

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

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

The Board of Education of Baltimore County met in open session at 5:19 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. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, 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 February and March.

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Articles, §§10-508(a)(7) and upon motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board commenced its closed session at 5:20 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in closed session at 5:20 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. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Ms. Valerie A. Roddy, 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 T. Blannard, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Schools; Ms. Patricia A. Lawton, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Schools; Ms. Penelope Martin-Knox, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Middle Schools; Dr. Edward Newsome, Jr., Acting Assistant Superintendent, High Schools; Dr. Alpheus Arrington, Director, Human Resources; 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. Nussbaum advised Board members regarding agency fees.

Board member, Mr. David Uhlfelder, entered the room at 5:23 p.m.

On motion of Ms. Roddy, seconded by Ms. Bright Gordon, the Board adjourned its closed session at 5:45 p.m. Staff exited the room.

### ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION

At 5:46 p.m., the Board discussed the superintendent search process.

Board member, Mr. Michael J. Collins, entered the room at 5:47 p.m.

Board member, Mr. George J. Moniodis, entered the room at 5:55 p.m.

On motion of Mr. McNaney, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board adjourned its administration session at 6:21 p.m. for a brief dinner.

### OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 6:45 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 Ms. Alaina Kraft and Mr. Karl Muhlbach, students at Towson University, 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 February 21, 2012; the Open and Closed Minutes of March 6, 2012; and the Report on the Public Hearing of March 19, 2012, Mr. Schmidt declared the minutes approved as presented on the Web site.

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.

Mr. Schmidt provided an update on the superintendent search process. He stated that many individuals who have applied do so with the expectation that their application will be kept confidential. The Board continues to search for a new superintendent and hopes to appoint a candidate by the end of April. Mr. Schmidt thanked the public for its oral and written input regarding the desired characteristics of the new superintendent.

#### ADVISORY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Ms. Abby Beytin, President of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County, stated that the school system's infrastructure has been underfunded as a result of custodial staff reductions. Ms. Beytin applauds the former and current County Executives for setting aside funds for renovations, air-conditioning, and new school construction.

Ms. Nancy Ostrow, President of the PTA Council of Baltimore County, reported on the National PTA Reflections Program held March 18, 2012. She announced that the Council's next general meeting would be held on Thursday, March 22, 2012, at Loch Raven High School beginning at 7:30 p.m. "Projected Student Enrollment and Relief Strategies for Overcrowding," will be presented.

Mr. Joshua Parker, a representative of the Advisory Committee for Alternative Programs, reported to the Board about the Accelerated English class, which reaches those students who need the most help through relationship building and connection.

#### GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Charles Sydnor asked the Board to visit Imagine Discovery Charter School, to engage parents in the chartering process, and to extend the charter for another year.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (cont)

Ms. Penny Noval asked the Board to consider deferring its decision on the Mays Chapel site until there has been an opportunity to work jointly in finding the best solution.

Mr. Angelo Del Negro asked the Board to defer or consider a no-vote this evening on constructing a new elementary school in Mays Chapel.

Mr. Stanley Miller stated that he walks in the Mays Chapel Park. He stated that if the park is taken, the community will only see sidewalks and streets and that there will be no park of any value for walking.

Dr. Bash Pharoan asked the Board to close schools on Islamic holidays. He stated that this year's calendar committee has not objected to adding the Muslim holidays.

Ms. Gail Purnell asked the Board to consider deferring the use of Mays Chapel Park for an elementary school until the records show that all relevant information that has or should have gone into this decision has been shared with the community affected and that the community has had ample opportunity to review the material and respond.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hairston announced that there will be Baltimore County STEM Alliance Leadership Summit on April 11, 2012 and feature a keynote address by Norm Augustine, retired chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Schmidt stepped down as chair and asked Vice President Roddy to preside as chair over this agenda item.

Mr. Michael Sines, Executive Director of Physical Facilities, provided additional information to the Board on the recommendation to utilize the Mays Chapel site for a new elementary school. He stated that the school system has explored all options, has worked with the Board's fiscal authority, and is submitting a recommendation that is founded on the goals in the *Blueprint for Progress* in order to using resources effectively and efficiently.

