

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

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in closed session at 4:04 p.m. at Greenwood. President Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and the following Board members were present: Mr. Michael H. Bowler, Cornelia Bright Gordon, Esquire, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. George J. Moniodis, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, Mr. David Uhlfelder, and Mr. Logan McNaney. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

The Board entertained oral argument in Hearing Examiner's Case #12-05. The matter was heard in closed session.

In addition to the above listed Board members, the following persons were present for oral argument: the Appellants; Dr. Renee A. Foose, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Michele O. Prumo, Chief of Staff; Dr. Roger L. Plunkett, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Carol R. Batoff, Superintendent's Designee; Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esquire, General Counsel; Anjanette L. Dixon, Esquire, Associate 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 5:22 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Janssen, the Board adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 5:24 p.m. at Greenwood. President Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and the following Board members were present: Mr. Michael H. Bowler, Cornelia Bright Gordon, Esquire, Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Michael J. Collins, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. George J. Moniodis, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, Mr. David Uhlfelder, and Mr. Logan McNaney. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Schmidt reminded Board members of community functions and Board of Education events scheduled during the months of October, November, and December.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Articles, §§10-508(a)(1), (a)(7), (a)(8), and (a)(9) and upon motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Uhlfelder, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:30 p.m. at Greenwood. President Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and the following Board members were present: Mr. Michael H. Bowler, Cornelia Bright Gordon, Esquire, Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Michael J. Collins, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. George J. Moniodis, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, Mr. David Uhlfelder, and Mr. Logan McNaney. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and the following staff members were present: Dr. Renee A. Foose, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Michele O. Prumo, Chief of Staff; Dr. Roger L. Plunkett, Assistant 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. Edward Newsome, Jr., Assistant Superintendent, Middle Schools; Ms. Barbara Walker, Assistant Superintendent, High Schools; Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Mr. George Duque, Staff Relations Manager; Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esquire, General Counsel; Andrew W. Nussbaum, Esquire, Counsel to the Board of Education; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

Mr. McNaney exited the room at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Duque provided Board members with an update on negotiations with various collective bargaining units.

Ms. Roddy exited the room at 5:46 p.m., and re-entered the room at 5:49 p.m.

Mr. Duque exited the room at 6:09 p.m. Mr. McNaney re-entered the room at 6:10 p.m.

Dr. Peccia reviewed with Board members personnel matters, which included changes to the organizational structure and the elimination of positions, to be considered on the evening's agenda.

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board adjourned its closed session at 6:44 p.m. Staff exited the room.

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION

At 6:45 p.m., Board members discussed the superintendent search.

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board adjourned from administrative function session at 6:59 p.m. for a brief dinner recess.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:19 p.m. at Greenwood. President Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and the following Board members were present: Mr. Michael H. Bowler, Cornelia Bright Gordon, Esquire, Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Michael J. Collins, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. George J. Moniodis, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, Mr. David Uhlfelder, and Mr. Logan McNaney. 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 Christine Condon, a student at Ridgely Middle School, followed by a period of silent meditation for those who have served education in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Dr. Hairston reported that this year Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) worked with the Rubin Institute for Advanced Orthopedics at Sinai Hospital in supporting the Save-A-Limb Ride, Walk and Festival which was held on Saturday at Oregon Ridge. There were over 700 registrations; more than 200 of those registrations were for the one mile walk.

As part of Baltimore County Public Schools' support, the Office of Visual Arts sponsored a student contest to design the T-shirt for the Save-A-Limb ride/walk. Dr. Hairston announced that the winner was Christine Condon from Ridgely Middle School. Dr. Ronald Delanois, Director of the Save-A-Limb Fund, presented Christine with a Certificate of Excellence for creating the winning T-shirt design.

OLD BUSINESS

Organizational Structure

Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, advised the Board of the elimination of three positions: Communications Director; Operator II, Department of Technology; and Supervisor, Office of School Counseling. Mr. Schmidt stated that the Board has discussed the issue and acknowledged that these eliminations respond to the county executive's initiative, which reflects a cost savings of approximately \$190,000, and that these positions have already been removed from the FY12 operating budget. Mr. Schmidt noted that the school system would look into developing revised organizational charts following the approval of the FY13 operating budget.

Dr. Hairston stated that the school system has been responsive to the county budget office, and this is a symbolic gesture to look within the current budget to find cost saving measures. Mr. Schmidt reiterated that the above three positions would be eliminated but that the organization would remain in place until the approval of the FY13 operating budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Appeal/Hearing

On motion of Mr. Uhlfelder, seconded by Ms. Roddy, the Board confirmed the action taken in closed session on the appeal in Case No. H.E. 12-05 (favor-10; abstained-2). Mr. Coleman and Mr. Collins abstained from voting on this item.

WORK SESSION REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

A. **Board of Education Policies** – Mr. Coleman reported that the Board of Education's Policy Committee is recommending approval of policies as presented in exhibits B through L. This is the first reading.

- Proposed Changes to Policy 1230 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement-Area Education Advisory Councils

Mr. Janssen asked that the geographic locations be defined.

