

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Thursday, October 10, 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, 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. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Board members were reminded of several upcoming events and were asked to contact Ms. Zepp if interested in attending.

Mr. Hayden and Dr. Hayman entered the room at 5:05 p.m.

Board members were informed of a request for oral argument and asked to indicate their availability for this argument to be scheduled later this month.

Mr. Arnold reminded Board members to contact Mr. Scroggs if they desired either group or one-on-one help with their lap top training.

Dr. Hairston reminded Board members of tonight's Results Report and asked that questions regarding individual schools be addressed to the Executive Directors of Schools.

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Ms. Ettinger, the Board agreed to permit the student Board member to participate in the discussion on negotiations.

At 5:10 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters, to discuss matters regarding negotiations, and to consult with counsel about legal advice pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), and potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grzymiski and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Grimsley, Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members the appointment on tonight's agenda.

Ms. Saffran-Brinks, Legal Counsel to the Board, and Ms. Burnopp, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, informed Board members of a matter dealing with potential litigation. Board members consulted with Ms. Saffran-Brinks as to its options in this matter.

Mr. Walker entered the room at 5:23 p.m.; Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 5:45 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

Ms. Howie, Legal Counsel to the Superintendent, and Mr. Grimsley provided information to the Board on negotiations with a particular employee group.

At 6:56 p.m., Mr. Grzymiski moved the Board come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

An invitation to an open forum extended to all members of the Board from Senator Kelley was discussed. Six (6) Board members plan to attend.

At 7:12 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to adjourn the open session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ettinger and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:49 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, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford Teplitzky, 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 Ms. Sarah Bancroft, 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 open and closed session minutes of September 9, 2002, and the Report of the Board of Education Retreat, September 15, 2002, Mr. Arnold declared the minutes and the report approved as shown on the web site.

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

RECOGNITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

Mr. Grimsley recognized a newly-appointed advisory council member from the September 24th meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston informed everyone that a presentation regarding enrollment figures would be made at the October 22nd Board meeting. He noted our September 30th enrollment was at 108,604.

The Superintendent provided a Power Point™ presentation on changes in Baltimore County and Baltimore County Public Schools. Information shared included variables that influence public education in America, changes in the County population, changes in the County's minority population, median household income, occupied household units, student enrollment, minority enrollment, ESOL enrollment, enrollment in free/reduced priced meal programs, and teachers. Also included in the presentation were several "Indicators of Progress" outlining goals for our students over the next few years.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Burnopp noted the Board could consider the original recommendation (Appendix I) or could consider the revised recommendation (Appendix II). She explained the changes in the revised capital budget, which included deferring the addition in the Northwest Area until Fiscal Year '05, the adjustment of Site Improvement funds to include \$225,000 for use at Featherbed Lane Elementary School for development of an alternative egress in the rear of the school. A last minute revision not reflected in Appendix II replaces Seneca Elementary School with McCormick Elementary School, under the Major Maintenance category. Ms. Burnopp explained that Seneca's boiler would be replaced with funds already allocated from the state for Seneca's systemic project. Ms. Burnopp distributed a handout listing the number of relocatables at county schools.

Mr. Cassell responded to Dr. Hayman's request for a description of Featherbed's road improvement and its impact on the movement of emergency vehicles. In response to Dr. Hayman's inquiry about eliminating the relocatables at Featherbed, Ms. Burnopp indicated that an evaluation would take place after the results of the DeJong study are available. Dr. Hayman noted a serious problem remains at the school with the relocatables since they do not have water and bathroom facilities.

Mr. Kennedy suggested moving programs and/or redistricting may be necessary to eliminate the relocatables.

Ms. Ettinger asked if the alternate egress would require modification to the existing building. Mr. Cassell indicated that it might be necessary.

OLD BUSINESS (Cont.)

Mr. Teplitzky voiced his concern over the delay in funding the Northwest Area addition. He stated that overcrowding currently exists in the Northwest Area and questioned waiting another year for an addition. With regard to Featherbed, he noted that even if the relocatables at the school were eliminated, 111 of these units would remain in county schools. He suggested a long-term plan on dealing with the large number of relocatables as well as hearing about how we can be creative in the use of our school buildings. Finally, Mr. Teplitzky requested a status report on the system's boiler replacement projects.

