

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, APRIL 25, 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 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Kanae Holcomb, who was absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Dr. Joyce Herold, Mr. Jansen Robinson

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. Ms. Holcomb was 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 fifteen (15) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Diane Alvarez, Tina Lanocha, Joshua Barry, Cassandra Beverley, Jim Thornton, Suzie Scott, Michelle Willoughby, Ada Lewis, Tina Graf, Brenda Pedrick, Lori Sappington, Kayla Marikanish, Michelle Christman, Josh Koziol, and Emma Peller. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following one (1) registered person provided virtual public comment: Jill Ferrara.

Item C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - March 2022
2. Contract Award: Furniture and Equipment for Joppatowne High School
3. Contract Award: Life Insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance
4. Contract Award: Research Services

5. Contract Award: Purchase of a Portable Chiller
6. Contract Award: Playground Maintenance Supplies
7. Contract Award: Architectural/Engineering Services New Combination John Archer and Elementary School Feasibility Study
8. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: April 11, 2022

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 9-0. Ms. Holcomb was absent.

Item D. Update on Continuity of Learning

Dr. Bulson introduced the following member of his leadership staff: Ms. Katie Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives. Ms. Ridgway reported on current Harford County Covid-19 transmission rates and shared highlights of the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) dashboard. Ms. Ridgway stated that on April 1, 2022 the operational status related to Covid-19 was updated and can be viewed on the HCPS.org website.

Item E. Decision on Proposed Updated 2022-2023 HCPS School Calendar

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications on the proposed adjusted 2022-2023 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) calendar. Ms. Lader stated that each year in October, the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) hosts its annual convention. HCPS schedules a professional development day to allow teachers the opportunity to attend the convention. For the currently approved 2022-2023 school calendar, the calendar committee anticipated the convention date would be scheduled for Friday, October 14, 2022. MSEA has since scheduled the convention for Friday, October 21, 2022. To accommodate this date, an updated calendar was presented for Board consideration Ms. Lader sought the Board's approval to reschedule the October early dismissal from Thursday, October 13, 2022 to Thursday, October 20, 2022 and the professional development date from Friday, October 14, 2022 to Friday, October 21, 2022.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to approve the adjusted 2022-2023 Harford County Public Schools calendar as presented. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 9/0. Ms. Holcomb was absent.

Item F. Update on Family Engagement Initiatives

Ms. Mary Beth Stapleton, Manager of Family and Community Partnerships, Ms. Renee DeBiase, President, Harford County Council PTA, Ms. Heather Sewell, Co-Chair, Parent Advisory Council, Mr. Andrew Kassouf, Bel Air High School Mathematics Teacher and PACE Liaison, and Ms. Mijiza Green, Magnolia Middle School In-School Suspension Technician and PACE Liaison, reported efforts of the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Office of Family and Community Partnerships to support engagement among parents, caregivers, and community members.

The following outreach efforts were highlighted:

- PTA for Family School Partnerships. Information on how you can join can be found on the Harford County Council PTA website at: www.hcc-pta.org
- The Parent Academy collaborates with community partners and parenting experts to provide a series of workshops designed to engage HCPS parents/guardians as partners in their children's education, providing useful information and resources needed to help their children succeed in school, and in the community.

- The Parent Academy Real Talk video series, provides an opportunity for parents to hear about “hot topics” and learn how to support their children focusing on issues of concern for parents such as safety and security, cell phone use, stress management, and mental health.
- Family Friendly School Awards
- Parent and Community Engagement (PACE) liaisons have been established at each school to support parent/caregiver, family, and community engagement, a priority of school performance and progress. PACE staff work with PTAs to assess parents’ needs, building two-way relationships and enhanced communication, including schools’ websites and social media platforms, develop partnerships with area businesses and community organizations, and hold multiple events and workshops both in-person and virtually.
- The HCPS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) provides input on procedures all schools can put into place to improve communication and parent engagement at the district and local school level and will also work to provide parent advocacy trainings to support student learning at the school-based level.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Updates to the Career, Technology, and Health Curricula for the 2022-23 School Year

