

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:25 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John Hayden, Ms. Jean Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. James Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Sasiadek reminded Board members of upcoming functions including:

- Commencement Schedule for 2004

Mr. Sasiadek stated that Dr. Grasmick would not be attending the Board meeting because of an urgent meeting in Annapolis.

Ms. Murray entered the room at 5:35 p.m.

Board members briefly reviewed and discussed the new diploma proposal.

Mr. Walker moved that the student Board member be permitted to participate in closed session discussions. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ettinger and unanimously approved by the Board.

At 5:55 p.m., Mr. Arnold moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to conduct matters related to the 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. Randy Grimsley, Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members personnel matters to be considered this evening.

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Hayden moved to adjourn the closed session for a brief dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:42 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Francesca Cirincione, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Ms. Jean Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. James Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by Lena Shalaby, and a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Dr. Hairston noted one adjustment to the agenda for this evening's meeting. Mr. Sasiadek respectfully requested to remove item VII, State Superintendent of Schools, from the agenda. Dr. Grasmick had to attend a meeting in Annapolis.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Public Hearing Minutes on Proposed FY2005 Operating Budget; and Open and Closed Session Minutes of January 28, 2004, Mr. Sasiadek declared the minutes approved as presented on the website.

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the reappointment of the Superintendent's Contract.

Mrs. Ettinger commented that Dr. Hairston has focused on the challenging task of aligning resources, both human and fiscal, to promote achievement for all students.

Mr. Walker commented the race isn't over in our school system. But it gives him a feeling of comfort that Dr. Hairston will be at the helm for the next four years. He remarked that Dr. Hairston has always referred to BCPS as "the school system" and not "a system of schools."

Ms. Jung was pleased about where BCPS has come from and excited about where the school system is going. She thanked Dr. Hairston for bringing outstanding people into the school system to work with him.

Mr. Arnold commented that what really stood out with Dr. Hairston was his tenacity and enthusiasm for children and for doing what is right for all children. He noted that the budget process has significantly improved over the past four years.

Mr. Sasiadek remarked BCPS has taken a giant step forward from where we were four years ago. He stated that Dr. Hairston is one of the golden threads of our cloth that binds us together as a family in Baltimore County.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston expressed appreciation to Deputy Superintendents' Ms. Christine Johns and Mr. J. Robert Haines, and Chief of Staff, Ms. Merle Audette. He also thanked all Baltimore County Public Schools employees for their hard work and dedication.

Dr. Hairston announced that Ms. Kathleen Cave, Technology Integration teacher from Sparks Elementary School, was selected as 2004 Maryland Outstanding Technology User of Education.

Dr. Hairston distributed a brochure to the Board from the Superintendents' Conference in San Francisco, which shows other school systems utilizing various buildings as school sites.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Operating Budget for FY2005

Mr. Sasiadek noted the exhibit on the website had a missing page. The hard copy distributed tonight is the correct exhibit for this evening's meeting.

With regards to Mr. Kennedy's question on additional staffing in the Infants and Toddlers program, Ms. Burnopp, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, stated the budget has not changed since the work session. Mr. Kennedy recommended the comments made at the public hearing be reviewed to ensure this program is not understaffed.

Mr. Kennedy inquired whether there is a problem with copiers in schools. Ms. Burnopp responded that copier information has been supplied to the Board in the weekly Friday letter. Mr. Kennedy recommends generating a survey that provides feedback from administrative staff and teachers in schools regarding copiers.

Mr. Kennedy expressed concern over not having a dedicated fund to pay for employees on sick leave. Mr. Grimsley stated BCPS uses the central funding substitute fund in the operating budget to fill those positions. Mr. Kennedy requested figures as to how much money is spent out of the central funding substitute fund for administrators.

With regards to the Gifted and Talented program, Ms. Murray commented that the Board consider using redirected funds to go back into the program as appropriate.

Mrs. Ettinger noted the Board recognizes this is a lean budget year and the system is attempting to be responsible for the use of its funds. She believes the Superintendent has expressed a strong commitment with regards to the Gifted and Talented program.

Mr. Hayden echoed Mrs. Ettinger's comments and is a strong proponent of restoring the funds back into the Gifted and Talented program as quickly as possible.

