

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

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in closed session at 4:06 p.m. at Greenwood. President Lawrence E. Schmidt, Esquire, and the following Board members were present: Mr. Michael H. Bowler, Mr. James E. Coleman, Mr. Michael J. Collins, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Mr. George J. Moniodis, Mr. H. Edward Parker, and Mr. David Uhlfelder. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were 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; Damon Felton, Esquire; Dr. Renee A. Foose, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Michele O. Prumo, Chief of Staff; Dr. Roger L. Plunkett, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Edward Newsome, Jr., Assistant Superintendent, Middle/High Schools; 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 5:31 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Janssen, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 5:33 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, 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 in January and February.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Articles, §§10-508(a)(7) and (a)(9) and upon motion of Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Uhlfelder, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:37 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:37 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, 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/High Schools; Ms. Abbey Campbell, Assistant to the 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.

Student representative, Mr. McNaney, exited the room at 5:37 p.m.

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

Mr. Robert Barrett, Executive Officer, Community Outreach, entered the room at 5:41 p.m.

Mr. Bowler exited the room at 5:56 p.m. Mr. Bowler re-entered the room at 5:57 p.m.

Mr. McNaney re-entered the room at 6:16 p.m.

Ms. Howie provided legal advice to Board members regarding the charter school agreement.

On motion of Ms. Roddy, seconded by Mr. Bowler, the Board adjourned its closed session at 6:24 p.m.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 6:49 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, 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 Ms. Marilyn Ryan, 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.

SELECTION OF SPEAKERS

After collecting completed sign-up cards, Mr. Schmidt announced the names of persons who would be speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting as well as the order in which the persons would be called.

Mr. Schmidt stated that public comment is one of the opportunities provided to hear the views and receive the advice of community members. The members of the Board appreciate hearing from interested citizens and will take their comments into consideration, even though it is not the Board's practice to take action at this time on issues which are raised. When appropriate, the Board will refer concerns to the superintendent for follow-up by his staff.

While the Board encourages public input on policy, programs, and practices within the purview of this Board and this school system, this is not the proper avenue to address specific student or employee matters, or to comment on matters that do not relate to public education in Baltimore County. The Board encourages everyone to utilize existing avenues of redress for complaints. Inappropriate personal remarks or other behavior that disrupts or interferes with the conduct of this meeting are out of order.

Mr. Schmidt also asked speakers to observe the timer, which lets the speaker know when time is up. He asked speakers to conclude their remarks when they see his/her time is up.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Ms. Abby Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, stated that, with the potential repositioning of pension funding to the local governments and the possible "softening" of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) law, this will be an important legislative session. She noted that TABCO has bus trips to Annapolis on a Monday evening during the legislative session so that its members can speak with the legislators. Ms. Beytin invited Board members to go with TABCO, when appropriate, and deliver a united message.

ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (cont)

Ms. Nancy Ostrow, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, announced that the search firm would be attending the council's general meeting on January 26, 2012, at Loch Raven High School to receive additional input on the traits of a new superintendent.

Board President Schmidt stated that the Board and public would receive an update on the superintendent search at its February 7, 2012, meeting. He stated that the search firm had interviewed more than 200 people while visiting the county. Mr. Collins commended Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) for also interviewing the Baltimore County delegation.

Ms. Jasmine Shriver, Coordinator of the Area Education Advisory Councils, reported on its opportunity to meet with the search firm and provide input on the superintendent search. She asked whether public participation would end on February 7, with Mr. Schmidt responding in the negative. Ms. Shriver asked the Board to allow the public to provide additional information and participate in the selection process. She also expressed concern that the county executive is seeking legislation to consolidate county government and school system functions. Ms. Shriver stated that there needs to be a clear line between the county government and the school system.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Aimee Freeman stated that the public comment portion of the board meetings is not broadcasted on the Education Channel. She asked that the public comment portion of the meeting be broadcasted.

NEW BUSINESS

Appeal/Hearing

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Uhlfelder, the Board confirmed the action taken in closed session on the appeal in Case No. H.E. 11-44 (favor-8). Ms. Bright Gordon, Ms. Roddy, and Mr. McNaney did not vote on this item.

