

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, August 16, 2021

*The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented and actions taken during the above meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County. The video recordings of the Board meetings are the official record of the meetings and can be viewed at: <http://www.hcps.org/boe/livestream/>. Informational reports are located at: <https://www.hcps.org/boe/boardmeetingschedules.aspx>*

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. Jansen Robinson and Mrs. Sonja Karwacki.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Rachel Gauthier, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi and Ms. Kanae Holcomb

Virtual attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Dr. Joyce Herold and Dr. Roy Phillips

NOTE: Mrs. Karwacki joined the meeting virtually after roll call.

Adoption of Agenda

President Gauthier called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karwacki and adopted in a voice vote 9/0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Mueller led the Pledge of Allegiance

Item A. Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Item B. Public Comments

Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. The time allotment per speaker was adjusted in accordance with Board policy as shared in the Board notice of public comment participation due to the number of registered speakers. Speakers were informed they would have two (2) minutes per speaker as Board members wanted to ensure each registered speaker had an opportunity to speak. Mrs. Yvonne Rallo, Board of Education Administrative Support Coordinator, called on individual speakers who were in person at the meeting and had registered to speak at the Board meeting and Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually.

NOTE: Due to attendee interruptions/disruptions during Board member comments, and after warnings by the Board President to attendees regarding possible removal from the meeting room if such conduct continued, the Board President announced that attendees would be removed from the Board room. Attendee interruptions/disruptions continued despite this warning. As a result, the Board President ordered the public attendees removed and the meeting recessed while that removal was coordinated by security personnel and law enforcement officers. The Board President permitted in-person speakers back into the Board room one at a time to provide their public comment. Once registered in-person speakers completed their public comment the meeting resumed as a hybrid meeting thereafter, without public attendance.

Item C. Consent Agenda

President Gauthier called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Affirmation of Monthly Contracts: July 2021
2. Monthly Personnel Report: May-July 2021
3. Contract Award: Maintenance/Warranty Contract for District Video Surveillance System
4. Contract Award: Music Furniture and Equipment for Joppatowne High School
5. Contract Award: Fresh Produce
6. Contract Award: Discovery Education Experience District License
7. Appointment of 2022-2023 Calendar Committee Members
8. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: July 12, 2021

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 9/0.

#### Item D. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson introduced Dr. David Bishai, Harford County's Health Officer. Dr. Bishai shared scientific information about Covid-19 control, in an advisory capacity as the health officer for Harford County, in order to inform Board decisions about measures to keep schools open. Dr. Bishai reviewed the difference between the Delta variant and prior Covid-19 viruses and described why the Delta variant is twice as transmissible. Dr. Bishai stated that multiple layers of protection including universal masks lowers the risk of Covid-19 transmission in a school setting and he shared a presentation of scientific findings that supported his advice.

Dr. Bulson introduced Mr. Mike O'Brien, Executive Director of Middle and High School Performance a who provided an update on athletics and the Swan Creek virtual school. Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) started sports last week and the goal is to keep student athletes on the field and in school. Mr. O'Brien mentioned the current middle and high school student enrollment numbers and the courses being offered for virtual school at Swan Creek. The Swan Creek students will be able to access meal kits weekly at HCPS' regional high schools. He stated that Swan Creek continues to consider all applications based on current enrollment and the needs of the students who apply. For any student whose needs cannot be met right away, they will be offered a spot on a wait list. He also made the community aware that HCPS will continue in person school orientations that will look different with specific times for different grades to support distancing. Back to school nights, however, will probably be virtual events for middle and high schools. Mr. O'Brien then introduced Dr. Dyann Mack, Director of Elementary School Instruction and Performance who gave an update on elementary schools. Dr. Mack shared that much like secondary schools, elementary back to school night will be virtual. Elementary principals and administrators are working very hard to prepare for the return of students. Dr. Mack shared the enrollment numbers for Swan Creek for the virtual elementary program and shared that the school is fully staffed. Currently there is a wait list for the elementary program at Swan Creek and HCPS is working with those families to make sure they understand what the wait list process will look like. Dr. Mack introduced Dr. Susan Brown, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment who provided information regarding tutoring. Dr. Brown shared the process and criteria for students to receive tutoring services.

#### Item E. Presentation of FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner shared the Maryland State eligible priorities for FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) including Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School Replacement, Bakerfield Elementary School Roof replacement and Harford Technical High School Multi-Systemic Renovation. This was the second presentation of the FY 2023 CIP to the Board. Mr. Brown sought the Board's acceptance of the presentation of the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Item F. Decision on Schematic Design for Homestead/Wakefield Elementary Replacement School

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner gave the Board background information of the scope study for Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School. The schematic design that Mr. Michael Campbell, Vice-President of Banta Campbell Architects, Inc., completed was

presented to the Board for review and approval for Maryland State submission. Once approved, the design team will move forward with detailed designs and construction documents. It is anticipated that construction will begin June of 2022 and be completed August of 2024.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation that the Board approve, for submission to the State of Maryland, the schematic design for the Homestead/Wakefield Elementary Replacement School. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a roll call vote of 9/0.

Item G. Decision on Site Location Study for the John Archer Replacement Facility

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner and Mr. Michael Campbell, Vice-President of Banta Campbell Architects, Inc. presented the Board with background information regarding the site location study for the John Archer School (JAS) that was completed by FLO Analytics in partnership with Banta Campbell Architects, Inc. as part of the overall Balancing Enrollment project.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation that the Board approve the option to completely replace the John Archer School and to relocate the school from its current location to the Campus Hills site, located at 301 Schucks Road. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and passed in a roll call vote of 8/1. Mrs. Karwacki cast the negative vote.

Item H. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

- Dr. Bulson shared that Erika Edwards, science teacher at North Harford High School, was recognized as the “Outstanding Early Career Teacher” by the Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association. Ms. Edwards will have the opportunity to move forward to compete at the national level to represent the state of Maryland at the 2022 National Agriculture Education Association convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Dr. Bulson shared that Human Resources is excited to announce that the Harford County Public Schools’ (HCPS) first cohorts of Growing Exceptional Teacher scholarship winners from the graduating class of 2017 have now graduated from college. HCPS has hired three (3) of those five (5) students for teaching positions in HCPS. The other two (2) scholarship winners from the 2017 cohort have chosen to continue their educational careers by pursuing master’s degrees at this time.
- Dr. Bulson made the community aware that prior to the second scheduled Board business meeting in September he will be releasing, with the help of the administration, his recommendations for the next step in the balancing enrollment process. The public will be notified of these recommendations so the community will have the opportunity to provide input.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 11:04 PM.

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Sean W. Bulson, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer

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Rachel Gauthier, Board President  
Board of Education of Harford County