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board approved the Proposed Operating Budget for FY 2005 (Exhibit B).

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Revised Policy 2372 – Conduct: Tobacco** – Ms. Satterfield, Executive Director of Student Support Services and Ms. Michelle Prumo, Health Services Coordinator, stated this is the first reading of revised Policy 2372. Ms. Satterfield stated changes reflect current language and to implement a smoke-free, tobacco-free environment on schools grounds 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Mr. Kennedy asked if this would include softball and football fields. Ms. Satterfield responded affirmative. With regards to policing schools, Ms. Satterfield stated signs would be posted throughout school grounds. She noted the policy change would be communicated to all stakeholder groups as well as communities.

Mrs. Ettinger requested written information from neighboring school systems to see what their experience has been with implementing a similar policy. Ms. Prumo noted that school buildings have been tobacco-free for 10 years and organizations utilizing school buildings have adhered to this policy. She stated the Use of Facilities form would be expanded to include school grounds.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved item 1 (Exhibit J).

1. Automotive Service Technology Equipment

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1 and 3 (Exhibit K and M). Ms. Shillman pulled item 2 for further discussion. Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on item 3 (Exhibit M).

1. Award of Contract – Material Testing at Woodholme Elementary School.
3. Change Order – Design and Construction Administration Services at Woodholme Elementary School

Item 2

Mr. Hayden asked if the design cost included site work and dirt movement. Mr. Cassell responded there would be dirt movement and as well the requirement to meet fire code and ADA regulations.

With regards to Mr. Walker's question concerning the construction management course, Ms. Bailey stated 30 students are currently enrolled to begin the course next year. She noted this course is a 4-credit career completer. Mr. Walker asked if the continuation of the program is contingent upon building the pavilion. Ms. Bailey responded the pavilion is needed for large-scale construction projects. She noted this program is modeled closely to the course at Eastern Technical High School. Ms. Charlene Bonham, Manager of Career and Technology Education, remarked usage of the pavilion would be to teach students grading and scaffolding use, ladder use, portable power tool use, and wall and ceiling framing.

Ms. Shillman asked if the construction management course could continue to be taught without the addition of the pavilion. Ms. Bonham responded the course could be taught using scale model projects; however, the pavilion would allow students to learn the expectation in the industry and prepare them for the real world.

Mrs. Ettinger ask if this pavilion were scaled down version, would it provide the space necessary for students to benefit from the program. Ms. Bonham responded affirmatively. Mrs. Ettinger inquired as to how many pavilions are currently in existence. Ms. Bonham stated three: Perry Hall High, Lansdowne High, and Eastern Technical High Schools. Mrs. Ettinger commented there have been concerns over the years that BCPS has not provided the construction trade experiences that people felt were worthwhile.

With regards to Ms. Jung's question, Ms. Bonham responded one high school currently offers the construction management course, which is Eastern Technical High School and New Town High will be the second. Ms. Jung asked if the program would be expanded elsewhere. Mrs. Bonham stated not at this time.

Mr. Walker remarked he was glad this opportunity is being offered to the students in the Northwest area.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board voted to approve item 2. Ms. Shillman voted to oppose this item.

2. Change Order – Design and Construction Administration Services at New Town High School (Exhibit L)

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Jung, the Board voted to support HB208 – Education – County Boards Of Education – Competitive Bidding.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the Board voted to support HB345 - (SB 245) Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act – Trigger Provision – Repeal

Mrs. Ettinger moved approval of SB 174 - (HB 741) Education – Maryland School for the Blind – Notice to Parents or Guardians of Availability of Programs. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mrs. Ettinger, the Board voted to support SB 526 - (HB 851) Education – Distressed Schools – Performance Incentive Grants.

Mr. Kennedy noted on Wednesday, March 3, there would be a Legislation Reception Day from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Miller Center Office building and all are welcome.