OLD BUSINESS (cont)

Multiple options were evaluated to accommodate the projected increase in student enrollment during the preparation of the FY13 capital improvement plan (CIP). Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) explored the possibility of adding four small additions throughout the York Road corridor and conducted evaluations at Padonia International, Sparks Elementary, Lutherville Lab, and Riderwood Elementary schools. In each case, the campus could accommodate some form of addition; however, with the exception of Sparks Elementary, the common areas cannot accommodate any significant increase in student enrollment. The school system revisited the 31 sites that were identified several years ago including the possibility of renovating the existing Bykota Center and returning it to an elementary school. The school system also analyzed the possibility of adding relocatable units. Cost, potential scope of work, and the impact on student boundary changes were examined. It was determined that the long-term solution to provide the maximum seating capacity where student growth is occurring is to construct a new 700-seat elementary school. Current growth will also require a 200-seat addition to another school in the near future.

Once this analysis was completed, staff discussed where a new building could be constructed. Two board-owned sites were evaluated: Dulaney Springs and Mays Chapel. Mr. Sines reiterated that the State Clearinghouse indicated that the county approved the Mays Chapel site for a school 26 years ago. He stated that 10.016 acres of the Mays Chapel property will not be breached and will remain untouched. The study indicated that the cost for developing the Dulaney Springs site was significantly higher than Mays Chapel site. Mr. Sines stated that a comprehensive traffic study will be coordinated with the design consultants. Based upon state formula, the projected cost estimate for the new elementary school is \$28 million.

Mr. Sines then reviewed the outline and approval process of a new elementary school from design to construction.

Mr. Sines stated that it is the superintendent's recommendation to utilize the Mays Chapel site for a 700-seat elementary school.

Mr. Parked moved to approve the Mays Chapel site for a new elementary school. Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion.

Mr. Schmidt asked that his comments be placed in the record:

- There can be little doubt that the elementary schools in the central core (as it is called) are overcrowded and the projections are that they will continue to be so. BCPS has employed a number of relief strategies, including "relocatables" or "trailers" as they are commonly known. We have constructed West Towson Elementary School, and are adding additions to Hampton and Stoneleigh. Still,

OLD BUSINESS (cont)

overcrowding, both presently and projected into the future, is problematic. As a Board member, I need to take a broad and somewhat regional approach. This is not a school for Rogers Forge or Towson. The overcrowding extends from Rogers Forge and Stoneleigh to the south to Sparks to the north. The Mays Chapel site addresses the overcrowding issue as it offers a proper and strategic location for a new school. There will be, as was done when West Towson was opening, a public process to adjust school boundaries.

- There has been significant discussion regarding public infrastructure considering the two properties owned by the Board in the central core which are considered as alternatives. Much of the debate has been which of these properties is the best alternative. These are the Mays Chapel site and the Dulaney Springs site adjacent to the intersection of Old Bosley Road and Pot Springs Road. With regards to public water, public sewer, storm drains and traffic, there is no doubt that the Mays Chapel site is far superior in applying these criteria. Both sites are inside the County's "Urban Rural Demarcation Line", a land development tool that the County utilizes to manage growth. Both sites have access to public water, the Mays Chapel site is easily served because of the development of the surrounding Mays Chapel North Planned Unit Development. Nonetheless, there is public water at (or very near) to the Dulaney Springs site. Public sewer is another matter. It is available at the Mays Chapel site. The nearest public sewer line approximately 1000 feet from the Dulaney Springs site. Insofar as storm water management, there appears to be no system in place at Dulaney Springs. To the contrary, there are curbs, gutters and storm drains at Mays Chapel. Insofar as traffic, this is a significant issue for me. Padonia Road is a traveled road but is not overcrowded. The traffic volumes pale in comparison with traffic on York Road and other arterial roads in the area. The roads at and near Dulaney Springs are difficult. Pot Spring Road and Old Bosley Road are narrow, winding and single lane roads. The adjacent intersection of Old Bosley and Pot Spring is difficult given the topography and limited sight distances. It has no traffic signal. The infrastructure is far better suited at Mays Chapel than at Dulaney Springs.
- We have had numerous suggestions offered that we consider locations other than Mays Chapel and Dulaney Springs. There have been no alternatives identified that meet the criteria of location, infrastructure, cost and propriety that must be considered. Some of the sites offered are not owned by BCPS. To consider that the Board would buy land when it already own property, in this economy and under our fiscal constraints, is not a reasonable alternative.

