

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, December 17, 2002

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:02 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, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, and Mr. James R. Sasiadek. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Dr. Hairston noted changes on tonight's agenda — the addition of an appointment and the withdrawal of Exhibit P, Revised Rule 4004.

Mr. Teplitzky entered the room at 5:03 p.m.

Mr. Arnold suggested the creation of two ad hoc committees — a Facilities Strategic Planning Committee and an Operations Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Hairston noted that the information in the Strategic Plan will be developed from the Master Plan. The school system is required to submit a five-year plan in facilities and operations in October 2003.

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

Mr. Grzymiski will lead the Operations Committee and Mr. Kennedy will lead the Facilities Committee. Mr. Teplitzky was also asked to serve on the Operations Committee.

Mr. Hayden and Mr. Walker entered the room at 5:08 p.m.

Mr. Sasiadek moved that the student Board member be permitted to participate in negotiations discussions during closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Teplitzky and approved by the Board.

At 5:09 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved the Board go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter, consult with counsel regarding legal advice, consult with counsel regarding potential litigation, and to discuss matters relative to negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), (a)(8), and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

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

Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Capozzi reviewed negotiation proposals from employee groups with the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

Mr. Hayden left the room at 5:50 p.m.

Ms. Saffran - Brinks described a matter involving potential litigation.

Mr. Hayden re-entered the room at 6:05 p.m.

Ms. Saffran - Brinks provided legal counsel with regard to the Board's submission of proposed revisions to its Ethics Code policies to the State Ethics Commission.

At 6:08 p.m., Mr. Walker 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 7:35 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, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. 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. Jessie Vincent and Ms. Allison Jennings, students at Perry Hall High School, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

MINUTES

Mr. Kennedy clarified his comment made at the November 18th Board meeting with regard to students reading a minimum number of books. He wanted it understood that he would like to see a good balance in the type of books that will appear on the recommended list.

Hearing no further comments regarding the open and closed session minutes of November 18, 2002, Mr. Arnold declared the minutes approved as presented on the website and as clarified by Mr. Kennedy.

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

OPEN SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

Mr. Arnold recognized the parents of student Board member Sarah Bormel who were in the audience.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston noted that over the last month or so, there have been newspaper articles with regard to published test scores and the relationship as to where we are headed with assessment in Maryland and with No Child Left Behind. Knowing that MSPAP was being phased out, the school system had the option of administering the test and did so. Dr. Hairston stated that MSPAP was used as a diagnostic tool. It provided an opportunity for individual schools to take stock and review the work that had been done and to do internal analysis. There was a misinterpretation that scores were down. Dr. Hairston noted that new assessments will be used over the next 12 years. Here assured the public that Baltimore County Public Schools is a fine school system and its performance as an organization is at its highest. Dr. Hairston stated the scores were never intended to be used as a rating. He offered his congratulations to principals and teachers for their hard work.

RECOGNITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

Mr. Grimsley recognized Ms. Sandra Skordalos, whose appointment to the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council was approved at the December 3rd meeting.

OLDBUSINESS

Mr. Arnold announced the Board would take action on the proposed revision to the *Blueprint for Progress* on January 14, 2003, so that the public would have ample time to submit its comments. He noted that no one signed up at the last meeting to address the proposed changes.

Mr. Kennedy questioned why social studies and science were not included in item (m) on page 9. Ms. Johns stated under the No Child Left Behind Act, we first need to focus on improving performance in reading and mathematics. It is believed that if students can read and perform in mathematics successfully, they will do well in social studies and science.

With respect to Performance Goal 1, Mr. Kennedy inquired if other curricular areas would be included. Ms. Johns reminded everyone that the *Blueprint* is a framework and that the importance of other curricular areas is not being diminished. She stated that what will be required of the system for public reporting through the Maryland School Assessment will be reading, language arts, mathematics, and science, initially. Ms. Johns stated the committee felt it important to model the document after No Child Left Behind and the Bridge to Excellence Act.

OLDBUSINESS(Cont.)

Mr. Teplitzky asked staff to explain to the audience what the document is and isn't. He noted the *Blueprint* might be the most important document the Board will issue; however, it doesn't list priorities during any particular year.

Dr. Hairston stated it is important to understand this document was born based on the simple concept of characteristics in a school that any parent would want their child to experience in their educational career.

Ms. Johns stated that the document is the outline for the school system's vision, mission, belief statements, performance goals, performance indicators, and key strategies. Ms. Audette added that it is important for the *Blueprint* to provide the framework for the school system's five year master plan that has to be submitted to the State Department of Education. It must also align with the budget.

Mr. Teplitzky stated he looks forward to seeing the proposed budget tie into this document. He also stated that it's important to get more information to the public about the resources included in the *Blueprint* so it will be clear to them what we are trying to accomplish. Ms. Johns responded that once the document is approved Mr. Neilson and his staff will begin to implement a plan to put the document on the BCPS website as well as distribute it to key stakeholder groups. She assured Mr. Teplitzky that this document and its underlying resources would be clearly communicated to the public.

