

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Miss Madina Sabirova, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton.

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry and Mr. Wade Sewell

Note: Due to technical difficulties, Mrs. Denise Perry joined the Board Meeting virtually after roll-call was taken.

Adoption of Agenda

President Poynton called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez 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 fourteen (14) people registered and provided in-person public comment: David Bauer, Thomas Long, Rabbi Kushi Schusterman, representing the group "Harford Chabad", Reverend Steven Hofmeister, representing the group "The Maryland Black Robe Regiment", Chrystie Crawford-Smick, representing the group "Harford County Education Association (HCEA)", Cindy Poper, Emma Peller, William Martino, Nonie Czajka, Susie Scott, representing the group "Moms for Liberty," Charles Hicks, Rachel Delaughter, Megan Fitzgerald, Cristina Lanocha. No virtual speakers registered to provide public comment.

Item A. Old Business

President Poynton announced no "Old Business" was scheduled for discussion.

Item B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - August 2023
2. Contract Award: Phone System Hardware
3. Contract Award: Conventional Special Needs School Buses Type I
4. Contract Award: Use with ODP Business Solutions
5. Contract Award: Private Duty Nurse

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

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Donovan Brooks, Chief of Safety and Security and Dr. Stacey Gerring, Co-Chair of School Safety Work Group, Mr. DJ Ravadge, Regional Security Coordinator, Central Region, Ms. Misty Goins, Regional Security Coordinator, Southern Region, Mr. Michael Stephens - Regional Security Coordinator, Northern Region. Mr. Brooks and Dr. Gerring highlighted the work being done by the School Safety Work Group and updated the Board on the stakeholder focus groups’ key findings and recommendations for crisis preparedness.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Presentation of Proposed 2024-2025 Harford County Public Schools Calendar

Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications and Dr. Peter Carpenter, Director of Organizational Development, presented the proposed 2024-2025 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) calendar. Both calendars feature: The 180-day student/190-day teacher calendar and contain the following features:

- 180 student days
- 190 teacher days
- Thanksgiving break
- Winter break
- Spring break
- Professional development and early dismissal days: schools are closed to students to allow staff learning.
- Holiday closures per negotiated agreements: schools and offices are closed to students and staff.
- Inclement weather days built into the calendars.

The proposed calendar will be posted to the HCPS website for sixty (60) days to allow for public comment. Following the 60 days, the proposed calendar will be presented for Board approval at a subsequent Board Business meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Decision on FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner provided the Board a third presentation of the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The presentation focused on the State eligible priorities for the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) FY 2025 CIP request. The following table summarizes the priorities eligible for State funding, potential funding source, and request amounts.

Project	State CIP Request	Healthy School Grant Request	Local Match	Total FY 25 State Eligible Request	Total Estimated Project Cost
Homestead Wakefield ES Replacement	\$0	N/A	\$23,125,000	\$23,125,000	\$88,168,000
Harford Tech HS Limited Renovation	\$11,187,000	N/A	\$6,624,087	\$17,811,087	\$75,271,087

Aberdeen MS HVAC	\$10,679,800	N/A	\$6,407,475	\$17,087,275	\$34,174,275
North Harford HS Energy Recovery Units	\$2,044,000	N/A	\$0	\$2,044,000	\$3,244,000
Harford Academy <sup>1</sup>	LP	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$147,950,000
C. Milton Wright HS Limited Renovation <sup>1</sup>	LP	N/A	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$86,101,400
Prospect Mill ES Roof	\$0	\$2,254,560	\$1,441,440	\$3,696,000	\$3,696,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,910,800</b>	<b>\$2,254,560</b>	<b>\$44,598,002</b>	<b>\$70,763,362</b>	<b>\$438,604,762</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total estimated project cost is a budget estimate based on bid results of recent similar projects, cost per square foot averages, and 4% annual inflation rate. For projects in the planning and design phase, the budget is subject to change due to market conditions at the time of bid.

Motion, Second, Vote - Dr. Mueller moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the twenty-three million, nine hundred ten thousand, eight hundred dollars (\$23,910,800.00) State eligible FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program budget request for submission to the Interagency Commission (IAC). The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce and approved in a roll call vote 9-0. (Student members of the Board are not eligible to vote on this matter).

