

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

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 4:05 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, Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and Mr. David Uhlfelder. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, was present.

The Board entertained oral argument. The matter was heard in closed session.

In addition to the above listed Board members, the following persons were present for oral argument: the Appellant; Thomas Hood, Esquire; Dr. John Quinn, Acting Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Michele O. Prumo, Chief of Staff; Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esquire, General Counsel; Andrew W. Nussbaum, Esquire, Legal Counsel to the Board of Education; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education.

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

Board members deliberated on the case without staff present.

The deliberation was concluded at 5:04 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Uhlfelder, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, the Board adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 5:32 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, Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and Mr. David Uhlfelder. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, was present.

Mr. Hines reminded Board members of community functions and Board of Education events scheduled in January and February 2011.

Mr. Janssen will represent the Board at the annual Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) dinner with the Maryland State Board of Education on Tuesday, February 22, 2011.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Articles, §§10-508(a)(7), and upon motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:36 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:36 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, Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and Mr. David Uhlfelder. 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; Ms. Barbara Walker, Assistant Superintendent, High Schools; Dr. Roger Plunkett, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability and Supervision; Ms. Phyllis T. Reese, Chief Communications Officer; Dr. Alpheus Arrington, Director of Human Resources; J. Stephen Cowles, Esquire, Associate, General Counsel; Andrew W. Nussbaum, Esquire, Counsel to the Board of Education; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

Mr. Nussbaum provided legal advice on a Superintendent's Rule regarding public use of school facilities.

Student Representative, Mr. Rohan Goswami, entered the room at 5:37 p.m.

On motion of Ms. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board adjourned its closed session at 6:06 p.m.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 6:38 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, Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, Mr. David Uhlfelder, 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 Ms. Marilyn Ryan, followed by a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the Open and Closed Minutes of December 21, 2010, Mr. Hines declared the minutes approved as presented on the Web site.

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. **Update on the Transition Team Report and the *Report on Results*** – Dr. Hairston shared with Board members the significance of the Transition Team report, generated in July 2000, which assessed the strengths and weaknesses of the school system. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) is addressing a changing population, demographic trends and inversion, and a seismic shift.

Dr. Thomas Rhoades, Executive Director of Research, Accountability, and Assessment, showed how this report links to the *Blueprint for Progress*. Dr. Rhoades highlighted BCPS successes as follows:

- Maryland State Assessment (MSA) and High School Assessments (HSA) Gains
 - Curriculum: research-based strategies
 - Intervention and acceleration
 - High-quality professional development
 - Collaboration and co-teaching
 - Short-cycle and benchmark assessments
 - Gaps among most groups narrowing over time

Ms. Mandi Dietrich, Director of School Improvement/Special Projects, reviewed the monitoring system and information resources utilized in the school system. She stated that the benchmark assessments, piloted in 2006 with full implementation in 2008-2009, in all four core content areas spans Grades 3 through 10. Ms. Dietrich reviewed the school system's benchmark results for the following content areas and subgroups for the first quarter of 2010-2011:

- English/Language Arts (student groups performing at or above system average in Grades 3 through 10):
 - Gifted and Talented (G/T)
 - Female
 - White
 - Asian

WORK SESSION REPORTS

- Science (student groups performing at or above system average in Grades 6, 8, and Biology)
 - Gifted and Talented (G/T)
 - Asian
 - American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Social Studies (student groups performing at or above system average in Grades 4,5 and Government)
 - Gifted and Talented (G/T)
 - Asian
 - American Indian/Alaskan Native

Ms. Maralee Clark, Principal of Woodholme Elementary School (Woodholme), shared with Board members the assessTrax application noting that benchmarks are an essential tool to help guide daily instruction. Benchmarks are given at Woodholme Elementary in MSA simulated conditions. Benchmarks are used for: grouping and regrouping students; target students that need additional interventions; and to review subgroups and demographic information.

Mr. John Maple, teacher at Woodholme Elementary School, reviewed with Board members the objectives of assessTrax through a teacher's perspective.

Dr. Rhoades noted that the information shared with Board members this evening will be required in Race to the Top (RTTT).

Mr. Hines asked how the school system gets the information to the parents. Ms. Clark responded that Woodholme Elementary has hands-on parent workshops to help parents understand the program and their child's scoring.

Mr. Uhlfelder asked whether BCPS anticipates any changes relative to RTTT. Dr. Rhoades stated that BCPS has a longitudinal data system that meets the requirements of RTTT, and BCPS has an extensive monitoring system that tracks every student that leaves the school system.

Mr. Goswami asked whether students could be pre-tested at the beginning of the school year and then test-out by taking short-cycle and benchmark assessments during the year. Ms. Dietrich stated that the number of assessments has changed dramatically. Benchmark assessments are given on grade-level; however, short-cycle assessments could be differentiated. Short-cycle assessments are required to be administered in any school that is in improvement as required by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and *No Child Left Behind Act*.

WORK SESSION REPORTS

Ms. O'Hare asked whether there are best practices at Woodholme that could be shared throughout the county. Dr. Hairston stated that the key factors are beliefs and values. Ms. Clark has surrounded herself with a staff that has the same beliefs and expectations for students as she does.

Ms. Johnson asked how Woodholme begins to make the decision to promote a child to the next grade level or to hold the student back. Ms. Clark stated that Woodholme has interventions to ensure that students are not held back a grade level. There are before- and after-school programs and groups that would include a student receive every intervention possible to succeed.