Ms. Ettinger suggested that the document be effectively communicated with the teachers. She stated that teachers need to understand how this applies to them and see it as a way to achieve.

Mr. Kennedy questioned the establishment of a minimum goal for reading. He felt that setting a goal of 25 books might discourage students from reading. Mr. Kennedy shared his feeling that while the intent is good, students should read because they enjoy the activity.

Dr. Hayman voiced his concern about the lack of diversity in the photographs in the document. With regard to the Belief Statements, Dr. Hayman suggested that "will" in the fourth bullet should be changed to "should." He also suggested that "must" would be a better word in the last two bullets instead of "will." Dr. Hayman also suggested a formatting change.

Ms. Ettinger requested information on the percentage of students identified with special needs that are considered diplomabound rather than IMAP candidates. She also asked at what point the decision is made as to which path they follow.

Mr. Walker commented on the public's lack of response to this document. Ms. Johns stated this lack of public comment might be because of the stakeholder groups' input early in the process.

OLDBUSINESS(Cont.)

Dr. Hayman suggested the inclusion of a strategy for Goal 1 making certain that what is tested is taught. He made it clear that he was not suggesting teaching to the test.

Ms. Bormel suggested the term "Title I" be included in the glossary.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Report on Proposed Revision to Policy 3124 – Accounting and Cash Management (First Reading) – Ms. Burnopp described the proposed change to the policy as being technical and updating language.
- B. Report on Proposed Revision to Policy 3131 – External Audit (Second Reading) – Ms. Burnopp explained a Board member had requested the change after the last meeting. Mr. Arnold reminded everyone that a vote would be taken on the revisions on January 14th.
- C. Fiscal Year 2002 Comprehensive Annual Fiscal Report – Ms. Burnopp introduced Mr. Pat Boyle of KPMG, the firm that performed the audit. Mr. Teplitzky noted the first report, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), received an unqualified opinion from KPMG, which constitutes a positive finding for Baltimore County Public Schools.

On the second report, the Single Audit, Mr. Teplitzky described KPMG's three findings, and Mr. Boyce shared his reaction to staff's plan to resolve the issues.

The last document was the Management Letter. Mr. Teplitzky noted that all the issues raised in previous years have been completed or are in the process of being addressed. Any issues raised in this year's report are in the process of being resolved.

Mr. Teplitzky expressed his gratitude to staff for working diligently and cooperatively, and he thanked KPMG for its work this year. Ms. Burnopp also thanked the Internal Audit office for their work on this project. Mr. Boyce shared his appreciation for the cooperation received from Ms. Burnopp, Mr. Fannon and his staff, Ms. Parker and the Internal Audit office.

Mr. Arnold and Mr. Teplitzky presented savings bonds to the students whose work appeared in the CAFR.

REPORTS (Cont.)

- D. Report on Residency Review – Mr. Kemmery, Executive Director of Student Support Services, reviewed the history behind the residency investigation. Through a PowerPoint™ presentation, Mr. Rauenzahn, Director of Student Support Services, presented the results of the review. As a result of the review, ten students were withdrawn from Baltimore County Public Schools.

Mr. Grzymiski noted the Board's responsibility to assure taxpayers that they are paying for the education of those students who belong in Baltimore County Public Schools. He requested a list of the 13 schools involved in the investigation. Mr. Grzymiski expressed his hope that Mr. Kemmery's office would work closely with the Executive Directors of Schools in being more proactive in investigating possible fraudulent enrollments, rather than waiting for a school to seek the assistance of Student Support Services.

Mr. Teplitzky asked for clarification on residency verification done by schools. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that of the approximately 16,500 new students to Baltimore County Public Schools each year, approximately 12,000 are resident students who are approved through deed/lease documentation. The remainder are requesting enrollment because of hardship or multiple family living arrangements, which have to be approved by the Pupil Personnel Office.

Mr. Teplitzky shared his surprise of the low number of cases reviewed in this report (411 for 13 schools). Mr. Kemmery stated that the 13 principals were asked to send him all names of questionable cases. He noted that Board members would be sent the list of schools, the number of cases referred by each school, and what was found. Dr. Ferguson, Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services, indicated that names are still being referred to Mr. Kemmery's office for investigation. He shared his concern there are people whomove and do not notify the school so that the child can remain in the same school.

Mr. Kennedy noted that in some cases, people wait too late in the summer to register their children. He inquired about the accommodations we are asking schools to make to increase personnel the last two weeks before schools open. Dr. Ferguson stated that staff is available throughout the summer to assist parents/guardians. Parents/guardians/social workers are encouraged to enroll children early. Mr. Rauenzahn stated during the last two weeks of August and the first two weeks of September, retired pupil personnel workers are hired to assist in reviewing cases. This year, in

REPORTS (Cont.)

some places, pupil personnel workers were assigned to schools the first day or two schools were in session.