Mr. Sasiadek inquired about the teacher retirement situation. Dr. Poff responded that Senator McFadden and Delegate Adrienne Jones from Baltimore County have introduced legislation to revise the mentioned program. An analysis has not been completed and hearing date not yet established.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Revised Rule 2372 – Conduct: Tobacco
- B. Revised Rule 5150 – Students: Enrollment and Attendance
- C. Southeast Area Advisory Council Minutes of January 20, 2004

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- Schools and offices will be closed on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, in observance of Primary Election Day. Schools will reopen for students and teachers on Wednesday, March 3, 2004.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, 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 approximately 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome at all open sessions. The Board will host the Area Advisory Council Officers for dinner on March 9 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Sasiadek reminded speakers to refrain from discussing any matters that might come before the board in the form of an appeal, as well as any personnel matters.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Baltimore County Education Coalition representative congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. She noted that the coalition met on February 24th and clarified their mission statement. Ms. Kennedy looks forward to meeting with County Executive, Jim Smith, on March 11 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Kennedy remarked the operating budget shows a commitment to support public education.

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Advisory Committee for Special Education Chairperson, congratulated Dr. Hairston his reappointment. She noted their regularly scheduled meeting did not take place this month. In place of the meeting, the advisory committee attended the Thornton rally.

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council Chairperson, noted their next meeting would be on March 3rd at Overlea High School with the topic being high school assessment. She noted that 70 out of 103 elementary schools are participating in the science and technology fair. The science fair will take place at New Town High School on May 21 and 22. Ms. O'Hare announced a work session with the County Council on March 9th at 2:00 p.m. She commented House Bill 1604 regarding student capacity will go a long way and should be supported. She expressed her sympathy to the families of the two Baltimore County students who were involved last week in a fatal accident.

Mr. Stephen Crum, Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council representative, congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. He commented the budget book has more in it than numbers; it shows how the various areas are performing while disparities need to be addressed. Mr. Crum remarked that performance standards should increase not decrease.

Ms. Abbey Beytin, Northwest Area Educational Advisory Council Chairperson, remarked the council met at Wellwood Elementary School on Tuesday, February 17th with the topic being group homes and the impact in the northwest area. Delegates Adrienne Jones and Bobby Zirkin and Senator Delores Kelley attended and discussed legislation they are working on to help alleviate the problem. Ms. Beytin provided a report from the meeting to Board members.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (cont)

Ms. Marcella Kehr, BACE President, congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. With regards to the operating budget, Ms. Kehr thanked the Board for their commitment and dedication to the students and employees.

Ms. Paula Simon, Past President of CASE, was pleased with positive relations with the negotiation process. She remarked that CASE is working diligently with County Executive and the County Council to support the operating budget.

Dr. Ella White Campbell, Minority Achievement Advisory Group Chair, thanked Dr. Hairston for an outstanding job in moving the school system into the new millennium. She would like to see parents have the ability to monitor their child's progress on a day-to-day basis on the web (COGNOS). Dr. Campbell commented everyone has to work together to achieve BCPS' goal.

Mr. Michael Franklin, PTA President, expressed the PTA's condolences of the two Baltimore County students lost in an automobile accident last week. Mr. Franklin remarked that the PTA supports the operating budget, but believes it is a minimal budget. Mr. Franklin stated the highlight of the budget is the transition center. He also commented that placing the policy and rule manual on line is a major step in the right direction. Mr. Franklin commented that the PTA is in strong favor of county council bill 16, which would reduce the overcrowding of schools.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, TABCO President, Ms. Bost congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. Ms. Bost thanked the Board for adopting the proposed FY05 operating budget. She commented that full funding of Thornton is important to the success of public education in the state. Ms. Bost announced the education coalition rally on Monday, March 29th in the Lowe building in Annapolis. She commented on Secretary Paige's remarks in the news.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kelli Nelson, Chair of the Interagency Council for Infant and Toddlers Program, shared with the Board a letter from Dr. Carol Ann Baglin from MSDE which states that a condition of receipt for FY05 federal and state funding distributed through CLAEF will be approved documentation that the local Infants and Toddlers Program will ensure the delivery of continuous year round service to eligible children by June 2004. Ms. Nelson remarked that mechanisms are not in place to ensure continuous, uninterrupted service for all children; BCPS may be in jeopardy of receiving federal and state funds. She highlighted issues noted in the annual monitoring report from MSDE.

Mr. Rodger Janssen congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. Mr. Janseen believes the proposed FY05 operating budget is in no way a step to make any kind of recovery.