Under section V.C., Mr. Janssen expressed concern that by changing the word from "shall" to "may" the student membership of the council could be eliminated. The intent is that there would be students on the council.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Under section VI.A., Mr. Janssen asked about the deletion of the words, “no more than two consecutive terms.” Ms. Michele Prumo, Chief of Staff, responded that language is recommended for deletion. Stakeholders who want to serve longer than two terms may now do so.

- Proposed Changes to Policy 1240 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement-Visits to Schools

Under section II, Mr. Janssen expressed concern that some parents have to call weeks in advance to visit the schools. There is nothing in the policy that prohibits that from occurring. Ms. Prumo stated that the policy and rule encourage visitors to schools. If a parent has a problem visiting a school, they need to contact the principal directly, then the assistant superintendent. Mr. Janssen stated that there is no language in the policy that makes it imperative to encourage parents.

- Proposed Deletion of Policy 1250 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement-Participation in the Local School by Community Members

Mr. Janssen asked why policy 1250 was being deleted. Ms. Prumo responded that Policy 1270 is reviewed annually and is all encompassing; therefore policy 1250 was considered redundant. Language not in policy 1270 has been placed into policy 1240.

- Proposed Changes to Policy 3130 –NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: FISCAL SERVICES – Accounting and Cash Management-Relationships with Private Business for Purpose of Providing Products or Services to Students
- Proposed Changes to Policy 3225 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Purchasing-Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment
- Proposed Changes to Policy 4008 – PERSONNEL: General-Data Governance
- Proposed New Policy 4009 – PERSONNEL: General-Emergency Closings-Employees
- Proposed Changes to Policy 5140 – STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance-School Attendance Areas

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

- Proposed Changes to Policy 5150 – STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance-Residents and Nonresidents

Under section I.2, Mr. Janssen asked why bracket out the letter “s” after the word “guardian(s).” Ms. Prumo responded that the entire section is being eliminated.

- Proposed Changes to Policy 5330 – STUDENTS: Activities-Social Events
- Proposed Changes to Policy 8315 – INTERNAL BOARD OPERATIONS: Operations-Meetings: Participation by the Public

Under section II.B., Mr. Janssen stated that the “time to be determined” should be by the Board and not the Board President. Mr. Schmidt asked that the word “president” be removed.

Mr. Janssen stated that while the word “business” was eliminated in section II.A., it was not eliminated in section III. Based upon the proposed policy, Mr. Janssen expressed concern that stakeholder groups would not be able to comment at the Board’s work session. Mr. Janssen also commented that the words “business” and “work session” meetings should be defined. Ms. Howie stated that there was an oversight in section III and that “business meetings” would be taken out. Ms. Howie commented that the intent of the revisions were to allow public comment at all Board meetings, as requested by the Board.

Mr. Coleman stated that the Board’s ethics policies, exhibit M through S, are also on tonight’s agenda. In 2010, the General Assembly enacted legislation mandating changes for all local boards of education. The Ethics Code has been edited to conform with the State Ethics Commission’s regulations. The PRC is recommending that the policies be moved forward for second reader.

- Proposed Changes to Policy 8360 – ETHICS CODES – Definitions

Under section II.B., Mr. Janssen asked whether there is a state government article that defines business entities. Ms. Howie responded that this is not defined in a state government article.

- Proposed Changes to Policy 8361 – ETHICS CODES – General

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

- Proposed Changes to Policy 8362 – ETHICS CODES – Gifts to the Board of Education, Schools, and Offices within the School System

Under section II.A.9., Mr. Janssen stated that, based upon policy convention, the words “of education” should be removed. Ms. Howie responded that the policy would be corrected.

- Proposed Changes to Policy 8363 – ETHICS CODES – Conflict of Interest
- Proposed Changes to Policy 8364 – ETHICS CODES – Financial Disclosure
- Proposed Changes to Policy 8365 – ETHICS CODES – Lobbying Disclosure
- Proposed Changes to Policy 8366 – ETHICS CODES – Ethics Review Panel

Mr. Janssen stated that there are other grammatical changes he would like to see corrected. He will e-mail Ms. Howie and copy Mr. Schmidt on the recommended changes.

- B. **Update on the Superintendent Search** – Ms. Valerie Roddy, Chairperson of the Search Committee, stated that the Search Committee met to discuss the first step in deciding how to select a professional search firm to assist the Board of Education with the search for a new superintendent. Consideration included issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) or "piggybacking" an existing contract done by another LEA. The Search Committee reviewed contracting documents from two LEAs as well as the documents used by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and concluded that "piggybacking" was the quickest way to move forward, while allowing for time to confirm the selection through the committee interviewing the proposed firm. Spending less time on the search firm would allow for more time developing leadership criteria and receiving public input. The next step in the process is to interview the proposed firm from the Montgomery County Public Schools search to determine whether that firm will meet the needs of Baltimore County. The Committee's goal is to present the contract for the proposed firm to the full Board as soon as possible.

