

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022

*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 6:31 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Dr. Joyce Herold and Mrs. Ariane Kelly, who were absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Dr. Carol Mueller, and Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

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

Adoption of Agenda

President Gauthier called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and adopted in a voice vote 8-0. Dr. Herold and Mrs. Kelly were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President 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. The following twelve (12) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Nina Grafton, Cindy Poper, Michelle Willoughby, Nick Maivelett, Melissa Hahn, Tanya Tyo, Stella Peters, William Martino, Josh Koziol, Tina Graf, Lori Sappington, and Diane Alvarez. There were no virtual public speakers at this meeting.

Item C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Affirmation of Monthly Contracts: March 2022
2. Non-Renewal Recommendations
3. Contract Award: Processing and Delivery of Potato Products
4. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: February 28, 2022, March 14, 2022, March 28, 2022

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 8-0. Dr. Herold and Mrs. Kelly were absent.

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 Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives. Ms. Nasuta, reported on current Harford County Covid-19 transmission rates and shared highlights of the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) dashboard including

numbers for students and staff currently in isolation and quarantine. Ms. Nasuta ended her comments by encouraging the community to get vaccinated against Covid. Ms. Nasuta then turned the discussion over to Ms. Ridgway. Ms. Ridgway shared that HCPS has updated the operational status as of April 1, 2022, to remove capacity restriction for events. Ms. Ridgway shared that all schools have received a supply of COVID-19 at home test kits for students which were sent by the Harford County Health Department and the Maryland Department of Health. Ms. Ridgway shared that the HCPS COVID teams continue to meet in order to stay up to date on any potential changes, but the action items have significantly slowed.

Item E. Recommendation on Proposed New Board Policy 02-0054-000, Pregnant and Parenting Students

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., presented information regarding proposed new Board Policy 02-0054-000, Pregnant and Parenting Students. Ms. Neal shared that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), by notice dated January 14, 2022, requires local school systems to establish and adopt a policy which implements the provisions of each regulation and the MSDE model policy as presented to the Board. The proposed new policy addresses all required elements set forth in the regulation issued by the MSDE. Board approval of the recommended proposed new policy will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson congratulated Kimberly Neal, General Counsel for HCPS, for being recognized by her peers as the 2022 Top Winner of the Annual Leaders in Law awards by The Daily Record and the Maryland State Bar Association.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated Noa Blanken, student at North Harford High School, on being named the 2022-2023 Student Member of the Board of Education.

Superintendent Bulson shared with the community that the 2022 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Teacher of the Year will be announced tomorrow, Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held on Teams Live, and the link will be shared so that the entire community can tune in and watch. Dr. Bulson will name the next "Teacher of the Year" winner at the conclusion of the event.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that the prekindergarten and kindergarten Harford County Public Schools registration opens the first weekend in May.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that the March 2022 Family Friendly School Award winner is Church Creek Elementary School.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that this Wednesday, April 13, 2022 will be a half day to begin the Harford County Public Schools spring break. Students will return back to school on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 and teachers will be back on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 for a professional development day.

Superintendent Bulson shared with the community that the Harford County Education Foundation's major fundraiser of the year will be their annual golf outing and will take place on May 2, 2022 at the Maryland Golf and Country Club.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:23 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