Mr. Imam Khalil Majdalawi would like the Board to recognize and consider two Muslim holidays on the school calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Mr. Muhammad Jameel congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. He remarked that Muslim population has increased since 1970 and requested two Muslim holidays being recognized on school calendar. He remarked his children had to double up on their work when missing the two Muslim holidays.

Dr. Ayman Akkad stated his children are fortunate to be part of the BCPS system. He is requesting the Board consider two Muslim holidays be added to the school calendar.

Mr. Haider Thamir commented he has two children in Baltimore County Public Schools. In the past ten years, his daughter has not been absent from school without cause for two days a year. Mr. Thamir is requesting two Muslim holidays be placed on the school calendar.

Ms. Yara Cheikh, Vice President of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Baltimore Chapter, commented that if other minority communities receive their holy high holidays off, the Muslims should as well. Ms. Cheikh provided statistics that Baltimore County has had a 10.8% increase in foreign immigration in the last 10 years. She noted that should this trend continue, Baltimore County would have approximately 1 million people by 2025. Ms. Cheikh stated that 30-42% of all Muslims in the United States are African American and there are growing African-American communities in Baltimore County. She requests the Board consider all the statistics when making a decision to add Muslim holidays to the school calendar.

Dr. Salah Oweis, Islamic Society of Baltimore representative, had a petition from the Muslim community requesting the Board look into adding the two Muslim holidays on the school calendar.

Dr. Hassan Makhzoumi commented that he and his wife had to suffer through the indignity of their religion not being recognized. He requests the Board look into the two Muslim holidays. He believes it is important for Muslims to be recognized. His daughter stated that one important part of education is cultural understanding and tolerance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:52 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 5:27 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John Hayden, Dr. Warren Hayman, Ms. Jean Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. James Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Sasiadek reviewed the housekeeping schedule, which includes:

- Commencement Schedule for 2004
- Upcoming events

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 5:34 p.m.

Mr. Sasiadek requested that invitations for Board Members go through the Board of Education office. Ms. Audette stated the request would be placed in the weekly superintendent's bulletin.

Ms. Phyllis Bailey, Executive Director of Special Programs, PreK-12, provided background information on the resolution for magnet schools. In October 2003, the Board approved a consultant to work with BCPS to develop the grant application. Ms. Bailey noted that one of the grant requirements was to attach a resolution to the application. She remarked there is a high demand for magnet schools; 1300 students are currently on the waiting list for magnet high schools. Ms. Bailey stated this is a planning grant for one year with implementation in year 2 and 3.

Several Board members expressed concern regarding the short turn-around time for this grant and that prior discussion with the Board on this subject did not occur. Dr. Hairston stated BCPS needs to increase the quality of the curriculum in low performing schools. He noted this resolution would give BCPS the opportunity to put in place quality instructional programs in these schools as well as provide academic possibilities for students.

At 6:13 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to conduct matters related to the negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1) and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Randy Grimsley, Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members personnel matters to be considered this evening.

Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Dan Capozzi, Manager of Human Resources, reviewed with Board members matters relating to upcoming negotiations with the bargaining units.

At 6:27 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved the Board adjourn for a dinner recess. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnold and approved by the Board.

The Board hosted members of the Area Educational Advisory Councils for dinner.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:48 p.m. at Greenwood. President James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Francesca Cirincione, Mrs. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzynski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, Ms. Jean Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Ms. Joy Shillman, and Mr. James Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open session commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was led by Kyle Morosko and John Rodgers from Boy Scout Troop 419, 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 Proposed Operating Budget Work Session Minutes of February 5, 2004, Mr. Sasiadek declared the minutes approved as presented on the website.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston attended the recognition ceremony for Carroll Manor Elementary School as Baltimore County's Blue Ribbon School by the Maryland State Department of Education. Dr. Hairston expressed his appreciation to Mr. John Crow, Principal of Carroll Manor Elementary School.

Dr. Hairston commented on inquires received in his office with regards to committees. Dr. Hairston stated there are no standing committees within BCPS. All committees are ad hoc committees put together based on goals, objectives, expertise on the subject matter, and volunteers from the communities. He expressed his appreciation to all those who are eager to support and work with the school system.

