

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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>

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

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

In-person attendance: 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.

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez

Adoption of Agenda

President Poynton called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Miss Sabirova made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher 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

Moment of Silence

Board Member Ms. Bruce requested a moment of silence in recognition of September 11th. President Poynton honored the request, and a moment of silence was observed.

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 thirteen (13) people registered and provided in-person public comment: Norman Bergin, Charlene Haupt, David Bauer, Marlon Tilghman, Cheryl Adams, Steven Huct, James Ramsey, William Martino, representing the group “Moms for Liberty”, Josh Rubinstein, Jessica Fendryk, Emma Peller, Paula Hoppel, and Jeannine Cannito. Mr. Kyle Andersen, Public Information Specialist, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following one (1) person registered to provide virtual public comment: Beth Happick.

Note: The following registered in-person public speaker, Josh Rubenstein filled out a “Request to appear before the Board of Education Card” but did not wish to speak. Mr. Rubenstein 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: Citizens Advisory Committees Membership for the 2024-2025 School Year

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve old business item one (1) “Decision on Previously Tabled: Citizens Advisory Committees Membership for the 2024-2025 School Year”. The motion was seconded by

Mrs. Kocher and approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Bruce abstained from voting.

Item B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Approval of Revised HCEA-ESP Negotiating Team for 2024-2025 School Year
2. School/Organization Sponsored Project: North Harford High/Middle/Elementary Schools Land Cover Conversion BMP Plantings
3. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: August 14, 2023

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Kocher made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Strauss and the consent agenda 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.

Item C. New Business

Item D. Presentation on Harford County Public Schools Academic Performance 2022-2023

Ms. Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Andrew Renzulli, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Phil Snyder, Supervisor of Accountability, Mr. Andy Wachter, Assistant Supervisor of Accountability, Ms. Kristine Scarry, Supervisor of English/Language Arts, Ms. Joanne McCord, Supervisor of Mathematics, Ms. Erin Lange, Supervisor of Social Sciences, Ms. Diane Engelman, Supervisor of Science, provided the Board an update regarding academic measures for Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) from the 2022-2023 school year. The presentation included student performance data from state assessments in the areas of English/Language Arts Literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies. Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan indicates that HCPS prepares every student for success in postsecondary education and a career. Several metrics from Goal 1 were shared, including proficiency rates on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) in the core content areas. The data showed a historical trend of HCPS performance as well as a comparison to select counties within Maryland. In addition, the principals of two schools who demonstrated a high level of growth shared their best practices for improving student achievement. The following measures were also presented:

- MCAP English/Language Arts historical proficiency rates and a comparison to other districts
- MCAP mathematics historical proficiency rates and a comparison to other districts
- Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) historical proficiency rates
- American Government historical proficiency rates

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Presentation on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 20-0036-000 Aligning Enrollment with Capacity

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner presented information to the Board, regarding proposed revised Board policy 20-0036-000 Aligning Enrollment with Capacity. The Assistant Superintendent for Operations, the Director of Transportation, and the Facility Planner for Harford County Public Schools have reviewed existing Harford County Public Schools Board policies 20-0036-000 entitled Aligning Enrollment with Capacity and 20-0041-000 entitled Adjustment of School Attendance Boundary Lines. As the result of this review, it was determined that policy amendments offer opportunities to improve transparency, process, and operational efficiency requirements. For this purpose, and through the Superintendent, the following amendments to the existing Harford County Public Schools Board policies 20-0036-000 entitled Aligning Enrollment with Capacity and 20-0041-000 entitled Adjustment of School Attendance Boundary Lines are proposed:

1. Add language captured in policy 20-041-000, regarding the process related to the adjustment of school attendance boundary lines, to policy 20-0036-000.
2. Delete policy 20-041-000.
3. Under item "C" include race and socio-economic demographic data as factors to be considered in deciding which method(s) to use to align capacity with enrollment.
4. Under item "F," to address technical mapping, residential development activity, and operational efficiency requirements, amend policy 20-0036-000 to allow minor adjustments to an attendance area impacting less than 10 students.

The proposed revised 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 revised Board policy 20-0036-000 Aligning Enrollment with Capacity will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Presentation on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, and Ms. Bobbie Tolston, Energy Conservation Manager, presented information to the Board, regarding proposed revised Board policy 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation. The proposed revised policy has been drafted to ensure Board compliance with House Bill 630 (HB630), that was enacted and was passed for the purpose of requiring each school district to adopt or update the school district's energy policy. HB630 specified the contents that must be included in each school district's energy policy. As necessary to comply with HB630, the Assistant Superintendent for Operations, the Executive Director of Facilities Management, and the Energy Resource Conservation Manager for Harford County Public Schools have reviewed the subject policy and through the Superintendent propose to add the following language to the existing Harford County Public Schools Board policy 20-0023-000 entitled Energy and Resource Conservation:

1. Explore and utilize creative procurement strategies to secure services required to implement planned energy conservation programs.
2. Utilize technology to monitor and develop energy usage reports concerning but not limited to:
 - a. The amount of electricity used from renewable energy sources
 - b. The overall electricity use by source and square foot
 - c. Current and historical data of energy used by square foot.

The proposed revised 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 revised Board policy 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Presentation on the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program

The Board received its second 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, and the potential impacts of the State Facility Assessment to the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) FY 2025 CIP request. 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. In January, Board approval will be sought to approve the FY 2025 CIP for submission to the local government.

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 there is a new dashboard on HCPS.org that highlights specific information. The dashboard went live today to the public for viewing, exploring and reference.

Superintendent Bulson acknowledged September 11th and despite the tragedy that occurred that day he reminded the community of all the heroism that took place in response to the tragic events that took place on September 11th.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community of the upcoming Harford Glen Open Houses for students in 5th grade and encouraged the community to attend and also encouraged interested high school students so fill out applications if they want to be counselors at Harford Glen. Information can be found on HCPS.org.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community of the upcoming Magnet Program Open Houses which are now posted on HCPS.org for those interested.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

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

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



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

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, September 11, 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, September 11, 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, September 11, 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.