

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, May 9, 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>

Open Session

The Board of Education of Harford County met in open session in hybrid format in person and via video teleconference on Monday, May 9, 2022. President Rachel Gauthier called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Sonja Karwacki and Ms. Kanae Holcomb, who were absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Dr. Carol Mueller, and 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 Dr. Mueller and approved in a voice vote 8-0.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) 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 Mrs. Sonja Karwacki and Ms. Kanae Holcomb, who were absent.

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

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

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel

Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Sean Bulson, Dr. Eric Davis, Kimberly Neal, Esq., Mr. Ben Richardson, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of candidate nominated by the Superintendent of the following position: Director of Health and Wellness.

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 Director of Health and Wellness
No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Ms. Ricciardi motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Kelly, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:43 PM.

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 Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, who was absent.

In-person attendance: 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, and Ms. Kanae Holcomb

Note: Ms. Kanae Holcomb joined the meeting virtually after the roll call was taken

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 Dr. Mueller and adopted in a voice vote 9-0. Mrs. Karwacki 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 seven (7) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Pam Dehmer, Jim Thornton, Henry Gibbons, Cassandra Beverley, Vicki Jones, Tina Graff, and William Martino. 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. Contract Award: Alternative Student Transportation
2. Contract Award: ADA Improvements and Underground Fuel Storage Tank Removal at Churchville Elementary School
3. Contract Award: Digital Literacy Program
4. Contract Award: Abingdon Elementary School Central Plant Replacement
5. Contract Award: Removal and Replacement of Flooring at Fallston Middle School
6. Contract Award: Conversion of Existing Spaces for Various HCPS Locations
7. Contract Award: Bakerfield Elementary School Comprehensive Roof Replacement Project
8. Contract Award: Swan Creek School Comprehensive Roof Replacement Project

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

Item D. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent 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. As of May 9, 2022, the Maryland Department of Health school outbreak website lists one classroom outbreak for Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) at Patterson Mill High School. The HCPS operational status is available on the HCPS.org website. Ms. Ridgway reminded the community the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) community levels tool still has Harford County at low risk. During low transmission, the CDC encourages all to make mitigation decisions based on their unique health needs.

Item E. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, sought Board approval of the Superintendent's nominee, Mr. Joseph P. Harbert, for the position of Director of Health and Wellness. This position is a grant funded assignment that will be in effect through June 30, 2023. Assignment continuation is contingent upon available grant funding. This position is under the direction of the Executive Director of Student Support Services and will work closely with the Harford County Health Department and other county agencies on mental and physical wellness programs for students and will be the lead coordinator of the North Star Healthy initiative and Blueprint related programs related to mental and physical health.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Mr. Joseph P. Harbert to the position of Director of Health and Wellness. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 9-0. Mrs. Karwacki was absent.

Item F. Decision on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 24-0006-000, Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation of Students

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., presented background information regarding proposed revisions to the Board's Policy 24-0006-000, Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation of Students. The proposed revisions that include required updates from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) were first proposed to the Board by Mr. Patrick Spicer at the March 28, 2022, Board Meeting. Since that meeting, no public comments were received. Ms. Neal shared that at the March 28, 2022 Board presentation, it was suggested that the definition of "cyberbullying" be amended to include a specific reference to the recording of incidents and the sharing of those recorded incidents as a form of cyberbullying. This revision has been added to the proposed, revised policy. Ms.

Neal sought Board approval of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 24-0006-000, Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation of Students.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to approve the proposed revisions to Board policy 24-0006-000 entitled Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation of Students, as presented. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9/0. Mrs. Karwacki was absent.

Item G. Presentation of FY23 Budget Update on Harford County Funding

Superintendent Bulson and Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services updated the Board on the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget related to the local county funding request of \$30.4 million. This amount represented the wage package approved by the Board of Education for negotiation with the bargaining units. The County Executive, Barry Glassman is proposing full funding for the proposed Board of Education budget. Highlights of the wage package were presented as follows:

- STEP increase for all eligible staff, based on each unit’s salary scale, ranging from 1% to 3%
- COLA increase for all staff of 7%
- Market adjustment of 6% implemented in July 2022. This was the remainder of a total 21% adjustment of which 7% was implemented in July 2021 and 8% was implemented in January 2022:
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Inclusion Helpers
 - School-based Technicians
 - Drivers and Attendants
- Implementation of AFSCME 15 STEP scale
- Local portion of National Board Certification Stipend