RECOGNITION OF ETHICS PANEL APPOINTMENT FROM FEBRUARY 25, 2004

Mr. Grimsley recognized Mr. Raymond A. Hein, Esquire, whose appointment to the Ethics Panel was approved at the February 25, 2004 meeting.

REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Recognition of March as Professional Social Work Month** – On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board adopted a resolution proclaiming March 2004 as National Social Work Month.
- B. **Report on Reading Screening Process** – Through a PowerPoint™ presentation, Dr. Gwen Grant, Executive Director of Secondary Programs, reviewed the new reading screening process by which certain students in middle schools will exit from grade 6 and continue reading in grades 7 and 8. Ms. Paula Simon, English and Reading Coordinator for Secondary Programs, and Ms. Carla Zamerelli-Clifford, Reading Supervisor for Secondary Programs, shared with the Board the rationale process, criteria, and expected results for the Reading Screening program.

Mrs. Ettinger was delighted to see a consistent program. Mrs. Ettinger asked who would be teaching students at grade levels 7 and 8 and what programs would be presented to the students. Ms. Simon responded the schools would utilize COGNOS and Data-Trax to determine the number of students in the program. She remarked the 7th grade reading program is based on Voluntary State Curriculum and MSA requirements and that an intervention program currently being piloted in one middle school and one high school will help accelerate students. Ms. Simon noted that professional development of teachers for the program including the intervention piece would be from June 21-24, 2004.

Mrs. Ettinger inquired about a continued approach for students requiring assistance in grade 9 and beyond. Ms. Zamerelli-Clifford responded that pilot programs are being reviewed for next year in which students would receive assistance beyond the 8th grade.

With regards to funding and staffing, Ms. Simon stated that data is currently being collected along with the number of students and reallocation of teachers for grades 7 and 8. Mrs. Ettinger asked whether elementary schools would receive feedback from the program. Ms. Zamerelli-Clifford stated an elementary intervention committee is currently looking at correlating a program that would match the BCPS program.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Grzynski inquired about periodic evaluations. Ms. Zamerelli-Clifford responded there would be student performance evaluations utilizing MSA tests and unit tests that are designed within the program. Ms. Simon reviewed with Board members the criteria for each student.

Mr. Arnold asked if this program would differ for the special needs children. Ms. Zamerelli-Clifford stated we would continue to instruct students with IEP's as written in the goals and use the various learning styles recommended.

With regard to resources, Ms. Jung asked if there were a sufficient number of qualified teachers to cover the needs of the program. Ms. Simon stated there are reading teachers available in every middle school. Dr. Grant added that every middle school is allocated a reading specialist or reading teacher. An extensive professional development program is in place for training reading teachers and specialists beginning this summer.

Ms. Shillman asked if a child has to go into 7th or 8th grade reading before taking a foreign language. Dr. Grant stated that should a student exit the reading program in the 6th grade, they would take a foreign languages or other related courses.

Dr. Hayman shared his concern with regards to professional development for teachers, staff support, and budget implications. He noted all teachers should be teachers of reading. He hopes there is a coordinated effort involving teachers, administrators, and parents to participate in the process. Dr. Hayman requested this item be added to the Curriculum Committee agenda for follow up.

With regards to scheduling issues, Dr. Grant noted that the Middle School Task Force report, which will be presented to the Board at the next meeting, would cover this topic.

Dr. Hayman commended Dr. Grant, Ms. Simon, and Ms. Zamerelli-Clifford for their presentations to the curriculum committee, which have been most informative.

Mr. Kennedy asked what percentages of students are taking reading in the 7th grade. Ms. Zamerelli-Clifford responded the information is not available at this time.

Mrs. Ettinger inquired about what reporting mechanism would be provided to the Board such as student participation, handling of staffing, and possible adjustments at the elementary level. Dr. Grant stated that as data is collected, a report would be brought back to the Board. She noted that some of the information would be available in the Annual Results Report.

REPORTS (cont)

Ms. Jung asked whether these programs would be used extensively in summer schools. Ms. Zamerelli-Clifford stated these programs would be used throughout the school year. Ms. Simon remarked there are reading programs in place for summer school.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

CONTRACT AWARDS

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board approved items 1 - 4 (Exhibit H). Mr. Hayden abstained from voting on item #1.

