

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, October 11, 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, October 11, 2021. President Rachel Gauthier called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Kanae Holcomb, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki and Dr. Joyce Herold, who had excused absences.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Rachel Gauthier, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, and Ms. Patrice Ricciardi
Virtual attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Dr. Roy Phillips, and Mr. Jansen Robinson

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 Ms. Ricciardi and approved in a voice vote 7-0.

Pursuant to 3-305(b)(1)(7) and (8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Ricciardi, by unanimous vote of the Board members present, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Kanae Holcomb, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki and Dr. Joyce Herold, who had excused absences.

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent
Eric Davis, Chief of Administration
Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., General Counsel
John E. Burke, Esq., Staff Attorney
William Shinoff, Esq., Frantz Law Group
Andrew Scott, Esq., PK Law
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

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

Topic: Discussion regarding possible joining mass litigation regarding damages related to the opioid epidemic.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve attorney-client privilege.

Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., General Counsel and John E. Burke, Esq., Staff Attorney were joined by Andrew Scott, Esq., of PK Law and William Shinoff, Esq., of the Frantz Law Group. Mr. Scott and Mr. Shinoff led a discussion and presented background information regarding possibly joining a mass action litigation for an opioid case. A lengthy discussion ensued with Board members asking for detailed information regarding the litigation costs, risks,

process, and timeline. The Board recommended that this matter be the subject of future open session and potential action by the Board.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Note: William Shinoff, Esq., Frantz Law Group and Andrew Scott, Esq., PK Law were excused from the next discussion and Mr. Ben Richardson joined the closed session for his discussion

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of persons recommended by the Superintendent for the following position: Supervisor of Title 1, Part A Grant.

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 Supervisor of Title 1, Part A Grant.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Ricciardi, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 6:15 PM.

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 Dr. Joyce Herold and Mrs. Sonja Karwacki.

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

Virtual attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Dr. Roy Phillips, Mr. Jansen Robinson, and Ms. Kanae Holcomb

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. Kelly and adopted in a voice vote 8-0.

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. President Gauthier read a statement regarding protocol for public comments which included a provision that each speaker would have three (3) minutes 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. Five (5) registered public speakers provided comment.

Item C. Consent Agenda

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

1. School/Organization Sponsored Project: Church Creek Elementary School - Stormwater Management and Stream Restoration
2. Contract Award: Transit Vans
3. Contract Award: Athletic, Physical Education Supplies and Team Uniforms
4. Contract Award: Dreambox Seat License Subscription Renewal
5. Contract Award: Copy Paper
6. Recommendation of Candidate, Dr. Dennis Golladay, for the Ethics Panel Position for the Board of Education of Harford County
7. Resolution of Pastor Robert Condict's Service on the Ethics Panel of the Board of Education of Harford County
8. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: September 27, 2021

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

Item D. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson introduced members of his leadership staff: Ms. Mary Nasuta, Supervisor of Health Services and Ms. Katie Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives who gave updates on current Covid-19 metrics and shared current vaccination community rates. Ms. Ridgway shared the new Covid resources page on the HCPS website and highlighted the updated information that can be found, including an individual, by school data dashboard. The Board members shared comments with Ms. Nasuta and Ms. Ridgway.

Item E. 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 Supervisor of the Title 1, Part A Grant.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Ms. Tammy L. Bosley to the position of Supervisor of the Title 1, Part A Grant. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 8-0.

Item F. Presentation of Shared Fleet Management Facility

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Ms. Cathy Bendis, Director of Transportation and Ms. Erin Schafer, Chief, Facilities and Operations at Harford County Government presented the Board information regarding the planned Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) and the Harford County Government, Shared Fleet Management Facility. Mr. Brown shared background history of the shared facility, site location, size, costs, and construction details. Ms. Schafer reviewed renderings, drawings, floor plan, site plan and benefits of the shared facility. Joint HCPS and Harford County Government occupancy is anticipated to occur January 2022 to March 2022.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Presentation Regarding Revision of Section V.C.1. of Board Policy 12-0001-000 Ethics

Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., presented the Board information to review for decision at a future Board meeting the following proposed revisions of Section V.C.1. of Board Policy 12-0001-000 Ethics:

1. Add the following positions to Section V.C.1. of the Ethics policy to complete a Financial Disclosure Statement, generally referred to as the "long form":
 - a. School Principals
 - b. Chief Internal Auditor
 - c. Internal Auditor
 - d. Staff Attorney
 - e. Supervisor of Purchasing

2. Require school-based administrators other than principals to complete the “short form.”
3. Remove from Section V. C. 1. the following positions listed therein.
 - a. Associate Superintendent
 - b. Facilitator of Government Relations
 - c. Director of Purchasing
 - d. Facilities Planner – Planning and Construction

Questions from the Board members were discussed and answered by Mr. Spicer.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

- Dr. Bulson shared his gratitude for Harford County Public Schools’ food service workers, nurses and anyone and everyone who has contributed to the contract tracing efforts. Dr. Bulson highlighted the workload of nurses and food service employees.
- Dr. Bulson reminded the community to visit the HCPS.org website for Magnet Program offerings that includes information for applications, deadlines and upcoming open house dates for the programs being offered.
- Dr. Bulson shared the Harford County Education Foundation is hosting its annual “Tools for Schools” event on Friday, October 22, 2021. More information is found on their website.
- Dr. Bulson thanked the community for providing feedback on the proposed calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. He encouraged the community to continue to utilize the survey available on the Board of Education’s webpage at HCPS.org.
- Dr. Bulson shared he has released his draft recommendations for Balancing Enrollment. Dr. Bulson held virtual public input forums, on September 22nd, September 23rd, and September 30th to engage the public for feedback. His presentation and a follow up survey have been posted on the HCPS.org website. Using this feedback, he will finalize and forward his final recommendation to the Board of Education at the Board’s business meeting on October 25, 2021.
- Dr. Bulson shared that this week HCPS will share Budget Public Input session October dates and he encouraged the community to participate.
- Dr. Bulson reminded the community that Thursday, October 14, 2021, is an early dismissal day and Friday, October 15, 2021, schools are closed to students as school staff have a professional development day.
- Dr. Bulson shared that the first Family Friendly School Award was announced on September 28, 2021, and the winner was William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary. Dr. Bulson shared that voting is open now for October’s award.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

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

Rachel Gauthier, Board President
Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021

OPEN SESSION: 5:30 PM - 5:35 PM

This meeting will be conducted virtually with no public attendance due to the brief nature of this meeting and the logistical issues regarding allowing public attendance in advance of the 6:30 PM meeting.
**The only item the Board will consider during this open meeting is consideration of meeting in a closed session.*

CLOSED SESSION: 5:35 PM - 6:30 PM

BUSINESS MEETING: 6:30 PM – ADJOURNMENT

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid fashion and public attendance will be permitted as explained below:

DOORS WILL OPEN AT 6:20 PM AND THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 PM

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a hybrid Business Meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021, at 6:30 PM in the Board Room of the A.A. Roberty Building with Board Members, staff, and presenters in attendance both virtually and in-person. A 60-seat capacity will be available to the public. Seats will be available on a first come-first served basis. 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, October 11, 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, October 11, 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.

Public Comment Participation In-Person Process

Persons who are attending the meeting in person, as provided above, may make in-person public comment. Board Comment cards will be available for Board meeting attendees prior to the Board Meeting for sign-up. Board Comment Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person.

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 will receive in-person public comment first and virtual public comment second. 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.