

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, JUNE 20, 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, June 20, 2022. Vice-President Carol Mueller called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Rachel Gauthier, who was absent and Ms. Kanae Holcomb who attended her last meeting as Student Member to the Board of Education of Harford County on June 13, 2022.

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

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, 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 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 Mrs. Karwacki 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. Rachel Gauthier, who was absent and Ms. Kanae Holcomb who attended her last meeting as Student Member to the Board of Education of Harford County on June 13, 2022.

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

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, 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, Mr. Ben Richardson, Kimberly Neal, Esq, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

Virtual attendance: Dr. Eric Davis

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 positions: Director of Middle School Innovation, Director of Special Education, and Elementary Principal Pool Assignment.

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 candidates  
No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Karwacki, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:47 PM.

#### Business Meeting

##### Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice-President Carol Mueller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Rachel Gauthier, who was absent and Ms. Kanae Holcomb who attended her last meeting as Student Member to the Board of Education of Harford County on June 13, 2022.

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

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, and Mr. Jansen Robinson

##### Adoption of Agenda

Vice-President Mueller 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 8-0. Mrs. Gauthier and Ms. Holcomb were absent.

##### Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Patrice 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. Vice-President Mueller 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: Najia Stallworth, Suzie Scott, Charles Hicks, Brenda Pedrick, Ada Lewis, Paul Scott, and William Martino. 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

Vice-President Mueller called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Contract Award: First in Math Student Subscriptions

2. Contract Award: Math Textbooks
3. Contract Award: Elementary Reading Program
4. Contract Award: Student Reading Program Renewal
5. Contract Award: Computer Equipment Refresh
6. Contract Award: ClassKick Software Subscription
7. Contract Award: Classroom General Lab Supplies
8. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: June 13, 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. Mrs. Gauthier and Ms. Holcomb were 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 that Harford County is now categorized as low for COVID-19 risk through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Community Tool. Ms. Ridgway shared that with the 2021-2022 school year completed, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) has updated the COVID resources website to ensure that it is up to date. The COVID dashboard has been suspended now that school year is complete, and HCPS will include this dashboard in decision-making process for the next school year. HCPS is currently working on the Continuity of Learning Plan for the 2022-2023 school year. The Continuity of Learning plan is required by the Maryland State Department of Education as part of COVID recovery and must be posted on our website by August 1, 2022.

#### Item E. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

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

Director of Middle School Innovation: Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint, Ms. Natalie N. Holloway to the position of Director of Middle School Innovation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bauer. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 8/0. Mrs. Gauthier and Ms. Holcomb were absent.

Director of Special Education: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint, Ms. Colleen W. Sasdelli to the position of Director of Special Education. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karwacki. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 8/0. Mrs. Gauthier and Ms. Holcomb were absent.

Elementary School Principal Pool: Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint, Ms. Bethany A. Farver to the Elementary School Principal Pool. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bauer. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 8/0. Mrs. Gauthier and Ms. Holcomb were absent.

#### Item F. Decision on Proposed New Board Policy 02-0055-000, Student Registered Sex Offenders-Entry on School Property

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel presented information regarding proposed new Board Policy 02-0055-000, Student Registered Sex Offenders-Entry on School Property. Ms. Neal shared that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), requires local school systems to establish and adopt a policy which implements the provisions of criminal procedure that limits the authorization of a student who is a registered sex offender from entry onto real property used for public or nonpublic elementary or secondary education. The proposed new policy was first recommended to the Board at the May 16, 2022 Board meeting. The proposed policy was then posted for public comment and only one comment was received and reviewed by the Board. Ms. Neal sought

Board approval of the proposed new Board Policy 02-0055-000, Student Registered Sex Offenders-Entry on School Property

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Karwacki to approve the proposed new Board Policy 02-0055-000, Student Registered Sex Offenders-Entry on School Property. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 8-0. Mrs. Gauthier and Ms. Holcomb were absent.

