

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 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, August 14, 2023. President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Miss Madina Sabirova, who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton.

Motion, Second and Vote

Mrs. Alvarez 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. Hahn and approved in a voice vote of 9-0. Miss Sabirova n 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 Ms. Strauss and approved in a voice vote 9-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion. Miss Sabirova was absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Miss Sabirova, who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton.

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

Kimberly H. Neal, General Counsel

Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Joseph Connolly, Supervisor of Career and Technology Education and Magnet Programs

Martha Barwick, Supervisor of Innovation in Learning

Kilo Mack, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, and Adaptive Physical

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Sean Bulson, Dr. Eric Davis, Kimberly Neal, Esq., Ms. Heather Kutcher, Mr. Joe Connolly, Ms. Matha Barwick, Mr. Kilo Mack, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of the appointees to the Board's Citizen Advisory Committees.

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

Ms. Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Joe Connolly, Supervisor of Career and Technology Education & Magnet Programs, Ms. Martha Barwick, Supervisor of Innovation in Learning, and

Mr. Kilo Mack, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, and Adaptive Physical, led a discussion regarding the proposed candidates for the Citizen Advisory Committees Membership for the 2023-2024 school year.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mrs. Hahn motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Kocher, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, Miss Madina Sabirova, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton.

Adoption of Agenda

President Poynton called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Kocher made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce and adopted in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Hahn led the Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Public Comments

Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. President Poynton read a statement regarding protocol for public comments which included a provision that each speaker would have three (3) minutes to speak and speakers representing a group would have five (5) 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 eleven (11) people registered and provided in-person public comment: Emma Peller, Jo Riedel, Bonny Knudsen, William Martino, Catherine Smith, Cristina Lanocha, Suzie Scott representing the group “Moms for Liberty Harford County”, Vicky Jones representing the group “Harford County NAACP, Margie Gallagher, Jeannine Cannito, Robert Schick. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following one (1) person registered to provide virtual public comment: Jill Ferrara.

Note: The following registered in-person public speaker, Robert Schick filled out a “Request to appear before the Board of Education Card” but did not wish to speak. Mr. Schick indicated he filled out the card thinking it was necessary in order to attend the meeting. Mr. Schick stated he did not wish to provide any comments when his name was called.

Item A. Old Business

President Poynton called for a motion to approve the following old business item:

1. Decision on Previously Tabled Board Minutes: June 26, 2023

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve old business item one (1) “Decision on Previously Tabled Board Minutes: June 26, 2023”. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Alvarez and approved in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - July 2023
2. Approval of Negotiating Teams for the 2024-2025 School Year
3. Appointment of 2024 - 2025 Calendar Committee Members
4. Citizens Advisory Committees Membership for the 2023-2024 School Year
5. Contract Award: Forest Hill Annex Improvements & Print Shop Relocation
6. Contract Award: Dependent Eligibility Verification Audit
7. Contract Award: NearPod Subscription Renewal
8. Contract Award: Fallston High School Additional Cameras
9. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: July 17, 2023

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to approve the consent agenda items with the exception of item four (4), which was removed for discussion. The motion was seconded by Miss Sabirova. The consent agenda was approved with all items except the following numbered item: number 4 “Citizens Advisory Committees Membership for the 2023-2024 School Year”, in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Consent Item #4 Citizens Advisory Committees Membership for the 2023-2024 School Year

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez, to table consent agenda item #4 Citizens Advisory Committees Membership for the 2023-2024 School Year, until the next Board meeting scheduled for September 11, 2023. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Meeting Break

The Board recessed until they were called back to order by President Poynton.

Note:

President Poynton announced that for the record, Consent Agenda item “#8 Contract Award: Fallston High School Additional Cameras”, the Board informational report contains a clerical error that will be corrected. The presented exhibit reflects that the project is being funded from the “operational budget”. This will be corrected to reflect that this project is being funded from the “capital budget”.