Item G. Decision on Proposed New Board Policy 14-0022-000 Nursing Mothers

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel, presented information to the Board regarding the proposed new Board policy 14-0022-000 Nursing Mothers. The proposed new policy was first presented to the Board at the August 14, 2023, Board Meeting by Ms. Neal, Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff & Labor Relations, and Ms. Elizabeth Miller, Supervisor of Benefits. The proposed new policy was posted to the HCPS website for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment and only one (1) comment was received and shared with the Board. Ms. Neal sought Board approval of the recommended proposed new Board policy 14-0022-000 Nursing Mothers.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation of new policy entitled 14-0022-000 Nursing Mothers. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher and approved in a roll-call vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item H. Presentation on Recommendation to Delete Board Policy 0032-000 Vendor Sales to Students

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, and Ms. Jenn Horner, Supervisor Purchasing presented information to the Board regarding proposed recommendation to delete Board policy 0032-000 Vendor Sales to Students. Discussion included that Board policy 0002-000 Contracts, establishes general criteria to ensure that contracts for the acquisitions of goods and services on behalf of the Board of Education are authorized and executed by proper officials designated to do so. Board policy 0032-000 Vendor Sales to Students includes practices that contradict the requirements set forth in policy 0002-000. Allowing schools to make purchasing decisions outside of existing and approved HCPS contracts potentially violates state purchasing regulations and HCPS policy. The proposed recommendation to delete policy 0032-000 Vendor Sales to Students 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 deletion of Board policy 0032-000 Vendor Sales to Students will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item I. Presentation of Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending June 30 2023

The Board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending June 30, 2023, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. The report included detailed analysis of revenues and

expenditures for the last quarter of the fiscal year and represented all the activity for the fiscal year. The information that was presented was preliminary and unaudited with no material changes expected. Highlights of the financial information shared were as follows:

- Revenues – Total revenue received for FY 2023 is 102.6% of budgeted revenue, compared to 103.4% in the previous year.
- Expenditures – Expenditures for the fiscal year were approximately 98.5% of the appropriation, compared to 96.7% in the previous year.
- Fund Balance – Projected unassigned fund balance is \$30.6 million.
- Assignments for fund balance include the following:
  - FY 24 Budget \$15.0 million
  - Fuel \$1.0 million
  - Lease payments for student and teacher devices \$4.0 million
  - Transfer to capital projects \$20.7 million
  - Transfer to restricted fund \$1.0 million

No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Item J. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that an information page regarding the library books workgroup will be on HCPS.org, so that it is accessible to the public.

Superintendent Bulson shared that the Educational Foundation recently arranged a teacher shopping day for school supplies and approximately \$4,500 in school supplies were retrieved by teachers.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that the Harford Glen Open Houses dates have been sent to families with students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and shared on social media and the Harford Glen page of HCPS.org.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware of Magnet and Technical Program information sessions that are going on throughout the county. You can find a full list on HCPS.org.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is accepting applications for the 2024 Bus Attendant and Bus Driver of the Year. You can go to HCPS.org to nominate someone.

Superintendent Bulson shared that on Thursday, September 14, 2023, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) joined the Health Department and other community partners to provide a Wellness Fair for over 60 families at their Woodbridge Station location in Edgewood. Students received immunizations and physicals while parents and guardians completed Blood Pressure and Diabetes screenings. HCPS provided transportation for families in need and Food and Nutrition provided access to meals.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that September 15- October 15, 2023, is National Hispanic Heritage month.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that September 18, 2023, is the last day to vote for Family Friendly School for the month of September.

Superintendent Bulson asked the community to provide their comments of the proposed 2024-2025 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) calendar. The survey is available through the Board Agenda documents and Mrs. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, will be sending the information and link directly to all families asking for your input.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community of the “Stop Arm” bus citations, please obey the lights on the school buses and slow down when you see a bus.

Superintendent Bulson shared with the community that it is “Arts in Education” week and thanked all the art teachers in the school and the art department for collecting and displaying the artwork that circulates at the Central Office building. Dr. Bulson congratulated Global Studies / International Baccalaureate Program (GSIB) Freshman Emma Sewell, for the vast recognitions she received this past week including her artwork being highlighted at the Bel Air Festival of the Arts. Dr. Bulson also shared and thanked the Town of Bel Air and the organizers of the Bel Air Festival of the Arts for giving interested students free booths during the fair.

Adjournment

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

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

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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 18, 2023

Attachment

**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 – 6:15 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, September 18, 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](mailto:publiccomment@hcps.org) or calling 410-588-5347.

Call-In Registrations must be received by 12:00 PM on Monday, September 18, 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 18, 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.**

Updated 09/13/2023