Dr. Susan Brown, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment, led a discussion and presentation of the updates to the Career, Technology, and Health Curricula for the 2022-23 school year. Dr. Brown introduced the following members of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment staff: Mr. Robert Limpert, Supervisor of Magnet and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs, Ms. Brittany Pettus, Health Curriculum Specialist, Ms. Deborah Basler, Supervisor of High School Physical Education, Health and Athletics, and Mr. Joseph Harbert, Supervisor of Physical Education PK-8 and Health Education, K-8 and Adapted Physical Education PK-12. The presentation focused on two different updates regarding curricula for the upcoming school year. The first update addressed CTE new and existing programs and the second addressed Health and Technical Education curriculum. The presented updates were framed in three different components as follows:

- a. New graduation requirements from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), for Health and Technical Education that impact our current 9th grade students
 - a. 1 credit in Health (currently 0.5 credit)
 - b. 1 credit in Technical Education (to include Engineering and Computer Science)
- b. Career and Technical Education Programs
 - a. An overview of the following “new” CTE programs were presented:
 - Advance Technology Education
 - Child Development Associates/ Early Childhood Education
 - Teacher Academy of Maryland Plus (TAM+)
 - b. An overview of the following “expanded” CTE programs were presented:
 - Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM)
 - Project Lead the Way – Pre-Engineering
 - Information Technology Oracle Academy (ITOA)
 - Pathways in Early College High School (PTECH)
 - Interactive Media Productions
 - Apprenticeship Maryland

- c. 2020 Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Comprehensive Health Education Framework. In 2020, the Maryland Board of Education approved the new Comprehensive Health Education Framework. This framework was created in alignment with the National Health Education Standards, which were developed to establish, promote, and support health enhancing behaviors for students in all grade levels, with age-appropriate content outlined in all grades pre-k through 12th grade.
- a. An overview of the following Health Program updates by school grade were presented:
 - Grades PreK-4: Under review to align as age appropriate to the 2020 MSDE Comprehensive Health Education Framework. Family Life and Human Sexuality is not currently taught.
 - Grades 5-9: Realigned to the 2020 MSDE Comprehensive Health Education Framework.
 - Grade 10-12: Health II, new course for graduation
 - b. The discussion addressed HCPS' Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum material process
 - Curriculum approval process: Approved through Family Life Citizens Advisory Committee and the General Curriculum Committee (GCC). Members of these committees include Board Members, parents, teachers, healthcare providers, school staff and members of the community; a lot of different people are looking at the material being taught. Interested parents, grandparents, members of the community can apply to join the Family Life Advisory Counsel and be a part of this process. Openings on this committee are advertised with instructions on how to apply or interested people can call the Curriculum Office for assistance on how to get involved and apply.
 - Curriculum writing process: Health curriculum writing teams of expert Health teachers across the school system. HCPS aligns all curriculum to national, state, and local standards.
 - Parent/guardian curriculum materials review and opt-out process: parent/guardian may request to review curriculum materials and parent/guardian may decide to opt their child out of the Family Life and Human Sexuality lessons or the entire unit.

Questions from the Board were addressed, and further dialogue was provided by the leadership who presented. Superintendent Bulson addressed, received public concerns about students being asked about gender identity. Superintendent Bulson stated that HCPS is not in the practice of asking students for their preferred pronouns and does not have an interested in seeking information about student sexual orientation. There are times where a student chooses to share this private information with a teacher they trust. HCPS teachers are guided not to share this information with others as it is the student's choice who they share this information with. A clear exception to this guidance, is if HCPS feels there is potential for harm or danger to the student because of things they have expressed; then safety becomes first priority and will surpass privacy. HCPS is aware that mental health, bullying, suicidal ideations are at greater rate risks for students who are going through nontraditional binary identity. Superintendent Bulson emphasized HCPS takes this topic very seriously and it will continue to be addressed.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Decision on the Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School Replacement Project Updates

