

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 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 in hybrid format in person and via video teleconference on Monday, November 8, 2021. President Rachel Gauthier called the meeting to order at 5:54 PM.

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Kanae Holcomb, and Dr. Carol Mueller, who were absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

Virtual attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Dr. Joyce Herold, 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 Mrs. Karwacki and approved in a voice vote 8-0.

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. Phillips, 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, and Dr. Carol Mueller, who were absent.

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: Elementary School Principal pool assignments

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the nominees. Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources led a discussion and presentation regarding the proposed candidates for the Elementary School Principal pool assignments.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Phillips, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Dr. Carol Mueller, who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Dr. Roy Phillips, Mrs. Patrice Ricciardi, Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

Virtual attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Dr. Joyce Herold, 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 Ms. Patrice Ricciardi and adopted in a voice vote 9-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Ricciardi 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. The following six (6) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Benjamin Heiser, Tina Graf, Melissa Hahn, Kayla Mariskanish, John Fry, and Jeannine Cannito. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following six (6) people registered and provided virtual public comment: Jennifer Kordonski, Katie York, Heather Cantos, Vicki Jones, Kimberly DeCoste, and Jared DeCoste

Item C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Affirmation of Monthly Contracts: October 2021
2. Contract Award: High School TV Studios
3. Contract Award: Print Shop Copiers
4. Contract Award: Fleet Vehicles
5. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: October 25, 2021

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

Item D. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent Bulson introduced members of his leadership staff: Ms. Mary Nasuta, Supervisor of Health Services and Ms. Katie Ridway, Director of Strategic Initiatives. Ms. Nasuta reported out on current Harford County Covid-19 transmission rates and encouraged the community to continue to follow the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) mitigation strategies. Ms. Nasuta shared news that the Harford County Health Department has arranged for two clinics this week for the Covid -19 vaccine that has been approved for children ages five (5) to

eleven (11). Many of the clinic appointments are already filled, however as more vaccines become available so will more appointments. Ms. Ridgway shared that the Covid-19 testing program for after school athletics and drama productions will begin on Monday, November 15, 2021. Answers to questions regarding this new testing program can be found on the HCPS.org website under frequently asked questions.

Item E. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources sought Board approval of the proposed candidates.

Elementary School Principal Pool: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the following two (2) candidates to be added to the Elementary Principal Pool: Ms. Mary Ann C. Clinton and Ms. Jessica N. Hichkad. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 9/0. Dr. Mueller was absent.

Note: Dr. Joyce Herold emailed her vote to the Board secretary due to being unable to unmute during the roll-call vote and provide her decision.

Item F. Presentation on North Star Studies

Superintendent Bulson introduced the discussion on North Star Studies then turned the presentation to Mr. Yakoubou Ousmanou, Manager of Research and Program Evaluation and Dr. Memo Diriker, BEACON Director Emeritus at Salisbury University. The presentation included analysis of the North Star Graduate Outcomes in Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) and the potential outcomes of Harford County Schools North Star initiative. Comments were made by the Board at the end of the presentation and questions from the Board were answered by Dr. Diriker.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Presentation of Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2021

The Board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending September 30, 2021, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. Ms. Judd gave a narrative analysis of the presented financial reports that included charts and tables for Board review. She provided detail on the object level for each budgeted funds category, unrestricted funds as a whole, and the allocated account balances for each office and school. Ms. Judd also provided detail for the food service fund and capital projects fund. Ms. Judd reported that all budget accounts are within reasonable parameters at this time and do not require any actions. Questions from the Board were answered by Ms. Judd and Superintendent Bulson.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Presentation on Potential Agreement to Join Opioid Litigation Action

Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., General Counsel, led a discussion to propose Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) join a Mass Litigation action against the manufacturers, distributors, and marketers of opioids. Mr. Spicer stated that the reason to join this litigation would be to potentially recover damages caused by opioid use. Increased use of opioids has directly impacted public schools by causing increased costs to provide education services and benefits or services related to personnel as a result of opioid use. Mr. Spicer was joined by William Shinoff, Esq., of Frantz Law Group in California and Andrew Scott, Esq., of PK Law of Towson Maryland to discuss their potential representation of HCPS. A retainer agreement for the Frantz Law group was presented for Board review and approval for HCPS to be represented in opioid litigation action. The retainer states there is no fee to HCPS if there is no recovery. Questions from the Board were answered by Mr. Spicer, Mr. Shinoff and Mr. Scott.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to proceed to join the Opioid Litigation Action as discussed, including execution of the retainer agreement with the Frantz Law Group. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi and approved in a roll call vote of 9/0. Dr. Mueller was absent.

Item I. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

- Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) will have early dismissal on November 11, 2021 for Veteran's Day and then schools will be closed on November 12, 2021 for HCPS staff professional learning. This communication will also be shared with families via Connect5 community portal this week.
- Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that the Harford County Public Schools proposed calendar for the 2022-2023 school year survey is available for public input until Friday, November 26, 2021 on the Board of Education's webpage at HCPS.org.
- Superintendent Bulson reminded the community to nominate and vote for schools for the next Family Friendly School Award. Our most recent winner was Bel Air Middle School.
- Superintendent Bulson shared that HCPS was recently awarded a three-hundred thirty-thousand-dollar (\$330,000.00) Judith P. Hoyer Early Care and Education Center Grant to serve the Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School community. Dr. Bulson shared that Judy Centers provide comprehensive early care and education services for young children and their families.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:25 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, NOVEMBER 8, 2021

OPEN SESSION: 5:45 PM - 5:50 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: 5:50 PM - 6:15 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, November 8, 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, November 8, 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, November 8, 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.