Item C. New Business

Item D. Presentation of Oracle Cloud Implementation, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Drew Moore, Director of Information and Technology, Ms. Jenn Horner, Supervisor Purchasing, Mr. Mike Rubilotta, Vice President of Operations CherryRoad Technologies, Mr. Jose Peres, Sr. Director Cloud Delivery, Mr. Jeff Bailey, Director OCM Cloud, Mr. Mark Davies, Oracle, and Ms. Pamela Brown, Oracle Project Manager, led a presentation to the Board on the Oracle Cloud Implementation. Background information on the need for the Oracle system was given. A discussion with the Board followed and included the following: the increased reporting demands and requirements for information, the need for up-to-date technology and a desire for security enhancements and increased efficiency that Oracle will provide. Harford County Public Schools began to develop requirements to replace the current version of Infor Lawson. In December 2020, Procurement met with stakeholders to determine a scope of work for a Request for Qualifications (RFQu) for a new ERP system. The Request for Proposal (RFP) process began in December 2021 which included a list of

“must have” requirements along with a list of “would like to have” requests. Cherry Road (Oracle) was awarded the request for proposal that Oracle submitted, which scored the highest by the consensus committee and the board approved the award on November 14, 2022. The project kicked off in January 2023. The Planning and Budgeting System will go live in October 2023, the Finance System will go live in July 2024, and the Human Resources and Payroll are scheduled for January 2025.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Presentation on the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program

The Board received its first presentation of the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) from Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner. They discussed the current CIP funding process and requirements. In September, Board approval will be sought for the FY 2025 Maryland State CIP budget for submission to the Interagency Commission, the Maryland State funding authority for public school construction projects. Between now and January, Mr. Brown, and his team, will continue to work with the Board of Education and stakeholders to prioritize the FY 2025 local only CIP needs and align the request with the HCPS operating budget. Board approval will be sought for the local only FY 2025 CIP request in December for submission to Harford County government in January.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Presentation on Proposed New Board Policy 14-0022-000 Nursing Mothers

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel, was joined by Ms. Elizabeth Miller, Supervisor of Benefits, and virtually by Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff & Labor Relations, to present information to the Board, regarding proposed new Board policy 14-0022-000 Nursing Mothers. The proposed new policy has been drafted to ensure Board compliance with applicable state law and statute. The proposed new policy will be posted to the HCPS website for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. Following the 30 days, Board approval of the recommended proposed new Board policy 14-0022-000 Nursing Mothers will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that he will not be able to attend the Harford County Public Schools’ End of Summerfest, being held at Ripken Stadium on August 17, 2023, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Superintendent Bulson thanked Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) staff members who made it possible for HCPS to continue educational support throughout the summer.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that the first back-to-school information has been sent out via phone call, email, or text message. If not, you have not received this information in any of these formats, Dr. Bulson asked that you reach out to your school and provide the most up to date contact information. Also, all Back to School info is on hcps.org so you can go there directly to complete all required forms. Dr. Bulson also reminded the community that the free and reduced meal applications are required this year. This requirement has been waived for a while, so it is particularly important to get them filled out the application this year to receive this benefit.

Superintendent Bulson shared that Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is still hiring. HCPS currently has teaching vacancies and many supporting services vacancies. If you know someone that can fill these roles have them apply.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated the North Harford High School Envirothon Team. After winning the Harford County and State competitions, the team moved on to the international competition in Canada. They competed against fifty-two (52) teams from the United States, Canada, and China and placed tenth (10th).

Superintendent Bulson shared that the Harford County Education Foundation's "Stuff the bus" activity took place on August 14, 2023, at the Fallston Walmart. Additionally, the Harford County Education Foundation is accepting nominations for the Excellence in Education Award. The Excellence in Education Award honors and celebrates individuals and businesses for their positive impact in support of the students at Harford County Public Schools. The deadline for nominations is August 18, 2023.

Superintendent Bulson shared that the Accountability and Implementation Board, which governs the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, has voted to approve the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) implementation plan submitted to the state last March. Congratulations to the more than one hundred and fifty (150) people, including community members, Board members, teachers, administrators, and central office staff, who are involved in the work to begin implementation of this legislation.

Superintendent Bulson shared that on HCPS.org there are welcome messages for the new school year from him and one from the Board officers. He encouraged the community to watch the video messages that highlight student achievement, transparency, and care for each other.

Superintendent Bulson thanked all Harford County Public Schools staff who have HCPS excited and ready for the new school year to begin.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

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

Aaron S. Poynton, D.P.A.
Board President, Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023

Attachment

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, August 14, 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 groups recognized by Harford County Public Schools (i.e. – PTAs, unions, and other school system stakeholders) 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, August 14, 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, August 14, 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.

The Board has authorized public comment in accord with its policy [Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings](#) and as summarized below:

- Each speaker shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes and five (5) minutes for individuals representing groups. Speakers must state his or her name, and, if representing a group, must identify the group he or she represents. If a speaker identifies themselves as a representative of a group, then only one (1) representative from the group may provide comment for the identified group.
- The Board presiding officer may 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, 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.