OLD BUSINESS (cont)

- The school and associated parking are projected to occupy less than 50% of the area of the property. There will be open areas and fields (just as surround other elementary schools). Mr. Schmidt encourages the engineers and design team to implement walking trails and other design elements that will make the property community friendly. For the past twenty five years, the Mays Chapel site has been designated as a school site. It is a school site that has been used as a park and not a park that is being converted to a school.
- The Board is not “rushing to judgment.” As noted, the Mays Chapel site has been designated as an elementary school site since it was acquired in 1986 by BCPS. That was two years before the first construction in Mays Chapel North began. This school has been on the books before any of the condos, townhouses, and other parts of Mays Chapel North were built. Mr. Schmidt stated that for every new residential unit sold in Mays Chapel North, the developer has provided disclosure of the future plans for the community, including the school. Given the projected design and construction timelines, the Board’s vote needs to be sooner rather than later so that it can address the overcrowded conditions. Mr. Schmidt stated that he plans to vote in favor of the proposed Mays Chapel School.

Mr. Coleman asked for the approximate number of available parking spaces. Mr. Sines responded that the parking spaces would be determined by a formula based upon the size of the building and the number of teachers.

Ms. Bright Gordon inquired about community participation in the design phase for the portions of the property that are not in the footprint of the school, parking lot, or associated structures. Mr. Sines responded that the initial schematic design will be brought forward to the Board’s Building and Contract Committee. At that time, there will be renderings displayed to allow the input from the community. The community is encouraged to provide input at that time. Ms. Bright Gordon asked what would be the best way to get that information to the community. Mr. Sines responded that the Board agenda is published and the items are published prior to the meeting.

Ms. Roddy stated that it may be incumbent upon the Board to give the community specific information when that committee meeting occurs.

Mr. Collins asked whether there would be time to implement suggestions or changes that the community might have when the schematics are presented to the committee. Mr. Sines responded that it would be the opportune time to provide suggestions so that adjustments can be made before impacting the overall cost of the project.

Dr. Hairston stated that the school system has engaged prior communities when constructing a new school.

OLD BUSINESS (cont)

Mr. Parker stated that the Board's decisions are preparing the future for children not yet in the school system; students in the first grade. It is the Board's responsibility is to ensure that there is a perpetual school system of good quality to educate students. There are many things that the Board must take into consideration for the future of the young children yet to come.

Mr. Uhlfelder stated that his experience of living next to and across from Fort Garrison Elementary School was one of the best decisions he had ever made. He stated his children and grandchildren utilized the school's playground and facilities. Mr. Uhlfelder stated that he intends to vote in favor of the Mays Chapel site. He asked whether the Department of Recreation and Parks would be involved in the process because of the additional 10 acres. Mr. Sines responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Bright Gordon noted that, based upon the reports provided to the Board relative to overcrowding, the school system would not be well-served by an unfavorable vote. She stated that she would vote in favor of the Mays Chapel site.

The Board unanimously approved the construction of a new elementary school on the Mays Chapel site (favor-12).

ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE PLANS – DEEP CREEK MAGNET MIDDLE, DUNDALK MIDDLE, WINDSOR MILL MIDDLE, AND WHITE OAK SCHOOLS

Dr. Edward Newsome, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of High Schools, presented the staff's recommendations to the Board for approval regarding the restructuring plans for Deep Creek Magnet Middle, Dundalk Middle, Windsor Mill Middle, and White Oak schools. Ms. Elizabeth Chesney, Executive Director of Research, Accountability, and Assessment, provided an overview the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* requirements.

Dr. Newsome stated that these four schools did not meet annual targets for reading or mathematics, or both. In addition, there are achievement gaps among student groups. Areas of focus for these schools include the following student groups, as designated by *NCLB*: All Students, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, White, Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS), and Special Education. The Alternative Governance plans are intended to address specifically the areas in which the schools have not met annual targets. Proposed school reforms include:

- Mathematics, Reading, and Data Monitoring and Analysis
  - Master Schedule – Common planning, co-teaching, intervention period, targeted professional development, data utilization, culturally responsive teaching, monitoring tools to assess student growth

ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE PLANS – DEEP CREEK MAGNET MIDDLE, DUNDALK MIDDLE, WINDSOR MILL MIDDLE, AND WHITE OAK SCHOOLS (cont)

- School Culture
  - AVID (middle schools only) – High expectations, college prep
  - Action Team – Orderly environment, teacher-based management strategies
- System Supports for Restructuring Schools
  - Formative and summative assessments
  - Data analysis to support improvement
  - School improvement planning
  - Additional resources
  - Stakeholder involvement
  - Feedback loop (principals and assistant superintendents)

The next step for the proposals is submission to the Maryland State Board of Education for approval.