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction presented updates on the Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School (HWES) replacement project. Mr. Brown and Mr. Morton reported that during the planning and design phases of the project, the project team engaged the Town of Bel Air's Department of Planning & Zoning to complete the plan review process, as a prerequisite to obtaining site plan approval and the permits to build the replacement HWES facility. In doing so, the project team was made aware of the town's desire to connect East MacPhail Road and West MacPhail Road, thus creating a connecting road across the Bel Air Campus. On April 8, 2022, the Town Planning Commission sent a letter to Superintendent Bulson, which attached conditions to the approval of the HWES site plan and issuance of

permits for demolition, grading, the construction of utilities, and final use and occupancy. The conditional approval requires HCPS to design the proposed road extension, and associated stormwater management facilities and reforestation to accommodate the road, and to transfer that property for the road and associated storm water management to the town for the purpose of connecting East and West MacPhail Road. This conditional approval will prevent the planned occupancy of the HWES facility for September of 2024, and the delay will also increase the project budget. The proposed road will also serve no educational purpose. The property is currently being used for educational programs at HWES and will be needed for the future Bel Air Middle School project. Mr. Brown sought the Board's approval to not accept the Town of Bel Air's April 8, 2022, decision requiring a public road right-of-way across the school site connecting East MacPhail Road to West MacPhail Road as a condition for issuance of a building permit.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to overrule the Town of Bel Air's Planning Commission's April 8, 2022 conditional approval decision letter of the Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School replacement project as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 9-0. Ms. Holcomb was absent.

Item I. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson addressed data that was shared earlier in the meeting during public comment by an in-person speaker. The data with regard to the 52% reading proficiency pertains to when Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) assess students at the beginning of the year to know where students stand compared to the end of year measure. The 52% who show as proficient, met the end-of-year status at the beginning of the year. That number will be much higher by the end. HCPS is aware that students are behind in the county and all over the country. HCPS has experienced amazing growth for some students despite the gaps they brought following the disruptions of the pandemic.

Dr. Bulson congratulated Ashley Gereli, Special Educator at Churchville Elementary School, who was named Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) 2022 "Teacher of the Year".

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that later this week, the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Transportation Department will host the first HCPS School Bus Driver & Attendant of the Year Awards. The community can follow the nominee and sponsor highlights on the HCPS social media pages.

Superintendent Bulson acknowledged Ms. Rachel Trovato, Partners for Success Liaison for Harford County Public Schools, as she was recently recognized by the Office of Special Education for her dedication to the students and families of Harford County. Families seeking information are reminded they can contact Rachel at 410-273-5579 or by email at partners.success@hcps.org

Superintendent Bulson thanked Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) partners at the Harford County Education Foundation, for providing copies of the book they provided for the month of May to the HCPS Littles University Scholars which were claimed in just one day.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that The Parent Academy in partnership with the Harford County Department of Community Services recently hosted national speaker and best-selling author, Ms. Jessica Lahey. Over one hundred parents learned parenting tips from Mrs. Lahey's book, "The Gift of Failure – How the

best parents learn to let go so their children can succeed.” Superintendent Bulson thanked Patterson Mill Middle and High School administrators and Parent and Community Engagement (PACE) staff who sponsored the book study for parents and hosted the event.

*Additional Closing Comments from Board President Rachel Gauthier

President Gauthier’s comments were provided as follows:

President Gauthier encouraged the community that would like to get involved to please join your local PTA. Information on how you can join can be found on the Harford County Council PTA website at: www.hcc-pta.org

President Gauthier encouraged the community to join Principal Cook of Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School and Harford County Public Schools personnel for a Community Rebuild Meeting this Thursday, April 27, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wakefield gymnasium where staff will share the current plans for the new building, the timeline, and answer questions from attendees.

President Gauthier reminded the community that prom season is upon us and asked that we remind students to make good decision and stay safe.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 10:16 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, APRIL 25, 2022

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, April 25, 2022, 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. 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, April 25, 2022. 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, April 25, 2022.
- **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.**
- 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.