

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 3:36 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, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, 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, and staff members were present.

The Board entertained oral argument in Hearing Examiner's Case #03-31. The matter was heard in closed session.

In addition to the above listed Board members, also in attendance were the Appellant's mother; the Appellant's godfather; Ms. Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent of Business Services; Ms. Risa Schuster, Superintendent's Designee; Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Legal Counsel to the Superintendent; Carol Saffran-Brinks, Assistant County Attorney; and Ms. Denise Zepp, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education.

The proceedings of the hearing were recorded by a court reporter.

The hearing was concluded at 4:00 p.m.

Board members deliberated on the case.

At 4:02 p.m., the Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were in attendance: Ms. Sarah D. Bormel, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, 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, and staff members were present.

Mr. Arnold announced that effective with the March 25th meeting, exhibits will no longer be sent by messenger to Board members' homes. Exhibits will be available only on the web site.

Mr. Arnold informed the Board that this evening's dinner would be held at Ridge Ruxton due to the larger number of guests and staff expected.

Dr. Hairston reviewed a handout containing data about EYE and teacher retention in certain Southwest Area schools. The information contradicts the perception that large numbers of teachers are leaving low performing schools. Information for the remaining areas will be forthcoming.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

Board members were reminded of several functions coming up in the near future.

Mr. Arnold noted that in a recent meeting with the advisory councils, the group asked for a task list, which has been forwarded to Ms. Kennedy. Board members volunteered to serve as contact persons for each area council.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 4:20 p.m.

Mr. Grzynski reminded his colleagues of the public meetings taking place tomorrow evening throughout the county on the Special Education Staffing Plan.

Dr. Hairston informed the Board that an additional Building Committee exhibit has been added to tonight's agenda as an "information only" item.

At 4:27 p.m., Ms. Ettinger moved that the student Board member be permitted to participate in negotiations discussions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and approved by the Board.

In response to a question regarding the 2002-03 school calendar, Dr. Hairston explained that a formal written request to Dr. Grasmick must be made for the initial two-day waiver. Any additional days to be waived must be requested separately. At this time, the school year will be extended one day to Friday, June 20th. A waiver request for one additional day, April 21st, has been sent to the State Superintendent for her consideration. If the request is denied, staff will have to review its options.

Board members discussed correspondence between the County Executive and President Arnold dealing with an information request.

Ms. Murray entered the room at 4:42 p.m.

At 4:42 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss matters relative to negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Capozzi updated the Board with regard to negotiations with the various employee groups. A negotiations proposal for one of the groups was also discussed with the Board. After discussion, Mr. Capozzi received direction on how to proceed.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (Cont.)

At 5:41 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

The Board hosted members of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group for dinner.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:38 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. Grzynski, 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 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. Vanessa Houk, a student at Towson University, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

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

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Report of the Work Session, February 4, 2003, and the open and closed session minutes of February 11, 2003, Mr. Arnold declared the report and minutes approved as presented on the web site.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston introduced Ms. June Streckfus, Executive Director of the Maryland Business Roundtable. Ms. Streckfus spoke briefly about the Achievement Counts program, which started in 1999. She introduced Ms. LaTara Harris, who works with Ms. Sharon Norman on the Baltimore County campaign.

Ms. Harris explained that speakers address ninth grade students about the importance of education and achieving well in school. In Baltimore County, Achievement Counts is in 22 schools. Ms. Harris thanked the Board for its on-going support of the Achievement Counts program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Cont.)

Ms. Streckfus presented the school system with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Roundtable.

Dr. Hairston announced that Dorothy Hardin, Principal of Pikesville High School, has been selected as the Maryland High School Principal of the Year. Metropolitan Life sponsored the award in conjunction with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The Superintendent also announced the selection of Sarajane Quinn, Coordinator of Health Education, as the recipient of the Channing Mann Outstanding Physical Education Administrator Award for 2003. This national award is presented by the Council of School Leadership in Physical Education of the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

Officials from the United States Golf Association presented Baltimore County Public Schools a check for \$24,800. This grant will go toward creating a girls only high school golf program, the first of its kind in the nation.

Dr. Hairston updated the Board and audience on his actions with regard to the administration of MSA. He stated that the school system erred in the administration of the reading assessment component. The Superintendent has met with staff and will continue to meet with staff. The Board and public were assured that steps are being taken to prevent a reoccurrence.