1. Contracted Services: HVAC Repair Services
2. Contracted Services: On-Call Microbial Remediation and Restoration Services
3. Food Service: Equipment
4. Microsoft License Agreement

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee, represented by Mr. Kennedy, recommended approval of items 1-11 (Exhibits I through S). The Board approved these recommendations. Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on items 1 through 11.

1. Award of Contract for Construction Management Services for Windsor Mill Middle School
2. Award of Contract – Science Room Renovations at Chesapeake High School
3. Award of Contract – Science Room Renovations at Eastern Technical High School
4. Award of Contract – ADA Renovations at Carroll Manor Elementary and Fifth District Elementary Schools
5. Award of Contract – Electrical Package at Woodholme Elementary School
6. Request to Negotiate – Construction Management Services at Windsor Mill Middle School

BUILDING COMMITTEE (cont)

7. Change Order – Systemic Renovation Project at Dundalk Middle School
8. Change Order – Systemic Renovation Project at Franklin Middle School
9. Change Order – Systemic Renovation Project at Parkville Middle School
10. Change Order – Construction Manager at Risk for Systemic Renovations for Maiden Choice School
11. Change Order – Design and Construction Administration Services for Reroofing Project at Perry Hall High School
12. Change Order – Design and Construction Administration Services at Windsor Mill Middle School

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE

Ms. Rita Fromm, Executive Director of Planning and Operations, briefly described the lease agreement to relocate the Office of World Language from Milford Mill High School to Commercentre East Building, 1777 Reisterstown Road.

With regards to square footage, Ms. Fromm stated the cost would be \$18.00 per square foot.

Mr. Grzynski asked if consideration was given to other vacant areas owned by the school system. Ms. Fromm responded that office space location was based on where the majority of the clientele is located.

With regards to Ms. Jung's questions, Ms. Fromm stated because of capacity issues at Milford Mill Academy, BCPS could not justify continuing to utilize that space for offices. Ms. Fromm noted we currently rent offices at Pulaski Park and Timonium.

Ms. Shillman asked if we had previous dealings with the landlord with Ms. Fromm responding no.

Mr. Sasiadek asked what the moving date is, to which Ms. Fromm stated April 1 or as soon as the improvements in the space are completed.

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the relocation and lease of space for the Office of World Languages (Exhibit T).

RESOLUTION FOR MAGNET SCHOOLS

Ms. Phyllis Bailey, Executive Director of Special Programs, presented the Resolution for Magnet Schools. She noted that in October 2003, the Board approved the contract for a consultant to assist BCPS in generating the application for the federal funding. Ms. Bailey stated the next phase in the process for applying for this grant.

Mr. Hayden asked if the principals could tell the Board what action has taken place in their local communities to ensure the magnet programs would be accepted.

- Ms. Maria Lowry, Principal, Deep Creek Middle School - One parent stated it is a necessity and beneficial for the community to have Deep Creek Middle and Chesapeake High Schools as magnet schools. Ms. Cheryl January, PTA president for Deep Creek Middle School, remarked that studies were distributed and feedback received from the communities who were thrilled about this opportunity.
- Mr. David Lloyd, Principal, Chesapeake High School stated that 8th grade students from Deep Creek Middle were polled to see what they are looking for at Chesapeake High. In addition, both middle schools polled 5th grade students from their feeder schools to evaluate what types of programs students are looking for. Mr. Lloyd noted that staff at all four schools were polled to find out what they would be involved in, as well as PTA's and communities.
- Mr. Thomas Dehart, Principal, Lansdowne High School stated that community associations as well as the PTSA and SGA have been involved in the process. He has not heard a single negative comment within the different organizations.
- Mr. Kiki M. Geis, Principal, Lansdowne Middle School remarked that a survey of teachers in the middle school showed their excitement about the possibility of becoming a magnet school.

Mr. Hayden motioned to approve the resolution. Mr. Walker seconded the motion.

In connection with the motion, Ms. Jung asked Mr. Hayden if he would consider giving the Board President and staff the option of rearranging the wording so long as they keep the basic concept. Mr. Hayden responded that reorganization of the paragraphs would be appropriate; however, we would not be approving a resolution tonight if staff would change it.