Mr. Collins asked whether principals in other schools, who implemented alternative governance plans, had been replaced. Dr. Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, responded that two principals, whose schools were undergoing alternative governance, had been replaced.

Mr. Schmidt asked for the percentage of FARM students at each school. Dr. Penelope Martin-Knox, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools, responded that Dundalk Middle School's is 74%, and Deep Creek Magnet Middle School's is 75%. Windsor Mill Middle and White Oak schools' are approximately 60%.

Ms. Johnson asked for a summary of the major issues at each of the four schools. Dr. Newsome responded that a comprehensive review of the instructional program is being conducted. At Deep Creek Middle School, there has been an increase of FARM students and high mobility rate of students. Dundalk Middle School also has over 50% mobility rate of students. White Oak School has a mobility rate of 90%, which has impacted adequate progress.

Ms. Johnson asked how a high mobility rate effects student achievement. Ms. Chesney responded that mobility rate is calculated based upon student enrollment. If a student is moving from one school to another, the student needs to adjust to the school's programming and possibly to the curriculum. Ms. Johnson asked whether the system performs an assessment when a new student enrolls. Ms. Chesney responded that it there is not a specific assessment that is administered to determine a student's progress. Ms. Johnson asked how the Articulated Instruction Module (AIM) tool is administered in the middle schools. Dr. Hairston responded that the school system is not using that component of AIM. Dr. Hairston stated that the system is using short-cycle benchmarks and the eduTrax system.

ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE PLANS – DEEP CREEK MAGNET MIDDLE, DUNDALK MIDDLE, WINDSOR MILL MIDDLE, AND WHITE OAK SCHOOLS (cont)

Ms. Johnson asked whether more students were being held back at these schools. Dr. Newsome responded in the negative. Specific progress monitoring tool that charts grades, teacher assessments, and unit assessments is needed. Ms. Johnson asked whether staff is confident that these students are equipped with the necessary tools to succeed in high school. Dr. Newsome responded that the key is to look at the data and put interventions in place to help students when they first enter into high school. He noted that these four schools have specific subgroups of students who are not successful, and the school system needs to focus on those students. Dr. Martin-Knox stated that staff reviews previous practices to identify lessons learned, future actions, and adjustments in lessons learned.

Ms. Johnson asked whether the *Language!* Program will continue at Deep Creek Magnet Middle School. Dr. Newsome responded that competency in reading is best accomplished when it is across the curriculum. This program will be used where it is most needed and ensure that other supports are in place through teaching and reading, reading across curriculum, integrating reading and social studies, and other parts of the content area.

Mr. Coleman asked whether any of these four schools had an extant AVID program. Dr. Martin-Knox responded that three middle schools had the AVID program.

On motion of Mr. Uhlfelder, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board unanimously approved the following Alternative Governance Plan for Deep Creek Magnet Middle School as presented in exhibit C (favor-12).

On motion of Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board unanimously approved the alternative governance plan for Dundalk Middle School as presented in exhibit C (favor-12).

On motion of Mr. McNaney, seconded by Ms. Roddy, the Board unanimously approved the alternative governance plan for Windsor Mill Middle School as presented in exhibit C (favor-12).

On motion of Mr. McNaney, seconded by Ms. Roddy, the Board unanimously approved the alternative governance plan for White Oak School as presented in exhibit C (favor-12).

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 had met to consider the policies presented this evening, and that the committee is recommending approval of these policies. This is the first reading.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

- Proposed Deletion of Policy 2343 – ADMINISTRATION: School Organization-Staffing Guidelines
- Proposed Changes to Policy 3532 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Obtaining Restitution for Vandalism
- Proposed Changes to Policy 3640 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Property Disposition-Disposal of Surplus or Excess Property
- Proposed Changes to Policy 5410 – STUDENTS: Services to Students-School Counseling Services
- Proposed Deletion of Policy 8110 – INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Organization-Composition of Board of Education of Baltimore County
- Proposed Changes to Policy 8120 – INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Organization-Purpose, Role and Responsibilities of the Board of Education
- Proposed Changes to Policy 8131 – INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Organization-Administration in Policy Absence