OLD BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the proposed revisions to Policy 4006 – Personnel: General – Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks.

On motion of Ms. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Sasiadek, the Board approved the proposed revisions to Policy 6166 – Instruction: Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. Report on Review of Policy 2352 – Accidents/Medical Emergencies – Ms. Fromm noted that at this time, no changes are being recommended. Mr. Arnold announced that a vote on this recommendation would occur on April 22nd.

REPORTS (Cont.)

- B. Report on Career and Technology Education (CTE) – Dr. Hairston recognized the presence of Ms. Kathy Oliver, Assistant State Superintendent in the Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning.

Ms. Bailey introduced the presentation. She stated the intent of career and technology education is to help students become lifelong learners and effective workers. In addition to Ms. Oliver, Ms. Bailey recognized other partners that support career and technology education—the advisory council, Sarah Trener from Baltimore County Government, and the Career and Technology Office staff. Principals in attendance—Ken Burch from Western School of Technology and Ed Fangman from Sollers Point/Southeastern Technical High School—were also recognized.

In a Power Point™ presentation, Ms. Bonham described the program disciplines, the monetary investment, graduate achievement, concentrator achievement, and how career and technology education supports economic development.

Board members were excited about the direction in which career and technology is headed. It was noted that teachers in this field come from a variety of backgrounds--some from the business sector and some being teachers who change their subject area.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned how much he enjoys the annual recognition dinner where students are honored. He inquired if there are vocational areas where we should be doing more. Ms. Bonham responded that CTE has a nice breadth of programs. She also stated that while it's important to continue with the traditional programs, we have to continue to move forward in the information technology area.

As a student at Carver Center for Arts and Technology, Ms. Bormel shared how the various programs in her school work together.

Ms. Jung asked if there is a program within CTE that could assist the school system in the recruitment of teachers. Ms. Bonham stated that there have been discussions with the State Department of Education. The definition of career completer programs, where students must meet entry level job skills, does not meet the criteria for a career completer. She further explained that the Community Colleges of Baltimore County and the University of Maryland Baltimore County are actively talking with principals about the opportunity for students to enter an education program in their senior year.

REPORTS (Cont.)

Dr. Hayman cited Western's progress in closing the achievement gap and suggested the ways in which they were able to close the gap be communicated throughout the school system.

Mr. Arnold noted that some of our CTE programs have been recognized nationally.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Sasiadek, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved items 1-13.

1. Contracted Services: On-Call Concrete Services
2. Contracted Services: On-Call Electrician Services
3. Contracted Services: On-Call Floor Tile Installation Services
4. Contracted Services: On-Call Painting Services
5. Contracted Services: On-Call School Renovation Contractors
6. Contracted Services: On-Call Lavatory Privacy Partition Repair and Installation Services
7. Audio-Visual Equipment
8. Industrial Commodities
9. Playground Mulch, Sand, Stone, Shredded Top Soil Mix, and Fill Dirt
10. Supply Contract: Various Lumber
11. Trucks – Various Departments
12. Various Belts for HVAC Mechanical Use

CONTRACT AWARDS (Cont.)

13. Various Repair Parts for Fire Alarm and Security Alarm Equipment

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-6. Mr. Kennedy asked Dr. Krempel to explain Exhibits O and O-1.

With regard to Exhibit O, Dr. Krempel noted that this is a redundant request for site approval. The first request was in 1969, but by IAC rule and by State mandate, school systems cannot construct a school unless the site has been approved within a five-year window.

Exhibit O-1 deals with the emergency procurement and installation of chillers at Pine Grove Middle School. Dr. Krempel noted this exhibit was brought to the Board for information only.

The Board approved recommendations 1-7.

1. Fee Acceptance – Construction Administration Services – Systemic Renovations – Dundalk Middle School
2. Fee Acceptance – Construction Administration Services – Systemic Renovations – Franklin Middle School
3. Fee Acceptance – Construction Administration Services – Systemic Renovations – Golden Ring Middle School
4. Fee Acceptance – Construction Administration Services – Parkville Middle School
5. Fee Acceptance – Construction Administration Services – Stemmers Run Middle School
6. Approval of Property – Windsor Mill School Site
7. Emergency Chiller Replacement – Pine Grove Middle School (Information Only)

Dr. Krempel noted that his office's six-month report on the status of facilities will be sent home in the Friday Letter. He stated that on new construction, our square foot cost is significantly lower than other districts in the state, as is our square foot cost for renovations. With regard to change orders, Baltimore County Public Schools has a 3.35% rate, which is the best in the state.

