

**Joint Area Education Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for October 27, 2010**

Exhibit O

Attendance

Board of Education – Earnest Hines, H. Edward Parker, Rodger Janssen, Mary-Margaret O’Hare, Valerie Roddy

Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) – Diana Spencer, Office of Communications; Karen Blannard, Patricia Lawton, Verletta White, and Barbara Walker, Assistant Superintendents; Penelope Martin, Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools; and Michele Prumo, Chief of Staff.

Area Education Advisory Councils – Clifford Collins, Northwest Area Chairperson; Laura Mullen, Central Area Chairperson; Jackie Brewster, Southeast Area Chairperson; Beverly Lindsey, Southwest Area Co-Chairperson

Advisory Council Members – Sandra Skordalos, Southeast; Frank Thomas and Jane Davis, Central; Arnold Potler and Debbie Hanlon, Northwest.

1. Welcoming remarks/Introductions – Jasmine Shriver, Area Education Advisory Council Coordinator
2. Review of proposed changes to Policy 1230 for the 2010-2011 school year
 - a. advisory councils will remain the same for the 2010-2011 school year
 - b. if area advisory council has a topic that needs a speaker from the school system, the chairperson must contact Michele Prumo, Chief of Staff, to arrange for a speaker
 - c. any flyers related specifically to the area advisory councils will go to the Chief of Staff
 - d. all recommendations for membership will go through the area advisory council chairperson who in turn will send it to the Administrative Assistant to the Board so that the appointment can be placed on a future Board agenda.
3. Discussion on the future of the area advisory councils as it relates to BCPS restructuring
 - a. Mrs. Shriver stated that in accordance with Policy 1230, she would first like to remind council members that the role of the area education advisory council shall be strictly advisory in nature to the Board of Education (Board) and that the council’s role is not to include policy making. However, area education advisory councils may make recommendations about policy to the Board. Therefore, whatever is discussed here tonight about the future of the area education advisory councils are strictly recommendations; the Board is the ultimate decision-maker.
 - b. Laura Mullen, Central Chairperson – Discussed the frustrations of this transition year and misses the collaborative union with BCPS area office as in previous years. She asked two questions what are the Board’s expectations for the advisory councils and what should parents expectations be?

- c. Jackie Brewster, Southeast Chairperson – Stated that she wanted advisory councils to stay the way they are defined by geographic area and to go back to having a school system person linked to each area.
- d. Beverly Lindsey, Southwest Co-Chairperson – Believes that defining councils by geographic area was preferable because each area had unique issues and concerns. She also missed the collaborative effort with an area office. She felt that the council needs that collaboration to operate effectively.
- e. Clifford Collins Northwest Chair – Stated the following:
- We were never informed before nor after implementation about the new structure so as community liaisons. The councils could share this information with the communities it represents.
 - Why are we meeting now rather than in August or early September to discuss this new structure and how are we expected to function under this new structure?
 - There are issues that need resolution this year before we can begin to discuss how we should function in the future. For example, he stated that the Board should provide us with regular feedback on the operating and capital budget requests that are presented at each public hearing. The public deserves to know whether or not their budget requests were funded.
 - Communication with the schools and communities we represent – under the new structure, how will we maintain the integrity of the areas we represent and how will community residents know their area?
 - How will we announce future meetings of the councils because the budget hearing announcements were sent out as press releases with no contact information for the advisory councils?
- f. Arnold Potler, Northwest Member – As a long time council member, he felt that there was a lack of respect on the Board's part towards the area advisory councils. He noted that the councils are like no other stakeholder group. The members are approved and appointed by the Board with a formal resume.

Council members were frustrated over the lack of communication and information, which is vital if they are to be effective and maintain credibility with their communities they represent.

Board of Education Vice-President Parker asked members whether they have received any feedback from principals regarding the restructuring. Only one council member had any interaction with a principal to ask, and that member stated she informally talked to a principal who said she heard positive feedback.

The Coordinator stated that the councils could be a vehicle to discuss issues concerning the effectiveness and positive aspects of the new restructuring with the community.

Ms. Prumo stated that staff would report out on the implementation of the new restructuring at the May 24, 2011 Board work session.

Mrs. Shriver stated that, as someone whose job it is to see the big picture, she would like to link the councils in the most efficient and effective way to the ultimate goal of increasing student achievement in a global world.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Shriver, Coordinator
Area Education Advisory Council

November 1, 2010