Mrs. Ettinger commented a lot of work has gone into this in a short amount of time. She commented this is a significant decision and does not feel prepared to make a decision. There are broader questions and implications for the school system in terms of impact that needs to be answered. Mrs. Ettinger abstained from voting on the resolution.

The Board approved the resolution for magnet schools. Mrs. Ettinger abstained from voting.

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the Board voted to support HB 345 (SB 245) Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act – Trigger Provision – Repeal.

On motion of Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Ettinger, the Board voted to oppose HB 1409 Baltimore County – Comprehensive Master Plan – Class Size Reduction.

On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board voted to support HB 1060 (SB 747) Teachers' and Local Employees' Retirement Enhancement Act of 2004. Mr. Kennedy abstained from voting on this item.

With regards to HB 1230, Mr. Hayden noted that \$250 million does not cover the full \$3.8 billion as is the apparent current requirement. He stated the actual cost could increase with inflation. On motion of Mrs. Ettinger, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, the Board voted to support HB 1230 (SB 787) Public School Facilities Act of 2004. Mr. Arnold abstained from voting on this item.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Revised Rule 5140 – Students: Enrollment and Attendance
- B. Revised Rule 2372 – Conduct: Tobacco
- C. Annual 10-Year Enrollment Projections
- D. BCPS Choice Plan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sasiadek made the following announcements:

- The Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Tuesday, March 16, 2004 in the library at Norwood Elementary School. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- The Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at Hebbville Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore County will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2004, 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 approximately 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome at all open sessions. The Board will host the Minority Achievement Advisory Group Officers for dinner on March 23 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Sasiadek reminded speakers to refrain from discussing any matters that might come before the board in the form of an appeal, as well as any personnel matters.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, speaking on behalf of Ms. Maggie Kennedy, Baltimore County Education Council, openly invites all stakeholder groups to be part of the BCEC as equal partners in the system. She announced that BCEC would meet with County Executive Jim Smith on March 17 and with Baltimore County delegation in Annapolis on March 29. BCEC believes the school system has prepared an accountable budget that reflects local, state and federal regulations and has taken steps to provide a high quality education for all students.

Mr. Arnold Vaster, Baltimore County Student Council Correspondence Secretary, stated the council meet with Baltimore County legislators on February 23rd. BCSC also meet with two former executive board members who now work in Annapolis as legislative directors. He announced their general assembly meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2004.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, speaking on behalf of Ms. Kelli Nelson, Advisory Committee for Special Education Chairperson, reported that Dr. Barber attended the meeting last evening and provided an update regarding the special education audit. She stated a final report from Dr. Barber should be available in June.

Ms. Vicki Schultz-Unger, Coordinator of the Area Educational Advisory Councils, thanked the Board for the dinner this evening. She believes it is pivotal to have communication between the Board and the area advisory councils. Ms. Schultz-Unger congratulated Dr. Hairston on his reappointment. Council members are looking forward to the Board's approval of the operating procedures in the near future. She applauded the Board for passing the proposed operating budget for taking the bold step to include salary increases.

Mr. Michael Moore, Chairperson of the Central Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on the last council meeting. He was pleased to see the excellent turn out and efficacy at the meeting. He noted an issue regarding alignment with the Voluntary State Curriculum.

Mr. Stephen Crum, a representative from the Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council, was glad to see the additional attention to reading. He agrees with Dr. Hayman and the importance of reading. With regards to the resolution presented tonight, he noted the school system should be addressing magnet schools independent of federal funding. Mr. Crum stated the student projection for the Southeast Area is projected to decline, but there are still other schools that will have an increase in population. He announced the next Southeast Area Education Advisory Council meeting on March 16, 2004 at Norwood Elementary School.

Ms. Lisa Orens, Chairperson of the Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council, thanked the Board for dinner and the meeting this evening. She announced the meeting on March 10th at Hebbville Elementary School with County Council Chairman Samuel Moxley and Kenneth Oliver. She met with the community regarding the proposal to build an arboretum at Catonsville High School. Ms. Orens reported on the meeting at Winfield Elementary School on February 18th with Ms. Jeanne Paytner regarding the magnet school programs.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (cont)

Ms. Meg O'Hare, Chairperson of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, reported on the meeting held March 3rd at Overlea High school with the topic being high school assessment using Data-Trax. She remarked that the reading screening process presented this evening was excellent. Ms. O'Hare thanked the Board for approving the new advisory council member.