Item G. Recommendation on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 02-0056-000, Homework

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel and Dr. Peter Carpenter, Director of Organizational Development and Continuous Learning presented information regarding proposed revisions to Board Policy 02-0056-000, Homework. Ms. Neal shared that in the Fall of 2021, Dr. Susan Brown, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment, assembled a team to review the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) homework policy. On October 19, 2021, that team presented to the HCPS General Curriculum Committee (“GCC”) the need to further research and propose any revisions or the reaffirmation of the current Homework policy. The GCC approved formation of that team and the team was asked to research national best practices regarding homework; compare those practices to the current homework policy; align best practices to the current policy and, if needed, adjust the policy, and bring those recommendations to the GCC for insight and final approval. Members of the team included the Director of Organizational Development and Continuous Learning; Principals and/or Assistant Principals for elementary, middle, and high schools; Central Office Supervisors including Curriculum and the Office of Equity and Cultural Proficiency; Parent and Community stakeholders; the Board of Education; and members of the appropriate Bargaining Unit. The team met throughout the course of a year and crafted a draft policy reflective of the values, beliefs, procedures, and best practices researched. The team shared the draft policy with the GCC, and the GCC approved the proposed, revised Homework policy for the Board’s review. Board approval of the recommended proposed revisions to Board Policy 02-0056-000, Homework will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board

Item H. Recommendation on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 04-023-000, Report Cards, and Marking Systems

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel and Mr. Phil Snyder, Supervisor of Accountability presented information regarding proposed revisions to Board Policy 04-023-000, Report Cards, and Marking Systems. Ms. Neal shared that in the fall of 2021, as a result of changes in the Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”), Mr. Snyder, initiated the process of review of the current Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Board Policy entitled Report Cards and Marking Systems. Mr. Snyder reviewed this policy with school-based personnel, including Principals, Assistant Principals, Counselors, representatives of Harford County Education Association (HCEA), Executive Directors, Content Supervisors and Coordinators, as well as the Office of Information Systems and Technology. The policy was revised to comply with COMAR changes, specifically, requires that the local school system policy address how attendance impacts grading practices; how final course grades are determined at each level; and how grade changes occur, including that no grade may be changed 45 days after the end of a marking period. The current Board policy entitled 04-0023-000 Report Cards and Marking Systems and the proposed, revised, retitled policy entitled 04-0023-000 Final Examinations, Report Cards, and Calculation of Final Grades were provided for the Board’s review. Board approval of the recommended proposed revised policy will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board

Item I. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community continue to take the calls from Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, over the summer. Ms. Lader will share information about the start of the school year and send

specific communications from different departments in the system, as needed to ensure students are ready to return for the 2022-2023 school year.

Superintendent Bulson reported that the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Summer Meals Program started today, June 20, 2022; more information is on the HCPS website by clicking on the “Menus” icon. At the HCPS meal sites, this summer, food, and nutrition staff will be serving meals to any child, not just HCPS students, 18 years or younger.

Superintendent Bulson reported that Ms. Bobbie Tolston, Supervisor of Procurement, has been appointed by the National Institute of Governmental Procurement (NIGP), to the Talent Council. This is a three-year appointment where Ms. Tolston will provide support to the Council by using her public procurement knowledge to assist with continuity of leadership and succession planning while promoting the value of NIGP membership through their volunteer programs. Her term will begin on July 1, 2022.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated the 2022 elementary and secondary Green Teachers of the Year. This year’s honorees are Ms. Sue Nickerson, second grade teacher at Fountain Green Elementary School and Ms. Karen Jones, science teacher at Fallston Middle School. Superintendent Bulson thanked both Thank you to both teachers for their role in promoting environmental literacy and stewardship in Harford County Public Schools.

Superintendent Bulson thanked the Harford County Education Foundation for their support in securing an Innovation Grant that was awarded to Deerfield Elementary School for the Deerfield Guitar Club. The program provides guitar instruction and a creative outlet for thirty-nine (39) fourth and fifth grade students during a before school program.

#### Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:47 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



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION  
 MONDAY, JUNE 20, 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 – 6:20 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, June 20, 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, June 20, 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, June 20, 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.**