

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

*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, January 9, 2023. 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. Denise Perry and Ms. Noa Blanken, who were absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold and Dr. Roy Phillips

Motion, Second and Vote

Ms. Patrice Ricciardi 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 Mr. Wade Sewell and approved in a voice vote 8-0. Mrs. Perry and Ms. Noa Blanken were absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Ms. Ricciardi, seconded by Mr. Sewell 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 Ms. Noa Blanken who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Mrs. Carol Bruce, Ms. Melissa Hahn, Mrs. Denise Perry, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold and Dr. Roy Phillips

Note: Mrs. Denise Perry 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

Eric Clark, Director of Budget

Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel

Dan Reimers, Human Resources Staffing Specialist

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, Mr. Eric Clark, Ms. Deborah Judd, Kimberly Neal, Esq, Mr. Dan Reimers, 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 discussed proposed bargaining parameters for the Board's consideration. Mr. Richardson, Dr. Alfree, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, and Mr. Dan Reimers, Human Resources Staffing Specialist, were available to answer the Board's questions. Ms. Alfree sought the Board's direction and approval to proceed with the recommendations as presented and discussed.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion giving Dr. Alfree approval to proceed with the proposed recommendations relating to package options for specific bargaining units. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hahn and approved in a roll call vote 9/0. Ms. Blanken was absent.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, Ms. Bruce motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Ricciardi, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 6:21 PM.

#### Business Meeting

##### Call to Order / Roll Call

President Mueller called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Noa Blanken who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Denise Perry, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Dr. Roy Phillips

##### Adoption of Agenda

President Mueller called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Amendment, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez, to amend the agenda by adding the following two (2) category topics: new business and unfinished business to Board business meeting agendas. The motion failed with 3 affirmative and 6 negative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Hahn, and Ms. Ricciardi. Casting the negative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Phillips, Mr. Sewell, and Dr. Mueller. Ms. Blanken was absent.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and adopted in a voice vote 8-1. Mrs. Alvarez cast a negative vote. Ms. Blanken was absent.

##### Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Sewell 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 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: William Martino, Bernadette Zgorski, Benjamin Heiser, Suzie Scott, DeLane Lewis, Jacob Bennett, and David Bauer. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following two (2) people registered to provide virtual public comment: Christy Greiner and Crystal Parks.

#### Item C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Contract Award: Parking Lot Lighting 700 Congress Street Havre de Grace
2. Contract Award: Electrical Supplies and Associated Materials
3. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: December 19, 2022

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. Ms. Blanken was absent.

#### Item D. Decision on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 02-0001-000 Student Attendance

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel and Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Executive Director of Student Support Services presented information regarding proposed revisions to Board Policy 02-0001-000 Student Attendance. The proposed revised policy was posted on HCPS.org for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. No comments were received. Ms. Neal made the Board aware that during the 30-day public comment posting period, Mr. Hennigan identified a non-substantive change to be made in order to clarify the policy and ensure alignment with MSDE requirements and applicable law. Mr. Hennigan revised the policy with the addition of the words “or unlawfully absent” added to the revised policy presented to the Board on November 14, 2022, and already posted for public comment. A Board discussion followed with Mr. Hennigan and Ms. Neal providing further information as requested by Board members. Ms. Neal and Mr. Hennigan then sought Board approval of the recommended proposed revisions to Board Policy 02-0001-000 Student Attendance.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to table a decision of the recommended proposed revisions to Board Policy 02-0001-000 Student Attendance. The motion was not seconded and did not go for a vote.

Initial Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez, to approve the proposed, revised policy entitled 02-0001-000 Student Attendance, with the removal of Item: D., 2., B., 4. The motion failed with 4 affirmative and 5 negative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Hahn, Dr. Phillips, and Ms. Ricciardi. Casting the negative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Mr. Sewell, and Dr. Mueller. Ms. Blanken was absent.

Second Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Herold made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bruce, to approve the proposed, revised policy entitled 02-0001-000 Student Attendance as presented. The motion was approved with 6 affirmative and 3 negative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Phillips, Mr. Sewell, and Dr. Mueller. Casting the negative votes: Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Hahn, and Ms. Ricciardi. Ms. Blanken was absent.

#### Item E. Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed FY2024 Budget

The Board received a presentation of the Superintendent’s FY 2024 proposed budget from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, and Ms. Mary Edmunds, Budget Analyst. The presented fiscal year 2024 proposed budgets are Unrestricted Operating Fund: six hundred thirty-three million, seven hundred seventy-six thousand, six hundred fifty-five dollars (\$633,776,655.00); Restricted Fund: thirty-eight million, four hundred eighty-three thousand, eight hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$38,483,829.00); Food and Nutrition Fund: nineteen million, two hundred three thousand, three hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$19,203,368.00).

The Capital Projects fund includes state and local funding to support capital repairs and construction. The FY2024 Proposed Capital Projects fund budget is projected to be ninety-four million, five hundred eighty thousand, seven hundred twenty-five dollars (\$94,580,725.00). The Board of Education approved the proposed Capital budget for submission to the state and local governments at the November 14, and December 19, 2022, Board business

meetings. The Board meeting scheduled for February 13, 2023, the budget will be back on the agenda for a Board vote. The key points of the proposed FY2024 budget were presented as follows:

- Restricted budget includes federal and state funds for specific purposes and dates
- Food and nutrition budget is prepared under the National School Lunch Program model
- Final Board approved budget is due to Harford County on March 1, 2023

No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Item F. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Family Friendly School Award nominations for the January award is open through Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

Superintendent Bulson thanked the community for nominating their favorite teacher for the Harford County Public Schools 2023 Teacher of the Year award. This year's celebration will recognize the new teacher of the year and also celebrate additions to the Teacher Hall of Fame.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) middle school basketball games start this week.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that on Monday, January 16, 2023 schools and offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Superintendent Bulson encouraged the community to have their students complete the "practice" in Canvas for asynchronous virtual instruction on inclement weather days. Students need to log in and complete the "assignment".

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that the Device Protection Plan option is still available for purchase through January 31, 2023. Details are available on [hcps.org](https://hcps.org) and the HCPS Facebook page.

Superintendent Bulson shared that the Swan Creek School applications will be live on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Mrs. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, sent information last week to all contacts and informational videos are available on Facebook and the Swan Creek School website for more information or details on how to apply to the school.

Superintendent Bulson and President Mueller reminded the community that on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 the Board will hold a Budget Public Input Session from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM and encouraged the community to attend.

#### Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

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Sean W. Bulson, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer

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Dr. Carol L. Mueller, Board President  
Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

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 – 6:15 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, January 9, 2023, 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](mailto:publiccomment@hcps.org) or calling 410-588-5347.

Call-In Registrations must be received by 12:00 PM on Monday, January 9, 2023. 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, January 9, 2023.
- 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.**