Mr. Don Schlam, Program Evaluator for the Local Management Board for Baltimore County, spoke about the afternoon middle school learning program. This program is for expelled middle school students, which operates at the latter half of the year when the alternative middle schools are full. Last year over 60% of the children in this program improved one letter grade in math, 50% improved overall in social studies, and 80% improved in their reading skills in the short time they were in the program. Mr. Schlam stated that LMP supports this program annually with \$30,000, which is used for school resource teachers and counseling services. He thanked the Board for their past support and asked the Board consider increasing the resources in this area.

Ms. Jan Thomas, a representative of the PTA Council, thanked Dr. Hairston for attending the PTA Councils executive board meeting last evening. She also announced PTA Councils meeting with County Executive Jim Smith has been rescheduled for March 29th.

Ms. Cheryl Bost, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, updated the Board on their efforts toward full funding of Thornton and county approval of BCPS's proposed FY2005 operating budget. She was pleased to see that the trigger provision for Thornton remains unsigned by the Governor. On March 1st six teachers from Towson High School, lead by Pete Skeels, addressed the county council urging full funding of BCPS proposed FY2005 operating budget. In addition to funding, Ms. Bost thanked Mr. Sasiadek for his recent testimony in support of HB 1060 and SB 747 dealing with the Retirement Enhancement Act of 2004. She commended the secondary curriculum office for addressing secondary reading and for including multiple assessments for the screening of students.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 2372

There were no speakers signed up to comment on proposed changes to Policy 2372 – Conduct: Tobacco.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Ashruf, President of the Islamic Society of Baltimore, wanted to thank the school system for educating his children. Dr. Ashruf provided some statistics:

- 1.2 billion Muslims in the world
- Six million Muslims live in the United States
- 80% of all Muslims live in ten states with Maryland being one of those states (200,000 strong)
- 75% of all Muslims in Maryland live in three counties: Montgomery, Howard and Baltimore County.
- Approximately 20,000 Muslims live in Baltimore County

Dr. Ashruf stated Muslims are not a burden to society but an asset. He remarked the Muslim communities would make sure that the right to practice religion is protected. He is requesting BCPS include two Muslim holidays in the school calendar.

Dr. Saba Siddiqui read from the Koran and stated the beliefs of the Muslim holiday. She asked the Board to look beyond numbers and days and review fairness by looking at religious tolerance and culture. Dr. Siddiqui's daughter stated that as Muslim population increases, adding these two Muslim days on the calendar has become a pertinent issue. She noted it is crucial that we promote the interest of a diverse student body and that tolerance and support of one another are essential for a prosperous future.

Mrs. Hazar Mzayek stated she has a difficult time deciding whether to send her children to school during the Muslim holiday. Missing school would affect her children's educational progress. She presents her request for the Board to consider giving children two days off for the Muslim holidays.

Mr. Ahmed Naji spoke to his son's third grade class discussing the holy month of Ramadan. He is asking the Board to consider the two Muslim holidays.

Mr. Magid and Mrs. Noel Mirza stated they have three boys attending Baltimore County Public Schools. They request that the Muslim holiday be placed on the school calendar. It would allow children to celebrate their beliefs with their families and open the door for others to learn about the Muslim faith.

Mrs. Nasrin Abdul Rahman remarked there is a hole in that her children do not get the two Muslim holidays off from school. She read a note from her son asking to add the two Muslim holidays to the school calendar.

Ms. Serrill Headley requests the two Muslim holidays be added to the school calendar for her grandchildren and other Muslim children. This would help their self-esteem and comfort level. She also noted it would be a wonderful educational culture for other children to learn.

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Dr. Mahmood stated a quote from the Pledge of Allegiance “liberty and justice for all.” He requests that the Board provide an equal opportunity for Muslim children and add two Muslim holidays to the calendar. Miss Sara Mahmood asked that no Muslim children be left behind in celebration of their holidays.

Miss Sony Siddiqui, a student at Parkville High School, requests the two Muslim holidays be added to the school calendar. Because of her workload, she personally has trouble making up work when missing school for these two holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:05 p.m., Mr. Kennedy moved to adjourn the open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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