Mr. Schmidt stated that the board will received a presentation from a representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) at its November 8 board meeting. Mr. Schmidt noted that under the law it is the responsibility of the Board to hire the superintendent, and that the Board will continually look at avenues to receive public input.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

- C. **Report on the Education Foundation** – Mr. Robert Barrett, Executive Officer, Community Outreach, stated that the Education Foundation mission is to secure supplemental resources for projects that will assist BCPS in providing a quality education for all students in its charge. Currently the Education Foundation is working with over 22 schools raising funds for various activities. Those projects include: 14 scholarships, 22 restricted projects, and 2 unrestricted projects. Since the Education Foundation's inception, it has raised over \$4.1 million and expended over \$3.2 million. The Board is encouraged to follow the activities of the Foundation, which can be found on the Web site at http://www.bcps.org/communication/education_foundation/.

Mr. Uhlfelder stated that the Education Foundation's annual audit and financial statement have been completed and are available in the Board of Education office.

Mr. Coleman asked how advisory councils can receive information to apply for small grants. Mr. Uhlfelder responded that schools or parent groups form committees to host various fundraising activities and use the Education Foundation to collect those funds. Once the funds have been received, the Education Foundation will release the funds. Mr. Uhlfelder stated that the Education Foundation would be happy to advise parents and groups on the process.

Mr. Janssen asked whether the schools on restricted funds throughout the county, with Mr. Uhlfelder responding affirmatively.

Mr. Parker asked how an individual would obtain an application. Mr. Barrett responded that an individual may call 410-887-4083.

Ms. Gordon asked whether the application was available on-line. Mr. Barrett responded that the application is not on line at this time; however, staff is in the process of enhancing the Web site. Ms. Gordon requested that the application be made available on-line for the public.

- D. **Comprehensive Report on Elementary Schools** – Ms. Patricia Lawton, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools for Zone 2, reported on the profiling progress of the elementary schools across the county. With 111 elementary schools in Baltimore County, Ms. Lawton reviewed elementary school enrollment by subgroups and elementary school free and reduced-price meals (FARMS) enrollment.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Ms. Verletta White, Assistant Superintendent for Zone 3, stated that students in primary and intermediate grades are achieving. The Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) indicates that 85% of those students entering Kindergarten in BCPS are fully ready for school. Ms. White stated that Kindergarten and first grade students' literacy skills are assessed by using that Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). In BCPS, 85% of students in kindergarten this year have scores at benchmark. Additional data reviewed include:

- MSA reading performance increased from 66.84% in 2002 to 90.395 in 2011.
- MSA math performance increased from 59.18% in 2002 to 88.85% in 2011.
- Proficiency by race has increased between 18% and 32% from 2002 to 2011.
- Reading proficiency by subgroups has increased over time.
- Gaps in math proficiency by race are closing.

Ms. Karen Blannard, Assistant Superintendent for Zone 1, reviewed the comprehensive elementary curriculum, which included:

- Primary Talent Development
- Reading/Language Arts
- Related Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health

Ms. White stated that the assistant superintendents monitor schools and student performance by maintain the phase planning process; monitoring the alignment of each school's budget with the needs of the students.

Ms. Johnson asked how many hours the system allows for the student for physical education. Ms. Lawton responded that physical education class is up to 50 minutes per week. Ms. Blannard stated that there is recess activity, which is an additional 20 minutes per day. Ms. Kathleen McMahon, Executive Director for Special Programs, stated that physical education is required at each grade level in elementary school.

Ms. Johnson asked how often to are students using technology. Ms. Blannard responded that every school has a variety of media resources. Some schools have mobile laptop carts to where each student can work on a laptop. Other schools schedule time in a computer lap. Each classroom has computers and are used as part of the differentiated instruction program.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Ms. Johnson requested the MSA performance by elementary school level. She also requested the percentage of students that are actually reading at grade level.

Ms. Gordon requested a report on long-term suspensions at the elementary level broken down by race code and by school.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following information:

- A. Northeast Area Education Advisory Council Minutes of October 5, 2011
- B. Southeast Area Education Advisory Council Minutes of September 12, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Schmidt made the following announcements:

- The Board of Education will host its fall recognition night on Thursday, November 3, 2011, at New Town High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The High School Honors Music Concert will be held at the Joseph A. Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on Monday, November 7, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 4:45 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.
- There will be a joint Area Education Advisory Council meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, Rooms A and B.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Articles, §§10-508(a)(7) and upon motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Roddy, the Board commenced its closed session at 8:48 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 8:51 p.m. at Greenwood. President Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and the following Board members were present: Mr. Michael H. Bowler, Cornelia Bright Gordon, Esquire, Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Michael J. Collins, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. George J. Moniodis, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, Mr. David Uhlfelder, and Mr. Logan McNaney. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and the following staff members were present: Dr. Renee A. Foose, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Michele O. Prumo, Chief of Staff; Dr. Roger L. Plunkett, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esquire, General Counsel; Andrew W. Nussbaum, Esquire, Counsel to the Board of Education; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board.

Ms. Howie provided legal advice to the Board relative to the charter school contract. The Board advised Ms. Howie how it wished to proceed.

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Roddy, the Board adjourned its closed session at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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