

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 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, August 22, 2022. President Rachel Gauthier called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM.

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Dr. Roy Phillips, who was absent.

In-person attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Dr. Carol Mueller, and Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, 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. Dr. Phillips was absent.

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 Dr. Mueller 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 Dr. Roy Phillips, who was absent.

In-person attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Dr. Carol Mueller, and Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, and Mr. Jansen Robinson

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

John E. Burke, Esq., Deputy 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, John Burke, Esq, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

Virtual attendance: Mr. Ben Richardson

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: Coordinator of Apprenticeship, Workforce Development, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs, and Coordinator of Special Education - Compliance.

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

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Mueller, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:58 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

In-person attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Ms. Noa Blanken, Dr. Carol Mueller, and Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

Virtual Attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, and 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 10-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Mueller led the Pledge of Allegiance

Swearing-In Ceremony, 2022-2023 Student Board Member, Ms. Noa S. Blanken

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson introduced Ms. Noa S. Blanken and conducted the oath to swear her in as the 2022-2023 Student Member to the Board of Education of Harford County.

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 twenty-six (26) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Josie Cosgrove, Benjamin Heiser, Deborah Brocato, Daniel Flannery, Sharon McCallum, Tina Graf, Lowell Sheets, Nonie Czajka, Suzie Scott, William Martino, Melissa Hahn, Katie York, Rick Cech, Brenda Pedrick, Wendy Lee, Samantha Bianchi, Gianna Lee, Josh Koziol, Kayla Mariskanish, Dennis Barry, Mia Robinson, Paula Hoppel, Diana Alvarez, Kelsey Taylor, Joshua Barry, and Paul Scott. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following three (3) people registered and provided virtual public comment: Crystal Parks, Jill Ferrara, and Michael Schafer.

Item C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - July 2022
2. Contract Award: Custodial Cleaning Supplies and Equipment
3. Contract Award: VxRail Servers Purchase
4. Contract Award: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Filters
5. Contract Award: Amendment for Copiers

6. Contract Award: Athletic Uniforms and Apparel
7. Contract Award: Replacement of the Fire Alarm Systems at Bel Air Middle School and Fountain Green Elementary School
8. Contract Award: Florida Virtual School Student Seat Licenses
9. Contract Award: Health and Safety, Medical, Surgical, and First Aid Related Equipment, Supplies, Accessories and Services
10. Contract Award: Nearpod Subscription
11. Contract Award: New Bus Contractor
12. Food Services: Price Changes for 2022-2023 School Year
13. Appointment of Negotiation Teams: 2022-2023 School Year
14. Appointment of 2023-2024 Calendar Committee Members
15. Appointment of Harford County Public Schools Representative to The Harford Center Board of Directors
16. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: July 18, 2022

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 10-0

Item D. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

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

Coordinator of Apprenticeship, Workforce Development, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs:

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint, Matthew J. Johnstone to the position of Coordinator of Apprenticeship, Workforce Development, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kelly. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0.

Coordinator of Special Education - Compliance: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint, Ms. Stephanie M. Schmid Swisher to the position of Coordinator of Special Education - Compliance. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kelly. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0.

Item E. Decision on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 02-0056-000, Homework

John E. Burke, Esq., Deputy General Counsel, along with Dr. Peter Carpenter, Director of Organizational Development and Continuous Learning, who joined virtually, presented information regarding the proposed, revised policy entitled 02-0056-000 Homework. The revised policy number reflects a move of the policy from the Instruction Section where it was entitled 04-0025-000 Homework of the Board's Policy Manual; to the Student Section of the Board's Policy Manual. The proposed revisions to this policy were first recommended to the Board at the June 20, 2022 Board meeting. The proposed revised policy was then posted for public comment for a thirty (30) day period, and three (3) comments were received and reviewed by the Board. Mr. Burke noted that a clerical error is found in section 3.A.2 of the proposed draft procedure entitled "Homework", the word "Procedure" is missing an "s" and should read "Procedures". Mr. Burke sought Board approval of the proposed revised Board Policy 02-0056-000 Homework.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Karwacki to accept the updated policy proposal 02-0056-000 Homework with potential amendment. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 9-0. Mr. Robinson did not provide a vote during roll call.

Amended Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Karwacki to approve the proposed revisions to Board Policy 02-0056-000 Homework, with the amendment to change the word "Procedure" found in section 3.A.2 to "Procedures". The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 9-0. Mr. Robinson did not provide a vote during roll call.

Item F. Decision on Proposed, Revised, Renaming of Board Policy 04-023-000, Report Cards, and Marking Systems

John E. Burke, Esq., Deputy General Counsel, along with Mr. Phil Snyder, Supervisor of Accountability, who joined virtually, presented information regarding proposed, revised, renaming of Board Policy 04-023-000, Report Cards, and Marking Systems to Board Policy 04-023-000 Final Examinations, Report Cards, and Calculations of Final Grades. The proposed, retitled, revised policy was first presented to the Board at the June 20, 2022 Board meeting. The proposed revised policy was then posted for public comment for a thirty (30) day period, and two (2) comments were received and reviewed by the Board. Mr. Burke sought Board approval of the proposed revised, retitled policy 04-0023-000 Final Examinations, Report Cards, and Calculation of Final Grades.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mueller to accept the updated Board Policy entitled 04-0023-000 Final Examinations, Report Cards, and Calculation of Final Grades. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 9-0. Mr. Robinson did not provide a vote during roll call.

Item G. Decision on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 22-0008-000, Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings

John E. Burke, Esq., Deputy General Counsel presented information regarding proposed revisions to Board Policy 22-0008-000, Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings. The proposed revisions to this policy were first recommended to the Board at the July 18, 2022 Board meeting. The proposed revised policy was then posted for public comment for a thirty (30) day period, and approximately seventy-one (71) comments were received and reviewed by the Board. Mr. Burke sought Board approval of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 22-0008-000, Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robinson to amend the proposed Board Policy 22-0008-000, Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings, as presented with the deletion of the following four (4) sections: 3. a) (2), 3. a) (3), 4. a) (2), and 4. a) (3). The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 10-0.

Amended Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mueller to amend the approved proposed revisions to Board Policy 22-0008-000, Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings, by adding the following sentence: “They also may do so by obtaining, from the Director of Information, and completing a “Request to Appear Before the Board” card. This must be submitted prior to the opening of the meeting.” To section 3.a)(1) and also 4.a)(1). The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 10-0.

Item H. Presentation of FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner shared the Maryland State eligible priorities for FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) including Harford Technical High School Limited Renovation, Havre de Grace Elementary School Roof Replacement, Aberdeen Middle School Systemic Renovation, and Harford Academy at Campus Hills. The presentation included an update on the Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School Project status. This was the second presentation of the FY 2024 CIP to the Board.

Item I. Presentation of Academic Summer Learning Programs 2022

Ms. Heather Kutcher, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, gave a report and presentation of the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Office’s summer programming for identified students in order to mitigate learning loss and build student readiness for the regular academic year learning. Ms. Kutcher provided an overview of the four main areas of academic summer programming that occurred during the summer of 2022: Summer Learning Program, Academic Tutoring, Stars of Summer, and English Language Learner Summer Camp. Identification and total number of student participants, the content and structure of each program, and the outcome data were discussed for all grade levels.

Item J. Presentation on Proposed Athletic Changes

The Board received an athletic proposal presentation for Winter Cheerleading and Indoor Track, from Mr. Mike O'Brien, Executive Director of Middle & High School Performance, and Ms. Deborah Basler, Supervisor of Physical Education and Health. A background of the Athletic Legislative Committee (ALC) was shared along with the procedures of adding or deleting a sport that requires the approval of the General Curriculum Committee and the Superintendent of Schools. This past spring, a proposal came before the ALC to eliminate a winter sport and add a winter sport in its place. It was proposed to remove winter cheerleading as a sports program in the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) athletic program and add indoor track. The proposals were posted for public comment for thirty days and a summary of the comments was shared during the presentation. After consideration of the proposals, and feedback received, HCPS will have Winter Cheerleading remain a varsity sport and Indoor Track will be added as a varsity sport during the winter season.

Item K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community to visit Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) website, hcps.org for the back-to-school webpage. The website contains links to required documents for the school year, as well as the HCPS handbook and calendar.

Superintendent Bulson thanked all who joined Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) in person or tuned into the live stream of the Safety and Security Town Hall event that was held on August 17, 2022. A recording was done by Harford TV, and it is available on their website.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community of the upcoming End of Summer Fest at Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium on August 25, 2022, where the first pitch will be at 7:05 p.m. and encouraged people to attend.

Superintendent Bulson thanked the New-Service Training Employment Program (NSTEP), with funding from the United Way of Central Maryland, for offering the "Little Medical School" summer program at Edgewood Elementary School this summer. The Little Medical School Program consisted of four (4) days of medical training where the students learned about the field of medicine through fun and engaging activities.

Superintendent Bulson recognized Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) employee, Mr. Mike Thatcher, Director of Special Education, on his upcoming retirement and thanked Mr. Thatcher for all his contributions as an employee for HCPS and the amazing job he has done. This was Mr. Thatcher's last Board Meeting prior to his retirement.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 11:14 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, AUGUST 22, 2022

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 – 6:00 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, August 22, 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, August 22, 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, August 22, 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. In addition, public comment is an opportunity for members of the community to address the Board of Education. Please direct your comments to the Board and not to other members of the public in the audience.
- 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.