

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 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>*

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice-President Melissa Hahn 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, Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, and Mrs. Melissa Hahn

Virtual attendance: Miss Madina Sabirova and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Adoption of Agenda

Vice-President Hahn 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 Mrs. Alvarez and adopted in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wade Sewell 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. Vice-President Hahn 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 seven (7) people registered and provided in-person public comment: David Bauer, Gary Johnson, Suzie Scott, representing the group "Moms for Liberty Harford County", Cheryl Adams, William Martino, Bob Schick, and Cristina Lanocha. No virtual speakers registered to provide public comment.

Old Business

Vice-President Hahn announced no "Old Business" was scheduled for discussion.

Item A. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - August and September, 2023
2. Contract Award: Churchville Elementary School Kindergarten Annex HVAC Upgrades
3. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: September 11, 2023 and September 18, 2023

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

Item B. Presentation of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2023

Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services and Mr. Bill Early Jr., CPA, Principal at Clifton Larson

Allen (CLA), presented the annual comprehensive financial statement audit for the year ended June 30, 2023. The presented report contained audited financial statements, schedules, exhibits, and footnotes, as well as opinions of the Independent Public Accountants of CLA. The report is required to be filed with the Maryland State Department of Education by September 30, 2023. Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) has complied with this requirement.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Item C. Presentation and Decision on Behavior-Based Energy Conservation Program Services

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Ms. Bobbie Tolston, Energy Conservation Manager, along with the following representatives from Cenergistic: Mr. Gary Niederpruem, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. John Bernard, President, Mr. Jack Bullock, Chief Engineer, and virtually Ms. Mary Ellen Leder, Regional Vice President with Cenergistic, presented the Board and led a discussion on Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) facilitation of responsible conservation practices to comply with current and future regulations relating to energy management and conservation; and the establishment of practices that will be applied to all aspects of HCPS operation to include but not limited to school system operations, school facilities maintenance and construction, procurement, and school-based decisions. The Facilities Management Department (Facilities) through the Procurement Department (Procurement), sought Board approval to award a five (5) year term contract to Cenergistic, LLC (Cenergistic) for Behavior-Based Energy Conservation Program Services in the total amount of seven million, three hundred twenty-nine thousand, two hundred thirty-one dollars and zero cents (\$7,329,231.00). Under the contract, Cenergistic provides the services required to develop, implement, measure, and manage a customized behavior-based energy management system and energy conservation program. Cenergistic will make assessments of current energy consumption, building occupancy patterns, equipment run times and settings, staff routines and practices, and provide recommendations on a range of behavioral modification strategies, cost-effective service delivery options, processes, and protocols targeting sustainable reductions in energy consumption.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to table this decision, so the Board can look at the contract more closely. The motion was seconded by Dr. Poynton and approved in a roll-call vote of 6-4. Casting the negative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Mueller, Mrs. Perry, and Mr. Sewell (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Poynton made a motion to postpone a decision on the Cenergistic contract until the next Board meeting on November 6, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Alvarez and approved in a roll-call vote of 9-1. Casting the negative vote: Ms. Bruce (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

#### Meeting Break

The Board recessed until they were called back to order by Vice-President Hahn.

#### Item D. Harford County Public Schools Talent Pathways Update

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Vicki Jones, Talent Pathways Manager, Ms. Erin Lange, Supervisor of Social Sciences, Ms. Sabrina Solares-Hand, ILO Group, Mr. Mike Martin, RTI International, and Dr. Meghan Doyle, RTI International, on the work of Talent Pathways. The presentation provided an overview of current Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) efforts to expand and strengthen pathways into education. Central to this work is the strengthening and expansion of higher education partnerships and developing a model school program to house an educator pre-service program with the aim of contributing significantly to the HCPS goal of strengthening high-quality learning pathways into HCPS classrooms. The work cuts across existing initiatives and departments and focuses on thinking and acting innovatively to ensure HCPS recruits, supports, and retains excellent staff.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

## New Business

### Item E. Decision on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 20-036-000 Aligning Enrollment with Capacity and Proposed Deletion of Board Policy 20-041-000 Adjustment of School Attendance Boundary Lines

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations presented information to the Board regarding proposed revised Board policy 20-0036-000 Aligning Enrollment with Capacity. This policy was first recommended by the Superintendent to the Board at the September 11, 2023, Board business meeting. This policy was posted for public comment for thirty (30) days, and one (1) comment was received and forwarded to the Board for review. Mr. Brown sought Board approval of the presented proposed revised policy entitled 20-0036-000 Aligning Enrollment with Capacity and the deletion of policy number 20-0041-000 Adjustment of School Attendance Boundary Lines.

Motion, Second, Vote - Dr. Mueller moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the proposed, revised policy entitled 20-0036-000 Aligning Enrollment with Capacity and the deletion of policy number 20-0041-000 Adjustment of School Attendance Boundary Lines. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher and approved in a roll call vote 10-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

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

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent and Ms. Bobbie Tolston, Energy Conservation Manager, presented information to the Board, regarding proposed revised Board policy 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation. This policy was first recommended by the Superintendent to the Board at the September 11, 2023, Board business meeting. This policy was posted for public comment for thirty (30) days and one (1) comment was received and forwarded to the Board for review. Board discussion included the following non-substantive change requests:

- Change the word “creative” to “efficient” on the proposed revised policy page 1 - II. Statement of Policy, - A-3. “Explore and utilize “creative” procurement strategies to secure services required to implement planned energy conservation programs.”
- Strike the words “and policy” on the proposed revised policy page 2 -B. – The Superintendent will consult with the Energy Management Committee to develop, review, and implement procedures “and policy.”

The Board additionally requested that a reporting requirement per procedure be restarted either bi-annually or annually. Ms. Tolston stated she would make sure the reporting request was restarted. Mr. Brown sought Board approval of the presented proposed revised policy entitled, 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation of the proposed revised Board policy 20-0023-000 Energy and Resource Conservation with the Board’s non-substantive changes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a roll-call vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

### Item G. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that on October 24, 2023, there is a “Sports for Life” bocce ball tournament at Bel Air High School at 3:00 PM and encouraged people to attend.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that the Harford County Public Schools magnet program applications are due on December 1, 2023.

Superintendent Bulson shared that on Monday, November 13, 2023, a public budget input session will be held prior to the Board business meeting at 4:30 PM.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 10:15 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, OCTOBER 23, 2023

Attachment

**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, October 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 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, October 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, October 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.

**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.**