B. **Report on School Facilities** – Mr. Michael Sines, Executive Director of Physical Facilities, and Mr. Merrill Plait, Acting Administrator for Engineering and Construction, reported an assessment of the condition of BCPS physical facilities from 2000 until the present. The report detailed the evolution of the development of the capital improvement program (CIP) and the many issues associated with the installation of air conditioning in vintage buildings. Mr. Sines also provided a brief review of future challenges confronting BCPS facilities. The report included:

- Historical perspective of aging schools
- Building components and systems
- Critical building infrastructure
- Accomplishments (\$1.4 billion)
  - Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS)
  - Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools
  - Eight new schools and 12 new additions through 2013
  - Renovations and limited renovations on 43 schools
- Closures avoided
- Immediate response to natural disasters
- Future capital program challenges

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Plait and Ms. Leslie Lazzeri, Senior Supervisor for Engineering and Construction, reported on the issues related to the installation of air conditioning. The report included:

- History of school building HVAC
- Environmental concerns
  - Inadequate ventilation
  - Human and environment generated contaminants
  - Moisture/humidity control
  - Effects of inadequate environment on occupants
- Air conditioning alternatives/options
  - Installation and cost

Mr. Sines reviewed the air conditioning strategy that will ensure occupant health and safety and cost effectiveness. He noted that air conditioning will be installed in all schools as the supporting infrastructure undergoes systemic renovations, limited renovations, or renovations per State standards. Air conditioning will be installed in school buildings where the essential infrastructure can support the introduction of air conditioning. Mr. Sines reviewed the current facility assessment noting that a significant shift in the prioritization of the capital program objectives and identified projects will likely result in catastrophic consequences.

Mr. Uhlfelder stated that this report should be given to all new Board members. He asked that the president bring this report back to the Board at a future date.

Mr. Janssen asked whether the small DX units were used for technology rooms. Mr. Sines responded that the rooms would need to have restricted capabilities. Mr. Sines noted that should the school system would attempt to use it for a primary building, the concerns are: old buildings; critical infrastructure cannot support number of units; and impact on indoor air quality.

Mr. Schmidt asked whether this was the case with Middleborough Elementary School. Mr. Sines responded that Middleborough Elementary is equipped with critical infrastructure to have central air conditioning installed. The school system is exploring all opportunities to identify sources to speed up the delivery for Middleborough Elementary.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Bowler asked about the status of Pikesville High School. Mr. Sines responded that a feasibility study was conducted by an independent consultant who confirmed that Pikesville High has four systems in a failure mode, one of which is the HVAC. BCPS staff conducted a comprehensive assessment to perform minor repairs. The maintenance office is working with instructional staff to make sure there is appropriate air exchange at the school. Pikesville High will not receive air conditioning until the school system receives the funding to move the project forward to a full renovation.

Ms. Johnson asked how much money was spent as a result of the two natural disasters that had occurred earlier in this school year. Mr. Sines responded that the school system worked with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) Group Insurance Pool regarding the earthquake damage. Monetary costs as a result of Hurricane Irene were limited to staff time, and an actual number was not calculated.

Mr. Moniodis requested the value of loss BCPS had sustained during the earthquake and hurricane events in August 2011.

C. **Report on Suspensions and Policy 5550, *Behavior*** – Mr. Dale Rauenzahn, Executive Director of Student Support Services, reported on suspensions, disciplinary processes, and Policy 5550. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that the following topics would be discussed:

- Suspension Data
- Maryland State Board of Education recommendations
- Implication on BCPS policies, rules, and procedures
- BCPS Program Alignment