WORK SESSION REPORTS

The Board received the following reports:

- A. **Report/Discussion on the Proposed FY2013 Operating Budget** – Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the operating budget process and timeline with Board members.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

January 10, 2012	Superintendent's Presentation to the Board
January 17, 2012	Board Public Hearing
January 24, 2012	Board Work Session
February 7, 2012	Board Adopts Budget
By March 1, 2012	Board Proposed Budget Book goes to County Executive
April 12, 2012	County Executive Presents Budget to County Council
May 24, 2012	County Council Adopts Budget
July 1, 2012	BCPS Implements FY 2013 Budget

Ms. Burnopp explained the design and structure of the work session book. She noted that the proposed budget represents an overall increase of 1.6% and provides funds for enrollment increases, employee salary increments, and health insurance with cost-sharing changes over the next five years. Ms. Burnopp stated that there will be a decrease in special revenue funds: stimulus dollars are going away while Title I and pass-through grants are being reduced. The goal of the budget was to stay at Maintenance of Effort (MOE). The budget is made up of 54.2% from the county and 43.8% from the state. However, the state percentage could change should the teacher pensions be shifted to local boards of education. In total, the proposed budget will decrease by 2.7% to \$1,482,474,142.

Ms. Burnopp reviewed all categories of the budget and the relationship to curriculum and instruction. She noted that the proposed budget changes include:

- Increasing school staffing by 123.8 FTE's to address projected enrollment increases.
- Reducing central office and non-classroom based positions by 46 FTE's.
- Salary increments per proposed bargaining unit agreements of \$14.8 million.
- Benefit costs for health insurance of \$2 million.

Mr. Bowler asked whether the *Language!* Program was being discontinued. Ms. Burnopp responded that the reductions are related to one-time purchases that are no longer needed. Mr. Bowler asked whether the evening program was being discontinued. Ms. Burnopp responded that material purchases for the evening program would be discontinued.

Ms. Bright Gordon asked where the 123.8 FTE's would be placed. Ms. Burnopp responded these FTE's would be allocated to classrooms where the enrollment has grown.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Mr. McNaney asked whether the likelihood that the \$5.8 million for the additional FTE's would be funded. Ms. Burnopp stated that whole budget would be funded since the school system remained within the MOE funding. Mr. McNaney expressed concern that some class sizes increased this fiscal year.

Mr. Schmidt remarked that an example of creative containment includes a reduction of two days of compensation for individuals reporting directly to the superintendent.

- B. **Report on Projections for BCPS September 30, 2012-2021** – Ms. Kara Calder, Executive Director of Planning and Support Operations, reported on the revised ten-year projections for BCPS. She stated that enrollment projections are expected to climb from 106,885 for 2012-2013 to 111,990 in 2021. Projections are in line with previous school system estimates, and are on target with the *Blueprint for Progress*' one-year projections. Ms. Calder highlighted school-by-school projections as well as the long-range enrollment projection accuracy.

Mr. Schmidt commented that schools in the central and northwest areas continue to be at or over capacity. Ms. Calder stated that projections indicate that these areas of the county have grown and will continue to grow more rapidly than other areas; however, it is across the county that school system is experiencing growth.

Ms. Roddy asked that a map comparing the State Rated Capacity (SRC) to the 2021 projections by area by school be created for the Board. There are a number of schools that will be significantly over capacity at the elementary school level over the next ten years.

Ms. Roddy inquired about the status of the northwest study. Ms. Calder responded that the results of the study would be provided to the Superintendent the first week of May. Ms. Calder explained that BCPS has few bank sites and fewer sites that are feasible for construction. Ms. Roddy asked that staff consider all options when conducting the study.

Mr. Schmidt asked about whether a system wide redistricting had been considered. Ms. Calder stated that the strategic planning office continually looks at options for balancing enrollment and ensuring that integrity of a community school. Typically, boundary changes are presented to either balance enrollment in small groups of schools or as the result of a capital project. Mr. Schmidt asked when the school system had last adjusted boundaries. Ms. Calder responded the

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Board had approved a boundary change for Chesapeake Terrace/ Edgemere Elementary Schools in March 2009. Mr. Schmidt asked whether there have been another other boundary changes in the last 20 years. Ms. Calder responded that she would need to get back to the Board with that information. Mr. Schmidt stated that with the constraints that the school system could face in the future, he foresees system wide.

Board member, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, entered the room at 7:47 p.m.

Mr. Coleman asked why the elementary school capacity is high and the middle school capacity goes as low as 50%. Ms. Calder responded that the elementary schools are serving pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and five grades where the middle schools serve three grade levels.

- C. **Report on *Language!* Program** – Dr. Roger Plunkett, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, explained that *Language!* is a secondary reading and language arts intervention program designed to assist students who needed stronger language arts skills in order to pass the English high school assessment (HSA). The *Language!* program has been reduced over the years as students have developed stronger reading and language arts skills and have passed the HSA in large numbers.

