

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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>*

Open Session

The Board of Education of Harford County met in open session via video teleconference on Monday, September 27, 2021. President Rachel Gauthier called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

Board Members Present

All Board members were present in the virtual session for the roll call with the exception of Ms. Kanae Holcomb, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki and Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, who had an excused absence.

Motion, Second and Vote

Dr. David Bauer made a motion to waive public comment in its entirety in light of the limited nature of the open session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Joyce Herold and approved in a voice vote 7-0.

Pursuant to 3-305(b)(1), of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Dr. Herold, by unanimous vote of the Board members present, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a virtual fashion.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Holcomb, Mrs. Karwacki and Ms. Ricciardi

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent  
Eric Davis, Chief of Administration  
Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., General Counsel  
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

The Board of Education met in closed session for the purposes of discussing:

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of persons recommended by the Superintendent for the following position: Special Education Coordinator for Training and Technical Assistance.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the nominee.

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources led a discussion and presentation regarding the proposed candidate for the position of Special Education Coordinator for Training and Technical Assistance.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Herold, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:18 PM.

## Business Meeting

### Call to Order / Roll Call

President Rachel Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Karwacki and Ms. Ricciardi, who had an excused absence.

Dr. Mueller read the following statement:

This meeting will be conducted in a virtual fashion, with Board members, required staff and presenters in attendance via teleconference. The agenda and materials are available on [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org) under Board of Education meetings. The Board will receive public comment as more fully described in the public comment notice. The Audio Live Stream is available on [HCPS.ORG/BOE/LIVESTREAM](http://HCPS.ORG/BOE/LIVESTREAM).

### Adoption of Agenda

President Rachel Gauthier called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. David Bauer made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Joyce Herold and adopted in a voice vote 8-0.

### Item A. Request to Waive, In Part, Provisions of Policy 22-0008-000 - Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to waive, in part, provisions of Policy 22-0008-000 - Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings and to approve the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the same. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and approved in a voice vote 8-0.

### Item B. Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

### Item C. Public Comments

President Gauthier read a statement regarding protocol for public comments which included a provision that each speaker would have three (3) minutes to speak. She stated that the Board will receive public comment as more fully described in the attached public comment notice dated September 27, 2021. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered, to provide public comments at the Board meeting. Five (5) registered public speakers provided comment.

### Item D. Consent Agenda

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

1. Affirmation of Monthly Contracts: August 2021
2. Monthly Personnel Report - August 2021
3. Appointment of Negotiation Teams: 2022-2023 School Year
4. Contract Award: Engineering and Design Services for Paving and ADA Improvement at Various HCPS Locations
5. Contract Award: Professional Learning
6. Contract Award: - Mechanical Engineering for Air Quality Improvements at Various HCPS Locations
7. Contract Award: Istation Student Reading Program Renewal
8. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: September 13, 2021

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 8/0.

### Item E. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson introduced his leadership staff: Ms. Katie Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Ms. Mary Nasuta, Supervisor of Health Services, who reported out on changes to practices and operations that will take effect on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, as to how Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) will respond to Covid-19.

Dr. Susan Brown, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment, spoke about the HCPS instructional program and how we are supporting quarantined students. HCPS uses “It’s Learning” as the learning management system. Students have access to this learning system and teachers use it to communicate with students and their families. Dr. Brown shared that HCPS also provides tutoring and students can also access the Harford County Public Library’s tutoring program. Student tutoring information can be found on the HCPS.org website. Dr. Brown introduced Mr. Phillip Snyder, Supervisor of Accountability, who shared more detailed information on the HCPS tutoring program and how HCPS addresses the needs of students. Questions from the Board members were discussed and answered by the leadership staff.

Item F. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, sought Board approval of the Superintendent’s nominee for the position of Special Education Coordinator for Training and Technical Assistance.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Mr. Jeffrey M. Hoffman to the position of Special Education Coordinator for Training and Technical Assistance. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold. The motion was approved in voice vote of 8-0.