Ms. Ettinger stated that information from the DeJong study should be used to begin long-range strategy planning so that we can determine our needs in the area of facilities.

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the revised capital budget recommendation with the modification for the boiler replacement.

Mr. Kennedy expressed his appreciation to staff for developing the revised recommendations so quickly after the public hearing and work session.

REPORT

The Board received the following report:

The Annual Results Report—Dr. Grant, Executive Director for Secondary Programs, and Dr. Mazza, Director of Assessment, Research, and Testing, presented a Power Point™ report on the results achieved for the 2001-2002 school year. The first portion of the report highlighted some of the “Indicators of Student Achievement Progress” and specific results, including K-12 attendance, Maryland Functional Tests, Advanced Placement examination participation rates, and SAT participation rates. The data presented was disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender.

The second portion of the presentation dealt with “Key Strategies” and a summary of the progress in these areas during 2001-2002.

Mr. Grzynski suggested the development of a “fact sheet” that would provide information on the positive things happening in the schools as well as providing information on the direction of public education.

In response to a question by Ms. Murray, Dr. Mazza explained how information from parents was gathered.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Ms. Ettinger referenced the drop in the SAT participation rate and suggested this might be a guidance issue. She stated counselors need to be certain students are being encouraged to strive for success at the highest level. She noted how important this is, particularly at the middle school level where significant decisions are made by students and parents.

Mr. Kennedy noted the importance of community support in our schools. He asked if the data could be disaggregated to determine which schools are doing well in the area of student achievement and to see if there is any correlation between community support and student achievement. Dr. Hairston advised Mr. Kennedy that the Executive Directors of Schools could provide more in-depth information on that issue.

Dr. Hayman noted some serious problems exist in Baltimore County for African American students. The minority population has increased in Baltimore County Public Schools 138% over the last 12 years. One problem that needs to be addressed is the lack of minority administrators, particularly in schools having large minority populations. Dr. Hayman stated that the Board should back Dr. Hairston in his plan to address student achievement issues. He also stated that it is necessary to put the right people in the right places and increase the participation of minority parents in their children's education. Dr. Hayman asked the Superintendent and staff to come back to the Board with recommendations as to what is needed to make a difference.

Dr. Hairston explained tonight's report showed the positive areas and the areas in which we need to improve. He acknowledged the gap that exists in student achievement and noted the importance of the Board's support.

Ms. Ettinger noted that this report comes at a key time as staff is developing the budget for next school year. She stated that it would be helpful to reference key areas when discussing the budget.

Mr. Kennedy noted that there are few minorities entering the teaching profession and that this is a problem nationwide. He stated teachers' salaries could be one reason for this lack of interest in the teaching profession. Mr. Kennedy also stated that there are minority students who are doing well and we should be looking at the reasons why.

Mr. Teplitzky expressed the need for information that will help the Board address the achievement issues, whether it is policy or budget. Mr. Walker agreed with Mr. Teplitzky that it is the role of the Board to act so that students' needs can be met.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Ms. Bormel and Mr. Teplitzky agreed that early parental involvement is very important. Mr. Teplitzky further stated that parents need to be visible at school, even though it may be difficult. Staying away because they are “busy” sends a message to students about the value of school. Ms. Ettinger stated that the system should develop strategies to help children achieve whose parents can’t or won’t become involved.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved items 1-11.

1. Additional Services: Administrative Costs – Fingerprinting and Background Investigative Services – Supplemental
2. Contracted Services: Fire Alarms Preventative Maintenance, Installation, and Repair Services
3. Contracted Services: McDonnell/Miller Cutoffs Preventative Maintenance, Installation, and Repair Services
4. Contracted Services: PVI Hot Water Generators Preventative Maintenance, Installation, and Repair Services
5. Contracted Services: Security Systems Preventative Maintenance, Installation, and Repair Services
6. Contracted Services: Steam Traps Preventative Maintenance, Installation, and Repair Services
7. Corrugated Cartons (Boxes)
8. Food Service: Kitchen Equipment Maintenance – Two-Year Contract
9. Information Technology: Contracted Services – Support and Integration Services – Four-Year Bid

CONTRACT AWARDS (Cont.)

