necessary for the classroom.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Northwest Improvement Coalition, stated parents and community members can help push to have new school construction in the Northwest put on the fast track, but the thrust of the lobbying effort has to come from the Board. She noted that in discussing the short-term solutions, nothing was mentioned about the psychological impact on students. Ms. Nelson urged the Board to enlist the support of the parents and community when speaking to elected officials.

Ms. Erin Lutz, President of the Cedarmerle Elementary School PTA, asked the Board to provide direction for parents as to how they can assist in the matter of overcrowding. She also asked the Board to look at the middle school and high school situation.

Ms. Charlene Simmonds, a Northwest Area parent, urged the Board to move forward and act immediately in requesting the construction of two new elementary schools in the Northwest Area.

The following New Town Elementary School (NTES) parents addressed the Board with respect to solutions for overcrowding at their children's school:

1. Ms. Roxanne Umphery Lucas stated that NTES should serve the residents of New Town and suggested reducing the school's current boundaries and capping the enrollment at 707.
2. Mr. Lindberg Carpenters shared his concern about space and safety at NTES. He stated that the school's cafeteria capacity of 166 is consistently exceeded. Mr. Carpenters also stated the school's enrollment should be reduced and capped at 707. He urged the Board to work with parents.
3. Ms. Paulette Hendricks asked the Board not to consider annexing New Town's students. She, too, stated that NTES should be a community school. Ms. Hendricks noted that NTES has a Level 5 program with 20 children in three classrooms.
4. Ms. Aida Sellman asked that parents be included at every level in the decision to solve the overcrowding. She shared her opposition to relocating and annexing

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

students as short-term solutions. Ms. Sellman stated the best short-term solution would be to modify the existing boundaries on nearby schools that are under capacity to alleviate New Town's overcrowding problem.

5. Ms. Jacqueline Parham shared her concerns about how New Town's overcrowding is affecting the students' health and safety. She noted that in the first two months of school this year, there were 1,424 student visits to the nurse's office. She noted that with the large number of students at the school, the opportunity for injuries increases. Ms. Parham requested that NTES's boundaries be reduced and an enrollment cap of 707 be put in place.
6. Ms. Joan White McCann noted that parents want their children to attend a community school and will be upset if there is no redistricting. She stated parents have been patient and asked the Board to do what the majority of parents wish — reduce the boundaries.
7. Mr. Ricardo Duncan thanked New Town Principal Strauss and her staff for the job they are doing under these conditions. He stated New Town cannot shoulder the burden for the area. Mr. Duncan asked for a reduction of the school's boundaries and an enrollment cap of 707. He stated New Town's parents are ready to work with and support the Board.
8. Ms. Ann Badden opposed double shifts and year-round school. She stated windowless book closets are being used as instructional areas. Ms. Badden voiced her support of a 707 student enrollment cap.
9. Ms. Arvis Tucker noted that NTES opened last year at 31% over capacity. This year, the school is over capacity by nearly 40%. She thanked Dr. Hairston for placing a cap on New Town's enrollment earlier this school year. Ms. Tucker opposes year-round school, relocatable, and double shifts/split sessions as short-term solutions. She supports redrawing the school's current boundaries and instituting an enrollment cap of 707 students. Ms. Tucker also feels special transfers should be allowed with the school system providing transportation. Finally, Ms. Tucker asked that an investigation of false registrants be expanded to New Town.

At 10:32 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bormel and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer

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