

TENTATIVE MINUTES**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 5:30 p.m. at Greenwood. President Earnest E. Hines and the following Board members were present: Mr. Michael H. Bowler, Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and Mr. Rohan Goswami. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Hines reminded Board members of community functions and Board of Education events scheduled in September and October.

Board member, Ms. Margaret-Mary O'Hare, entered the room at 5:32 p.m.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Articles, §§10-508(a)(7), (a)(8), and (a)(9) upon motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Goswami, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:34 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:34 p.m. at Greenwood. President Earnest E. Hines and the following Board members were present: Mr. Michael H. Bowler, Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and Mr. Rohan Goswami. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and the following staff members were present: Ms. Michele Prumo, Chief of Staff; Dr. John Quinn, Acting Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Karen Blannard, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Schools; Ms. Patricia Lawton, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Schools; Ms. Verletta White, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Schools; Dr. Manuel Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent, Middle Schools; Dr. Roger Plunkett, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability and Supervision; Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Mr. George Duque, Staff Relations Manager; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esquire, General Counsel; Andrew W. Nussbaum, Esquire, Counsel to the Board of Education; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

Mr. Goswami exited the room at 5:34 p.m.

Mr. George Duque, Staff Relations Manager, provided Board members with an update on negotiations with various collective bargaining units.

Mr. Goswami re-entered the room at 5:41 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES (cont)

Mr. Nussbaum advised Board members about a response to a letter from the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA).

Ms. Howie provided an update to Board members on the results of a trial.

Dr. Hairston provided Board members a response to their questions relating to personnel matters discussed at the August 24, 2010, and September 7, 2010 closed sessions.

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board adjourned its closed session at 5:49 p.m.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 6:32 p.m. at Greenwood. President Earnest E. Hines and the following Board members were present: Mr. Michael H. Bowler, Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. George J. Moniodis, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and Mr. Rohan Goswami. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and the media were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

WORK SESSION REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Report on Race to the Top** – Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented an overview of the Race to the Top (RTTT) program and the timeline for application to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for the expenditure of funds. The RTTT program is a \$4.35 billion dollar incentive program designed by the U.S. Department of Education to spur progressive reforms in the state and local K-12 education.

REPORTS (cont)

Dr. Roger Plunkett, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Supervision, explained that the RTTT is a federal program aimed at: boosting student achievement, striving to reduce gaps in achievement among student subgroups, focusing on turning around struggling schools, and improving the teaching profession.

Dr. Peccia noted that 22 school districts in the state of Maryland are participating in the program. MSDE has 90 days from August 23, 2010 to develop the state plan. It must submit the final version to the U.S. Department of Education no later than November 22, 2010. School systems must submit their proposals to MSDE no later than November 1, 2010. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) will receive approximately \$17.4 million from the RTTT program and will be eligible to receive indirect aid by applying for competitive grants from MSDE or by being invited to develop specialized grants, as directed by MSDE.

The timeline for the RTTT application is as follows:

September 7	Meet with Executive Leadership Team
September 21	Presentation to the Board of Education
September 27	Final submission of proposals to the Executive Review Team
September 30 – October 1	Review and Ranking of Proposals
October 5 – 6	Review with the Superintendent
October 7 – 11	Budget and Grammar Review
October 12	Review and Approval by the Superintendent
October 19	Report to the Board of Education on BCPS' Proposals for Race to the Top
November 1	Submission to MSDE

Ms. Roddy asked whether the proposals were coming up through the school system. Dr. Plunkett responded that BCPS has strong leaders to develop the proposals and they will be submitted by September 27 to the executive review team. Ms. Roddy asked about the financial sustainability when the funding is no longer available. Dr. Peccia responded that the goal is to recommend proposals that will promote student achievement and be sustainable after the conclusion of this program.

REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Schmidt asked whether the Board would be required to approve the proposals. Dr. Hairston responded that this is a report only to the Board and that the state will assume responsibility once it has received all proposals. Mr. Schmidt asked what the methodology for input by the stakeholder groups is. Dr. Peccia responded that BCPS will meet with the Bridge to Excellence committee, and that he will continue to meet with TABCO to keep it abreast of the teacher/principal evaluation process.

Ms. Johnson asked what the next steps were after the November 1 submission to MSDE. Dr. Peccia responded that MSDE will review the document to ensure compliance. Once all documents from each system have been received, MSDE will assemble the final product for submission to the U.S. Department of Education.

- B. Report on Digital Resources for Knowledge Workers** – Dr. John Quinn, Acting Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced Ms. Della Curtis, Coordinator of Library and Information Services, who reported on the digital resources available to Board members and all employees.

Ms. Curtis outlined two key concepts of digital resources: 1) impact of information growth in a knowledge-based economy, and 2) the digital resources currently licensed for use by the BCPS community. Ms. Curtis stated that by 2030, 40% of the workforce will be “knowledge workers” in a knowledge-based economy.

Ms. Fran Glick, Professional Research Librarian, provided a live demonstration of two available resources: Pro Quest and ASCD eBooks collection.

Mr. Goswami asked whether these resources were open to parents and students, with Ms. Curtis responding affirmatively.

Ms. O’Hare asked how BCPS was marketing this information to parents and the citizens of Baltimore County. Ms. Curtis responded that the license agreement limits use to the Baltimore County Public School’s communities and employees. BCPS cannot publish passwords to the greater community. Ms. Curtis noted that a handout has been created and has been made available to all library media specialists, and is also accessible on the digital portal page. Library media specialists are encouraged to attach the handout to PTA newsletters, display it in libraries, and disseminate it on parent conference nights.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Report on School Opening

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hines made the following announcements:

- The Northeast Area Education Advisory Council will hold its hearing on the upcoming operating budget on Wednesday, September 22, 2010, at Eastern Technical High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, October 5, 2010, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 5:30 p.m. The Board will then adjourn to meet in closed session. The open session will reconvene at approximately 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend all open sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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