10. Paper: Dual Purpose
11. Special Education: Assistive Technology – Two-Year Bid

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1 and 2. The Board unanimously approved these recommendations.

1. Reroofing Project – Perry Hall High School
2. Change Order – Major Maintenance Renovation Project – Chadwick Elementary School

Mr. Kennedy noted that in a recent report from Dr. Krempel's office on the number of change orders, Baltimore County Public Schools has an extremely low rate of 2.66%. He commended the Facilities staff on its efforts in keeping the change order rate so low.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

New Rule 6104 – Field Trips and Foreign Travel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- On Tuesday, October 15, 2002, the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget meeting at Sollers Point/Southeastern Technical High School at 7:00 p.m.
- On Wednesday, October 16, 2002, the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget meeting at the Southwest Academy at 7:00 p.m.
- On Thursday, October 17, 2002, the Central Area Educational Advisory Council will hold its pre-budget meeting at Dumbarton Middle School at 7:00 p.m.
- Schools will be closed for students on Friday, October 18, 2002, for Professional Development Day and the Maryland State Teachers Association Convention. Schools will also be closed for students on Monday, October 21, 2002, for Professional Development.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 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.

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 asked to observe the time limit out of respect for the next person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Amethyst Danesie, President of the Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC), noted the recent BCSC executive board meeting. Amethyst announced the date of the Middle School Leadership Conference. She mentioned her attendance at a recent state executive board meeting, where 18 Maryland counties were represented. The Board was thanked for its support of BCSC.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, spoke of Carroll County teachers' vote to "work to the rule." He stated that Baltimore County teachers are contemplating no similar action. Both counties face similar frustrations—inadequate school budgets to provide needed personnel and services, class sizes, work load, paper work, high stakes tests, special education shortages, etc. Mr. Beytin stated that while great improvement has been made, much needs to be done.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, noted that Board representation was missing at last week's Candidates Forum. She expressed her disappointment the candidates did not discuss the priority areas of the Thornton Commission. Ms. Nelson urged the Board to encourage the candidates to look at the priorities established by the Commission. With respect to the "Annual Results Report," she shared her disappointment that no one inquired about achievement by students with disabilities. She urged the Board to advocate strongly for these students' needs. Ms. Nelson also stated that needs should determine the budget, not the other way around.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, also expressed her disappointment that no one from the Board attended the recent Candidates Forum. She announced the advisory councils' new web site is in the beginning phase.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a representative of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, spoke about the number of relocatables in the different areas of the county. Mr. Crum also commented on a few areas of the Results report.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, was pleased with the inclusion of funds for Featherbed Lane in the capital budget, but stated more needs to be done. He commended Maggie Kennedy and Meg O'Hare for their work on the Candidates Forum. Mr. Franklin expressed his disappointment in the lack of participation by local PTA officers and Board members.

Ms. Mary Pat Kahle, a representative of the PTA Council, shared her reasons why all Baltimore County schools should be air conditioned. She asked the Board to develop a long-range plan for air conditioning schools.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, a Cedarmere Elementary School parent, expressed her disappointment that funds for the Northwest Area addition were excluded from Fiscal Year 2004. Noting that the process for new construction takes at least three years, she stated that one year was being wasted. There is no question that Cedarmere is overcrowded. Ms. Nelson also noted two or three new housing developments going up in the next couple years. She asked the Board not to wait until Cedarmere's enrollment is capped before taking action to address the problem.

Ms. Erin Lutz, President of the Cedarmere Elementary School PTA, asked the Board to investigate the need for funding an addition at Cedarmere. The school has received minor repairs and two relocatables, for which they are appreciative, but feel relocatables are a "band aid" to a problem that exists in the Northwest Area. She described some of the conditions teachers and students must deal with because of inadequate space. Ms. Lutz urged the Board to meet with Cedarmere's principal, staff, and parents regarding overcrowding and to consider constructing an addition at Cedarmere.

Ms. Shamren Fletcher, a Cedarmere Elementary School parent, expressed her concern that funding for the Northwest Area addition was deferred to Fiscal Year 2005 when overcrowding currently exists. She stated children are beginning to suffer as a result. Ms. Fletcher asked the Board to reconsider leaving the money in Fiscal Year 2004 for the Northwest Area addition.

At 10:18 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer