

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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, November 7, 2022. Vice-President Carol Mueller called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Rachel Gauthier, and Ms. Noa Blanken who were absent.

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

Virtual attendance: 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. Sonja Karwacki and approved in a voice vote 7-0. Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Rachel Gauthier, and Ms. Noa Blanken were absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Mrs. Karwacki and 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. Joyce Herold and Ms. Noa Blanken who were absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Mr. Jansen Robinson

Note: Mrs. Rachel Gauthier joined the meeting in-person after roll-call was taken

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations

Mrs. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

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, Dr. Mae Alfree, Mrs. Deborah Judd, Kimberly Neal, Esq, Mr. Ben Richardson, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

Topic: Discussion and possible decision regarding parameters for negotiations with bargaining units.

Reason for Closed Session: To maintain confidentiality of potential parameters, if any, of negotiation with bargaining units and discussions related thereto.

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, introduced Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations who updated the Board on negotiations with the different bargaining units. Mr. Richardson, Ms. Alfree, and Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, were available to answer the Board questions.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of candidate recommended by the Superintendent for the following position: Supervisor of School Counseling.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the nominee.

Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations, were excused from the closed session during this discussion.

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources led a discussion and presentation regarding the proposed candidate for the position of Supervisor of School Counseling.

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 6:02 PM.

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 Ms. Noa Blanken who was absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold 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 9-0. Ms. Noa Blanken who 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. Presentation of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Jay Staab, Director of Finance, and Mr. William Early Jr., CPA, Principal at Clifton Larson Allen (CLA), presented the annual comprehensive financial statement audit for the year ended June 30, 2022. The presented report contained audited financial statements, schedules, exhibits, and footnotes, as well as opinions of the Independent Public Accountants of CLA.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item C. 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 eight (8) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Christopher Providence, Laura Wade, Vicki Jones, William Martino, Suzie Scott, Nonie Czajka, Tina Lanocha, and Thomas Piddington. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following three (3) registered people provided virtual public comment: Crystal Parks, Jill Ferrara, and Katie York.

Item D. Consent Agenda

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

1. Contract Award: Phone System Hardware
2. Contract Award: Alarm Monitoring and On-Call Services
3. Contract Award: Consumptive Fixture Replacements
4. Contract Award: Contractual Paraprofessionals
5. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: October 10, 2022 and October 24, 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 9-0. Ms. Noa Blanken who was absent.

Item E. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, sought Board approval of the Superintendent's nominee for the position of Supervisor of School Counseling.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Ms. LaWanda F. Brown to the position of Supervisor of School Counseling. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karwacki. The motion was approved in roll call vote of 9-0. Ms. Noa Blanken who was absent.

Item F. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) and offices are closed Tuesday, November 8, 2022 for elections. HCPS schools and offices will close three (3) hours early Friday, November 11, 2022 to recognize Veteran's Day in school and give staff and students the chance to celebrate with one another and to honor veterans with their community.

Superintendent Bulson shared that Magnolia Elementary School second grade teachers, Principal Rebecca Reese, and the Title I Office, held a Family Engagement pizza party at Windsor Valley Community Center on Thursday, November 3, 2022. Teachers focused on building relationships with their students' parents, and they will continue to meet with parents throughout the school year.

Superintendent Bulson shared that the Harford County Education Foundation held an “Everyday Heroes” event on November 3, 2022. At this event, the Foundation recognized teachers from all over Harford County for their commitment to Harford County Public School students.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community to join Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) social media channels to celebrate November as HCPS Safety Month. HCPS School Safety Staff was introduced last week, and this week HCPS is highlighting School Safety patrols, School Safety liaisons, and partnerships with local law enforcement agencies.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:26 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, NOVEMBER 7, 2022

OPEN SESSION: 5:00 PM – 5:05 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: 5:05 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, November 7, 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 and In-Person Process

Individuals or recognized groups wishing to speak on an agenda item or to comment on an education-related matter not on the agenda may request to do so by sending an email to publiccomment@hcps.org or calling 410-588-5347.

Call-In Registrations must be received by 12:00 PM on Monday, November 7, 2022. All fields on the registration form must be completed.

1. First and Last name / if speaker is a Group Representative, then please state the name of the Group
2. Local Address
3. Email Address
4. Phone Number
5. Agenda item or subject your Public Comment pertains to
6. Will you provide in-person *or* virtual Public Comment
7. Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person

****Failure to provide complete information as required above will void the request to provide Public Comment.***

- Registered virtual 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, November 7, 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.
- "Request to Appear Before the Board" cards will be available for in-person attendees prior to the Board Meeting for sign-up and must be submitted prior to the opening of the meeting.
- Board Comment Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person.

The Board has authorized public comment as follows:

- Each speaker shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes and five (5) minutes for individuals representing groups.
- 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, personnel, any person or group 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.