Ms. Kathleen McMahon, Executive Director of Special Programs, stated that the *Language!* program was not intended to replace the core program but to supplement it. The report provided the following insights:

- The program was introduced in 2005-2006 as a reading/language arts intervention/acceleration program.
- The targeted audience was Grade 6-10 students and was offered in every middle and high school.
- Student enrollment from 2006-2010 was: 55% African American; 33% White, 6% Hispanic, 3% Asian, 2% Unknown, and 1% American Indian.
- Student enrollment from special services for 2006-2010 was: 63.1% FARMS (free and reduced-price meals), 41.2% special education, and 7.4% ELL (English Language Learners).
- Progress is monitored through the use of two assessments: Test of Silent Word Reading Fluency and Degrees of Reading Power.
- Results of 5,771 students' who participated in two years of instructions in Grades 6-10 showed 69% of those students demonstrated one to four plus years of growth while in the program.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Dr. Jane Barranger, principal of Towson High School, reported to Board members the successes of students who had participated in the *Language!* program at Towson High School over the past seven years.

Mr. Schmidt asked whether a student takes an English class and the *Language!* as a separate class. Dr. Barranger responded that the *Language!* is in addition to the standard English class. She stated that students are grouped based on ability.

Mr. Coleman asked whether this program is expensive. Ms. McMahon responded that the biggest expense would have been in the initial purchase of books and reading materials. Mr. Coleman asked whether this program was offered in all schools with Ms. McMahon responding no. Mr. Schmidt asked how many secondary schools offer this program. Dr. Plunkett stated he would retrieve that information and get a response back to the Board. Mr. Coleman stated that, if this is a successful program, then it should be offered to all students. Ms. McMahon stated that this program is an intervention program; it is not the only intervention program.

Ms. Bright Gordon asked how a student's classes are balanced to ensure the student does not miss something important. Dr. Barranger responded that most of the students in this program are in Grades 9 and 10. When SATs are given in Grade 8, students entering Grade 9 having trouble in reading can take a pre-test to determine their reading level.

Ms. Johnson remarked that the date the program started was 2006 and not 2005. Ms. McMahon stated that staff received the initiative in 2005; the program was published in 2005-2006; and used in secondary schools in 2006-2007. Ms. Johnson asked what some of the challenges of implementing the program were as shared with the Curriculum Committee. Ms. McMahon responded there was an online data component that was not used consistently in all schools. Dr. Barranger stated that the program is extremely scripted and there has been enormous support from central office along with an enthusiastic teacher at Towson High School.

Ms. Johnson asked why this is the first time the program is being evaluated when it has been in the school system since 2006. Dr. Plunkett responded that the program's focus was diluted because principals began to make site-based purchases. As a result, the data was not completely accurate. Purchases are now controlled centrally as is training. This program is one of many interventions that should be evaluated to determine effectiveness.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Dr. Hairston stated that BCPS has one of the highest graduation rates in the nation. He noted that there has been some turnover in the department of research, accountability, and assessment, and now the school system is more structured to provide further data.

Ms. Johnson commented the Curriculum Committee was informed that, even though there have been improvements with the HSA and MSA, the school system cannot attribute those results to the *Language!* program. Ms. McMahon stated that the school system seldom does one thing to see whether it works. The data from the two *Language!* independent assessments presented this evening demonstrate the program's impact.

Ms. Johnson asked for the program's total aggregate cost. Ms. McMahon responded the cost was approximately \$840,000 since its inception. Dr. Plunkett stated that many purchases were based upon site-based decisions. Ms. Johnson asked whether this program was being funded in FY2013. Ms. McMahon responded that the biggest cost would be the purchase of materials for the program. Dr. Plunkett stated that there would be expenses for training new staff. Dr. Hairston stated that there is a \$241,570 reduction in the *Language!* program in the proposed FY2013 operating budget. The intent is for the program to phase out based upon the success of the students.

Mr. Collins requested biographical information on Jane Fell Greene, author of the *Language!* program.

INFORMATION

The Board received the following information:

- A. Financial Report for months ending November 30, 2010 and 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Schmidt made the following announcements:

- The Central Area Education Advisory Council meeting and the Joint Area Education Advisory Council meeting, scheduled for January 26, 2012, have been cancelled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

- The Board of Education will host its winter Recognition Night on Thursday, February 2, 2012, at Parkville Middle School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at Greenwood. The meeting will begin with an open session at approximately 5:00 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 work session at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

/bls