Ms. Johnson noted that, while the percentage of African Americans taking Algebra I in middle school increased each year from 2006-2010, the percentage is low compared to other subgroups. Ms. Johnson asked what BCPS has incorporated into the curriculum to ensure that students at the elementary level are prepared for middle school. Ms. Patricia Baltzley, Acting Executive Director of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, responded that the school system is preparing all students to take Algebra I in Grade 8 but no later than Grade 9. Algebraic foundations are in place at the elementary level, and *Algebraic Thinking* has been implemented in middle schools for students to pass the HSA. BCPS is preparing students to have foundational skills for Algebra I so that when they take the HSA they are successful on the first attempt.

Mr. Coleman asked what methods are being used to see that all schools are successful as Woodholme. Ms. Verletta White, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Zone 3, responded that expectations and standards for all schools are outlined in the *Blueprint for Progress*, noting that it is all about teaching and learning. Mr. Coleman asked what determines the graduation drop-out rate. Dr. Rhoades responded that the graduation drop-out rate is defined by MSDE and, as part of the RTTT, the graduation rate will change looking at 9th graders and progressing forward.

Ms. O'Hare asked what data is available in assessTrax. Ms. Clark responded that the voluntary state curriculum; topics; indicators; and objectives are available in assessTrax.

Mr. Schmidt commented that the number of students in the gifted and talented program has increased over the last five years. Ms. Sonja Karwacki, Executive Director of Special Programs PreK-12, stated that the system wants the G/T program to increase in a ratio comparable to the students' ability to perform in the classroom.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

- B. **Report/Discussion on the Proposed FY2012 Operating Budget** – Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the operating budget process and timeline with Board members.

January 11, 2011	Superintendent's Presentation to the Board
January 18, 2011	Board Public Hearing
January 25, 2011	Board Work Session
February 8, 2011	Board Adopts Budget
March 1, 2011	Board Proposed Budget Book goes to County Executive
By April 15, 2011	County Executive Presents Budget to County Council
By May 31, 2011	County Council Adopts Budget
July 1, 2011	BCPS Implements FY 2012 Budget

Ms. Burnopp explained the design and structure of the work session book. She noted that the percentage above maintenance of effort (MOE) is 0.3%. The budget is made up of 55.3% from the county and 43.2% from the state. The proposed budget totals \$1,217,357,451.

Ms. Burnopp reviewed all categories of the budget and its correlation with curriculum and instruction. Negotiated agreements with the collective bargaining units states that there will be no furloughs, no layoffs, funded salary increments, and funded benefits. She noted that the proposed budget changes include:

- Reducing selected office and school supplies and equipment by 5%.
- Adjusting pupil ratios
 - Kindergarten through Grade 2 will remain the same at 21.9
 - Grades 3 through 5 increase from 23.9 to 24.9
 - Middle school will increase from 18.7 to 19.7
 - High schools less than 1,000 students will increase from 18.7 to 19.7
 - High schools with more than 1,000 students will increase from 18.7 to 20.7.
 - Restructured schools are excluded

Ms. Burnopp stated that there is an increase in the budget for 193.6 positions, which were once funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Additional custodians have been added to the budget because of West Towson Elementary School.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Dr. Hairston stated that redirecting positions to curriculum and instruction provides a closer oversight of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Schmidt stated that he was surprised that the Board did not receive more public comment at the hearing. He noted that the majority of the comments received were for funding of the Infants and Toddlers Program and addressing Stoneleigh Elementary School improvements, which are part of the capital budget. Mr. Schmidt inquired about the tracking of textbooks. Ms. Burnopp responded that once the budget is approved, on-going services have been and will continue to be approved by the Board. Textbooks over \$25,000 will come to the Board for approval. Ms. Burnopp stated that, as part of the budget process, there is a redirect process. Every office head is charged with looking at redirecting its resources to solve budget issues.

Ms. Johnson expressed concern that the College Access Program is being discontinued. Ms. Burnopp stated that this program was offered at two schools, Dundalk High and Woodlawn High schools, and that regular counseling would continue at those schools where the program ends. Ms. Johnson asked whether there was a way to keep this program by substituting other funds such as furniture replacement. Dr. Roger Plunkett, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Supervision, stated that Dr. Lisa Williams will work directly with Dundalk and Woodlawn High schools and its counselors to address the needs of the students. Dr. Hairston stated that BCPS has augmented three-fold for what we are taking away with College Access.

Mr. Bowler asked whether it would be difficult for non-Title I schools because there is no federal money to fall back on. Ms. Burnopp stated that Title I funding is not a direct replacement for a school's office budget; it is for specific programs. The impact on all schools for general supplies and equipment is consistent. Mr. Bowler stated that he does not see any sacrifices in central office and asked whether any cuts were considered. Ms. Burnopp responded that BCPS has a lean administration budget. She stated that a review of MSDE comparisons and surveys indicates that BCPS does not have a higher administration than other school systems.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

She noted that the only individuals that can go back into the classroom are those individuals certified to teach which not the majority of the administration positions are. Dr. Hairston stated that BCPS does not have the luxury of padding the budget. Ms. Burnopp stated that the county will look at every object in every detail of the budget.

Mr. Schmidt asked for specifics regarding evaluating central administration. Ms. Burnopp responded that ongoing evaluations include: a MGT study looking specifically at administration costs and reducing positions; participation in the legislative audits where ratios are provided to determine best practices in business services; a MSDE MGT study that is reviewed by BCPS periodically; surveys; and reclassification studies.

Mr. Bowler asked whether the school system took into account TABCO's recommendations. Ms. Burnopp responded that some of the TABCO's concerns were answered at the beginning of the work session and some of its recommendations have been completed.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following as information:

- A. Financial Report for months ending November 30, 2009 and 2010

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hines made the following announcements:

- The Southeast Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, February 7, 2011, at Eastwood Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 5:15 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 all open sessions.

Mr. Hines informed the public that the Board would receive a Report on the Use of School Facilities at its February 8, 2011, Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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