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Presentation on the Blueprint for our Students’ Future

Ms. Katie Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives presented background information regarding the “Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Act” (Blueprint). Ms. Ridgway shared a timeline of the origins of Blueprint from commission in 2016 until it became law in February 2021. Blueprint is a multi-year pathway of educational reform mandates impacting local education agencies, county governments, the Maryland State Board of Education, community preschools, and more. The Office of Strategic Initiatives will coordinate the initiatives, committees, and planning to implement the Blueprint legislation and align all efforts with the Board of Education of Harford County’s Strategic Plan. Highlights presented included the following:

- Blueprint Focus Areas & Alignment with Board Goals
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Career Ladder
 - North Star – College & Career Readiness
 - Student Supports
- Blueprint Committee Structure

- Stakeholder Commitment
- Community Partners
 - University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health
 - Healthy Harford
 - Harford County Education Foundation
 - Harford Business Roundtable for Education
- Accountability
- Navigating Statutes and Timelines
- Goals for Implementation
 - Strategic Planning
 - Alignment
 - Advocacy with Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and Accountability & Implementation Board (AIB)
 - Priority Setting
 - Problem Solving and Engagement

Ms. Ridgeway reported that as a district, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is required to have an implementation plan in place by March 2023 to the Accountability & Implementation Board (AIB). Ms. Ridgeway shared that further information can be found on the HCPS.org website under the “Superintendent” menu tab and then selecting the “HCPS Blueprint” option.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item I. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson reported that last week was National Teacher Appreciation Week and acknowledged all Harford County Public School teachers for everything they do.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that May 6, 2022 started National Nurses Week with May 11, 2022 designated as National School Nurses Day. Superintendent Bulson thanked school nurses for their hard work and dedication to all Harford County Public School students.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that May 1 –7, 2022 was Mental Health Awareness Week. Several activities were hosted in schools and a mental health presentation was shared at Harford County Council highlighting the importance of mental wellness.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that last week was National Principals Day and thanked those that joined in celebrating and thanking Harford County Public School principals.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that midnight on May 9, 2022 nominations for Harford County Public Schools will close for the Family Friendly School Award for the month of May, which is also the last month for this school year that a school will receive the honor.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated North Harford High School's Envirothon team. The team placed first in this year's county competition on April 29, 2022, held at Eden Mill Nature Center. The team will represent Harford County in the Maryland State competition on June 23, 2022.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated Kimberly Pierpont, Sharon Clements, and Sheri Whitley who won top honors at this year's first annual banquet for Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) bus driver and attendant of the year awards. Superintendent Bulson thanked all HCPS drivers and attendants who serve our education population.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated Alisa Janiski, gifted and talented teacher at Church Creek and Roye-Williams Elementary schools. Ms. Janiski was named one of fifty teachers nationwide chosen for the Disney Imagination Campus Celebration at Walt Disney World. Disney recognizes these education heroes as guests of honor and will celebrate them later this month.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated the six new and recertifying Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) as Maryland Green Schools. The staff and students were recognized for promoting environmental stewardship and literacy across Harford County. The green certified schools are as follows: Bel Air Middle School, Edgewood High School, Edgewood Middle School, North Harford Elementary School, Aberdeen High School, and Norrisville Elementary School.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware Harford County Public Schools registration for pre-k, kindergarten, early entrance, and advance placement are officially open. Details and more information are available on the registration page under "parents" on the hcps.org website.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that on April 27, 2022, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) conducted the Peach Bottom safety exercise. Following the exercise, HCPS school nurses at the impacted schools were praised for their organization and their strict following of the process, by the surveyors. Superintendent Bulson thanked the following nurses who were involved: Joanne Dorsey and Charmaine Bishop from North Harford High School, Melissa Wilson from North Harford Middle School, and Debra Sellers from North Harford Elementary School.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that on Friday, May 13, 2022, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Parent Academy and Student Services staff will join the Office on Mental Health and community partners at the Your Mind Matters: A Family Wellness night event at Ripken Stadium. The event begins at 6:00 pm, and families are encouraged to join. Activities will include a screening of the Disney/Pixar movie "Soul."

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:54 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, MAY 9, 2022

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 – 6:00 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, May 9, 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, May 9, 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, May 9, 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.