Ms. Ettinger suggested providing the larger apartment complexes and churches with information related to enrollment for new residents. Mr. Arnold also suggested providing this information to realtors.

Dr. Hayman suggested the possibility of temporary placement for students in particular situations while an investigation takes place.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

Mr. Hayden pulled item 1; Mr. Kennedy pulled item 2.

With regard to item 4, Ms. Jung questioned separate vendors for the body and chassis. Mr. Gay indicated that it is not unusual to bid them separately.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved items 3 - 5.

3. RFI: Computer Memory Modules
4. School Buses (Six - Month Contract)
5. Supply Contract: Various Types of Solid (Three - Year Bid)

Item 1

On motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Grzymiski, the Board approved item 1. Mr. Hayden abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

1. Contracted Services: Plumbing Services

Item 2

Mr. Kennedy expressed a desire to hear discussion on this item at a future date. On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved item 2.

CONTRACT AWARDS (Cont.)

2. Campus Beverage Contracts (Five -Year Contract)

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1 and 2. Mr. Hayden pulled item 1. The Board approved item 2.

2. Fee Acceptance – Construction Inspection Services – Maiden Choice School

Item 1

As recommended by the Building Committee, the Board approved item 1. Mr. Hayden abstained from discussion and voting on this item.

1. Stage Lighting and ADA Upgrades – Dundalk Middle School

INFORMATION

The Board received the following information:

Memorandum of Understanding Between Baltimore County Public Schools and The Community Colleges of Baltimore County

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- A. On Wednesday, December 18, 2002, the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Featherbed Lane Primary School at 7:30 p.m.
- B. Schools and offices will be closed for Winter Break from December 21, 2002, through January 1, 2003. Schools will reopen for students and teachers on Thursday, January 2, 2003.
- C. On Tuesday, January 7, 2003, the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Battle Monument School at 7:30 p.m.
- D. On Wednesday, January 8, 2003, the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Carney Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS(Cont.)

- E. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2003, 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 matters which might come before the Board in the form of an appeal, as well as personnel matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Al Thompson, Principal of the Dundalk Evening High School (DEHS), shared information with Board members on the impact of the Dundalk Evening High School. The school is not just a community school. It has served students from every school in the county, as well as private school students, and students from Harford and Howard Counties and Baltimore City. Dr. Thompson noted that each year more students attend DEHS.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, thanked Ms. Johns and Ms. Audette for including Jasmine Shriver (of the PTAC Council) and herself in the *Blueprint* work group. She clarified some additions included in the document at their request. Ms. Kennedy responded to Mr. Kennedy's comment on reading.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chair of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, spoke of the December meeting in the Northeast Area, which was attended by the new County Executive. She shared the broad range of groups and individuals that were present. Mr. Lawrence gave an overview of the *Blueprint for Progress*. There was discussion about the importance of the mentoring program for teachers in all schools. Ms. Streb spoke about the Citizens Advisory Committee for Indoor Air Quality. Another issue discussed was the overcrowding at Perry Hall High School. It was suggested that perhaps a study similar to that done in the Northwest be conducted for this area. With regard to the Middle School Task Force, Ms. O'Hare stated that more time will be spent on reading and math.

An unidentified member of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group expressed the group's appreciation for the work that went into the proposed revisions to the *Blueprint for Progress*. He urged the Board to look at the effectiveness of some of the programs in place and ask why some of the programs are not working. Another issue mentioned was the large number of foster homes in the Northwest and Southwest Areas.

Mr. Michael Franklin, President of the PTAC Council of Baltimore County, noted the Council's support of the *Blueprint for Progress*. He also noted the complexity of the residency issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, commented on the County Council's Spending Affordability Committee meeting the day before. He stated there was no discussion of educational issues, but rather on how to limit the County's operating budget. Mr. Beytin said there was discussion on limiting and placing a cap on one-time purchases. Items recently falling under this category include musical instrument replacements, elementary and secondary library updating, elementary math and language textbooks, and graphing calculators. A vote will probably be taken at the January 21st meeting. Mr. Beytin urged everyone to let legislators know that the education of our children is at stake.

No one signed up to speak to the proposed revisions to Policies 3121 – Funds, 3123 – Reporting, and 3131 – External Audit.

Mr. Kennedy noted the recent passing of Audrey Cheek, the first female principal in Baltimore County.

Mr. Marty Lagon, parent of a first grader at Edmondson Heights Elementary School, spoke of the overcrowding at the school. He noted that the library and music room have been lost because of overcrowding.

Mr. Arnold wished everyone a Happy Holiday and thanked everyone for their hard work in making Baltimore County Public Schools a great school system.

At 10:06 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