

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 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 23, 2023. Vice-President Wade Sewell called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

Board Members Present

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, Mrs. Denise Perry, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, and Mr. Wade Sewell

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold and Dr. Carol Mueller

Motion, Second and Vote

Dr. Carol Mueller 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 Ms. Carol Bruce and approved in a voice vote 9-0. Ms. Noa Blanken 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 Mrs. Hahn, seconded by Mrs. Perry 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, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Mrs. Denise Perry, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, and Mr. Wade Sewell

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold and Dr. Carol Mueller

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 for the following position: Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

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 Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Ms. Ricciardi motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:46 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice-President Sewell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

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

Virtual attendance: Dr. Carol Mueller

Adoption of Agenda

Vice-President Sewell called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Blanken made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce and adopted in a voice vote 10-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Denise Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance

Item A. Special Budget Address from Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly

Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly, joined by Mr. Robert Sandlass, Harford County Treasurer, shared information on Harford County's budget for FY2024, with the Board. The Board of Education's budget is a substantial portion of the Harford County's budget, and they are both currently being developed. Mr. Cassilly shared that the county's budget that will be presented to the County Council in April will be a much more conservative budget than last year's fairly aggressive budget, due to considerable economic uncertainty. The county's FY2024 budget is forecasted to be conservative and will be based on revenue projections, anticipated expenses, and an overall economic outlook in order to build a sustainable budget.

Item B. Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided

Item C. Public Comments

Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. Vice-President Sewell 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-two (22) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Josie Cosgrove, Cassandra Beverley, David Bauer, Marlo Tilghman, Katie York, Jo Riedel, Apollo Hayden, Erin Hayden, Ruth Oswald, Vicki Jones, Alyssa Ehrsam, Mary Jane Price, Emma Peller, William Martino, Douglas Rudd, Lauretta Halstead, Suzie Scott, Cristina Lanocha, Jasmine Blanks Jones, Tracey Waite, Jean Salvatore, Christy Larkin. 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: Jill Ferrara and Crystal Parks.

Note: The following three (3) registered in-person public speakers, Lauretta Halstead, Jasmine Blanks Jones, and Jean Salvatore did not present themselves or provide any comments when their name was called.

Item D. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - December 2022

2. Contract Award: Security Access Control Conversions for Multiple Locations
3. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: January 9, 2023

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Herold made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blanken and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 10-0.

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. Andrew A. Renzulli, for the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Mr. Andrew A. Renzulli to the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item F. Presentation on the Voices of Equity: Elevating Student Voices

Dr. Paula Stanton, Supervisor of Equity and Cultural Proficiency was joined by thirteen (13) Harford County Public School (HCPS) students and presented the Board their student led organization "Voices of Equity" (VoE) that started in the 2019-2020 school year. Their mission is to educate others within our respective communities and provide a safe space for everyone to speak their truths to promote equitable outcomes and futures. There are currently eleven (11) HCPS schools with VoE groups. Each student present addressed the Board and shared their individual experiences with VoE.

No formal action was taken by the Board

Item G. Presentation on the Blueprint for our Students' Future

Ms. Katie Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives, gave the Board an overview of the Blueprint for Maryland's future and what it means for the work here in Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). Highlights presented included the following:

- Blueprint Foundation
 - Accountability
 - Governance
 - Implementation Plan
 - Important timelines
- Pillar 1: Early childhood - milestones, current strategies, and long-term outcomes.
- Pillar 2: Elevating educators - milestones, current strategies, and long-term outcomes.
- Pillar 3: North Star - milestones, current strategies, and long-term outcomes.
- Pillar 4: Student supports - milestones, current strategies, and long-term outcomes.

Ms. Ridgway reported that she will be back in February to present the Board the Blueprint draft Implementation Plan. Ms. Ridgway 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 H. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that FEV Tutor is now available to all Harford County Public School students in grades three (3) through twelve (12) as an additional resource. Students can access homework help or schedule regular assistance via the Clever platform on their HCPS device to request this resource.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) device protection plans can still be purchased through January 31, 2023.

Superintendent Bulson shared that the Northeastern Maryland Technology Council (NMTC) Visionary Awards celebrates volunteer efforts that contribute to building a STEM-educated workforce and advancing technology & innovation. Mr. Robert Limpert, Supervisor of Magnet and CTE Programs here at Harford County Public Schools is an honoree this year, receiving an NMTC Visionary award. This is a regional award; not just for Harford County. The recognition ceremony will take place on Thursday, February 23rd at the Water's Edge Events Center.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program at Joppatowne High School is now open for applications for next year. Interested 8th grade students must apply for the 2023-2024 school year by February 10, 2023, on hcps.org.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:51 PM.

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

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 23, 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 23, 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 or calling 410-588-5347.

Call-In Registrations must be received by 12:00 PM on Monday, January 23, 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 23, 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.