NAME CHANGE FOR SOLLERS POINT/SOUTHEASTERN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Walker and Ms. Jung noted the importance of the name change to the immediate community, the greater Dundalk community, and the African American community. Mr. Walker noted that he once worked at Sollers Point when the school had the largest African American student population in the county.

With great pride, Mr. Walker moved approval of the proposed name change for Sollers Point/Southeastern Technical High School to Sollers Point Technical High School, effective July 1, 2003. The motion was proudly seconded by Ms. Jung and approved by the Board

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

Dr. Poff updated the Board on activities in the legislature. The Governor was dealt a significant blow with the rejection of his nominee for Secretary of the Department of the Environment. He noted budgets are still being deliberated, and harsh recommendations are being made that may impact education budgets. Dr. Poff stated there was discussion today regarding extending the existing law for two years for retired/rehired teachers and principals. The bill for the reemployment of audiologists and pathologists was withdrawn by its sponsor.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Revised Rule 4006 – Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks
- B. Revised Rule 6166 – Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Arnold made the following announcements:

- 🕒 On Thursday, March 13, 2003, the area advisory councils will hold a joint meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the ESS building.
- 🕒 On Tuesday, March 18, 2003, the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet at Norwood Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.
- 🕒 The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with a closed 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome at all open sessions. The Board will host members of Recreation and Parks for dinner on March 25th. The Board will also host members of CASE for dinner on Thursday, March 27th.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Don Schlimm, a representative of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Education, described the Therapeutic Services program and the Even Start program and its positive impact on students.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, thanked Dr. Hairston for taking ownership of the mistake in the administration of the reading component of MSA and for working with the advisory committee and parents to address the issue. She stated that while some parents would like a public apology, the committee is satisfied with the explanation provided and is ready to work with school system officials and move forward. Ms. Nelson stated that an ad hoc committee has been formed to look at the significant increase in non-public placement, especially for students labeled emotionally disabled. Recommendations from the ad hoc committee will be forthcoming. Board members were invited to any of the three public input sessions tomorrow night regarding the Special Education Staffing Plan.

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, expressed the hope that everyone can work together to secure more funds for the school system's capital needs. She shared her disappointment that a newspaper article about parents and school officials lobbying in Annapolis for additional capital funds appeared on the last page, instead of the first. Ms. Kennedy announced a meeting on March 13th where the main topics will be the adopted operating budget and the *Blueprint for Progress*. She also announced that on March 17th, the Coalition leadership will meet with the County Executive regarding the budget.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a representative of the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, spoke of the importance of career and technology education to students and the education system. With regard to the recently adopted budget, Mr. Crum commented that the amount budgeted for athletic programs is almost ten times that for math and science programs. He also spoke of the wide variation of school performance in elementary and middle schools.

Mr. Nick Acquino, a representative of the Minority Achievement Advisory Group (MAAG), thanked the Board for hosting the group for dinner tonight. He also thanked the Board for responding to and working with MAAG on several concerns. Mr. Acquino thanked Dr.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Hairston for listening and responding to the group's concerns and for making the achievement gap a little smaller.

Mr. Rodger Janssen, Vice President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, thanked Dr. Hairston for his earlier statement regarding the MSA testing error, but stated that a mistake is unacceptable. The PTA Council requested a complete accounting of what happened, the actions taken, and what has been put in place to see this doesn't happen again. Mr. Janssen stated that we must move forward and learn. With regard to the Career and Technology Education report, Mr. Janssen noted that the PTA Council has used Western's culinary students to prepare food served at the annual Fall Workshop.

Mr. Mark Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, stated the Department of Legislative Services has recommended some major cuts to education as a means of reducing the budget deficit. One recommendation is a cut of \$14.6 million in funding for employees in the Teachers Retirement and Pension Systems. Mr. Beytin noted another recommendation that would shift 50% of all future increases in teacher retirement to the local jurisdictions. In addition, there was also a recommendation to eliminate the salary component of the Teacher Salary Challenge Grant Program. This would be a loss to Baltimore County of \$3,592,000. These recommendations could result in the loss of teaching positions and failure to fund salary increases. Mr. Beytin noted that \$5 million in aid to non-public schools remains in the budget. He urged everyone to call elected officials and to visit Annapolis so the legislators know the importance of these issues.

At 9:31 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