Item G. Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2021

The board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending June 30, 2021, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. The report included detailed analysis of revenues and expenditures for the last quarter of the fiscal year and represented all the activity for the fiscal year.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Presentation of Proposed 2022-2023 Harford County Public Schools Calendar

Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, presented the proposed 2022-2023 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) calendar. The proposed calendar will be posted to the HCPS website for 60 days to allow for public comment. Following the 60 days, the proposed calendar will be presented for Board approval at a subsequent Board Business meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item I. Decision on 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 provided the Board a fourth presentation of the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Board approval of the CIP as presented was requested.

Motion, Second, Vote - Dr. Bauer moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of the sixty-five million six hundred thirty-six thousand one hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$65,636,167.00) State eligible FY 2023 CIP budget as presented for submission to the Interagency Commission (IAC). The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and approved in a roll call vote 8-0.

Item J. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

- Dr. Bulson stated that his balancing enrollment recommendations were made public on September 14, 2021. Since then, the public has been given the opportunity to provide their input. Two community input forums have taken place and the third and final forum for the public to participate will be held Thursday, September 30, 2021. More information is available on the balancing enrollment page on the HCPS.org website.
- Dr. Bulson reminded the community that HCPS will offer free flu vaccinations for students at their school in October. Information was communicated to families last week.

- Dr. Bulson made the community aware of the Parent Academy resources that can be found on the HCPS.org website and the HCPS Facebook page. Families can find information here on how to support their children and encouraged the community to visit the website for useful resources.
- Dr. Bulson made the community aware that tomorrow Tuesday, September 28, 2021, the first winner of the inaugural Family Friendly School Award program will be announced. Each one of HCPS' fifty-four schools was nominated at least once for this month's award.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:22 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



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION  
BUSINESS MEETING – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 – 6:30 PM

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a Business Meeting on Monday, September 27, 2021, at 6:30 PM with Board Members, staff, and presenters in attendance virtually. The meeting will be streamed live and archived for later viewing on the HCPS [Website](#).

Public Comment Participation Call-In Process

Community members who wish to provide comments virtually during the Public Comments segment of the Business meeting are required to register by completing this form [Public Comment Registration Form](#).

Registrations must be received by 9:00 AM on Monday, September 27, 2021. All fields on the registration form must be completed.

1. First and Last name
  2. Email Address
  3. Phone Number
  4. Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person
- Registered speakers will receive an email from HCPS with a Call-in Phone # and a Conference ID #.
  - Registered speakers are required to call-in and enter the conference ID# at 6:30 PM on Monday, September 27, 2021.
  - Important: If you are unable to take your phone off mute, you may need to dial \*6.
  - If you are admitted from the virtual lobby to the meeting, you will be greeted by an HCPS staff member when it is time to begin your public comment. Expected hold time in the virtual lobby may vary based on number of registered speakers. The maximum wait time in the lobby is 30 minutes; should you be disconnected please call back.

The Board has authorized public comment as follows:

- Board policy permits speaker three (3) minutes to provide comments. However, ***Board policy authorizes the Board to reduce the amount of time allocated to each speaker if allocating 3 minutes to each speaker will impede the Board's ability to complete scheduled business.*** It is anticipated that in light of the number of speakers at recent Board meetings, the Board will reduce the amount of time allocated to each speaker. Consequently, please be prepared to abbreviate your comments.
- The Board expects that all comments will be submitted with the decorum and respect appropriate to the conduct of public business.
- Topics such as personnel matters, pending appeals, specific student disciplinary matters or which constitute commercial solicitations are not permitted.
- Disparaging comments, personal attacks, and inflammatory remarks about specific schools or personnel are not permitted. Speakers who engage in these comments will be reminded of the rules and the Board reserves the right to remove the speaker.
- All public comments submitted will be part of the records maintained by the Board office.

**Speakers are reminded that public comments are considered public information and, as such, are subject to the Maryland Public Information Act.**