Mr. Rauenzahn reviewed schools with highest suspension incidents, schools with the highest offenses, professional development for administrators and instructional staff, and disproportionality. Mr. Rauenzahn noted that Policy 5550 is under review and reflects both MSDE and BCPS's considerations for finding the proper balance of academic success and appropriate discipline. The student handbook for 2012-2013 is under review and will be revised to mirror any changes to Policy and Rule 5550 as well as other policies in the 5000 series.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Mr. Janssen expressed concern with the rule and asked fellow Board members to review it. He asked whether the policy would require in-school suspensions instead of suspending a student outside of the classroom. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that in-school suspensions would be one option. The benefit of an in-school suspension is that a student would continue to receive academic support. Mr. Janssen stated that most schools are understaffed and in-school suspensions would strain staff resources. Mr. Janssen asked whether teachers would continue to intervene should a fight occur. Ms. Patsy Holmes, Director of Student Support Services, stated that physical intervention is a last result. There are other ways teachers can intervene before physically getting involved. Mr. Janssen expressed concern that the offense for fighting was recategorized. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that “fighting” is currently in Category III and remains in Category III in the revised policy. It may appear it is lower since there are now four categories. Disciplinary action in Category III includes suspensions and the ability to refer to the superintendent’s designee. The principal will have the full range of authority as in the past and now has more options. Mr. Janssen asked how the school system would address the issue with the high rate of suspension for African-American males. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that the school system would have a year to develop a plan, three years to reach benchmarks, and resolve different disproportionalities within three years. Mr. Janssen stated that teachers should receive professional development on how to handle disruptive students. Mr. Rauenzahn stated a large number of staff development courses exists on classroom management.

Mr. Janssen stated that he had a number of concerns with offenses moving between categories and would e-mail his specific concerns to Mr. Rauenzahn.

Mr. Collins asked to see the current student handbook and the proposed student handbook for 2012-2013. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that the student handbook is not finalized until the Board approves the policy and receives the rule. While there are drafts of the student handbook, there are and will continue to be changes to the handbook. Dr. Hairston stated that there must be a clear and simplistic policy so that staff can develop the rule. Dr. Hairston remarked that the policy would not be in effect until August. Mr. Collins asked for assurance that the student handbook would not be printed until reviewed by the Board. Mr. Schmidt directed the Superintendent to share the student handbook with the Board as it evolves.

WORK SESSION REPORTS (cont)

Mr. McNaney stated that cell phone usage has changed and requested that staff speak to students and teachers about ways to use cell phones in the classroom. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that, under the direction of the teacher, the cell phone can be used if part of educational program. Mr. Rauenzahn noted that use of electronic devices is a Category I, which is to be addressed by interventions and not suspensions. Ms. Holmes remarked the cell phone usage was dropped to Category I on the advice of principals. Mr. Rauenzahn noted that a communications plan is in place to explain the changes to the revised policy to teachers and staff.

Ms. Bright Gordon requested that future written reports are as comprehensive as the oral report. She would like to see the nature of the alternative programs for BCPS. Ms. Bright Gordon requested information on whether the alternative programs track a student from their home school to the alternative program regarding instruction and academics.

Ms. Bright Gordon asked whether Baltimore County has the highest percentage of suspensions in Maryland with Mr. Rauenzahn responding affirmatively.

Ms. Johnson asked why BCPS has a high rate of suspensions for African-American males and special education students. Mr. Rauenzahn responded that there is not one single reason behind the high rate of suspensions for these two groups.

Ms. Johnson asked whether there was a “full report” on suspensions and expulsions. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that there are data charts and data elements pulled from Cognos that were presented in the oral report. There has not been a written report with all the data. Ms. Johnson stated it would be helpful that the Board receive a comprehensive report on suspension and expulsions. Ms. Johnson asked how the school system ensures equity. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that principals are working with assistant superintendents in reviewing and focusing on suspensions and working on staff development in preparation for the revised policy. He noted that there are major changes in the system’s approach for monitoring and reporting on these issues.

Ms. Roddy requested a breakdown by schools, the number of special education students, and how those students are performing on the Maryland School Assessments (MSA).

Mr. Collins encouraged central office staff to visit schools to see what is really happening within the schools. Mr. Rauenzahn stated that staff will continue to visit schools relative to discipline.

### WORK SESSION REPORTS

Mr. Uhlfelder noted that BCPS has the third highest graduation rate of African-American males.

### INFORMATION

The Board received the following information:

- A. Financial Report for months ending January 31, 2011 and 2012
- B. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 4206 – Salary Regulations-Professional
- C. Deletion of Superintendent's Rule 6308 – Extra Duty Assignments: Appointments, Releases
- D. Revised Superintendent's Rule 6801 – Cultural Exchange Program

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Schmidt made the following announcements:

- The Board of Education will host its spring recognition night on Thursday, March 29, 2012, at Kenwood High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Schools will be closed April 2 through 9 for spring break. Schools will reopen on Tuesday, April 10, 2012.
- The Southeast Area Education Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, April 16, 2012, at Colgate Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Board of Education of Baltimore County will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 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 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer

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