

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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 6:00 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. Alvarez made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. 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

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 six (6) people registered and provided in-person public comment: David Bauer, Cristina Lanocha, DeLane Lewis, Kathleen O'Brien, representing the group "Together We Will", Megan Fitzgerald, Cindy Poper. No virtual speakers registered to provide public comment.

Old Business

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

Item A. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - October 2023
2. Contract Award: Purchase of Wheel Loader
3. Contract Award: After School Partnership for Youth Development Program at Old Post Road Elementary
4. Contract Award: After School Partnership for Youth Development Program at Five Schools
5. Contract Award: Evaluation Services for 21st Century Grant

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve the consent agenda items with the exception of items three (3), four (4), and five (5), which were removed for discussion. The motion was seconded by Miss Sabirova. The consent agenda was approved with all items except the following numbered items: "3. Contract Award: After School Partnership for Youth Development Program at Old Post Road Elementary, 4. Contract Award: After School Partnership for Youth Development Program at Five Schools, and 5. Contract Award: Evaluation Services for 21st Century Grant", in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Consent Items #3, #4, and #5: Contract Award: After School Partnership for Youth Development Program at Old Post Road Elementary, Contract Award: After School Partnership for Youth Development Program at Five Schools, and Contract Award: Evaluation Services for 21st Century Grant

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to table until the next Board meeting consent agenda items #3, #4, and #5. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher. The motion failed in a roll call vote of 8-2. Casting the negative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Mueller, Mrs. Perry, Miss Sabirova, Mr. Sewell, Ms. Strauss, Mrs. Hahn, and Dr. Poynton. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Kocher

Consent Items #3, #4, and #5: Contract Award: After School Partnership for Youth Development Program at Old Post Road Elementary, Contract Award: After School Partnership for Youth Development Program at Five Schools, and Contract Award: Evaluation Services for 21st Century Grant

Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion to approve consent agenda items #3, #4, and #5. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry and the consent agenda was approved in a roll call vote of 8-0. Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Kocher abstained.

#### Meeting Break

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

#### New Business

##### Item B. Presentation on Harford County Public Schools Mental Health Supports

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Executive Director of Student Support Services, Mr. Joseph Harbert, Director of Health and Wellness, Mr. Steve Richards, Supervisor Psychological Services, Ms. Colleen Sasdelli, Director of Special Education, Ms. Christina Alton, Mental Health Services Specialist, and Ms. LaWanda Brown, Supervisor of School Counseling. The presentation provided an overview of the mental health supports provided to students in Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). The presentation covered the collaborations HCPS has with outside partners, the staff within the system who provide support, and the programs being implemented to help reduce the impact and presence of mental health concerns in students countywide.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

##### Item C. Presentation of Proposed New Board Policy, Fidelity in Student Achievement

Board President, Dr. Aaron Poynton introduced the proposed new Board policy entitled: Fidelity in Student Achievement. This policy is being recommended to the Board by Dr. Poynton. The purpose of this policy is to set forth the position and philosophy of the Board of Education (BOE) regarding prioritizing and monitoring of achievement for all students. A lengthy discussion with Board Members ensued. Dr. Poynton shared that the proposed policy will be posted on HCPS.org to allow for public comment. Dr. Poynton encouraged that feedback on the policy be provided by all stakeholders and following, Board approval will be sought at the scheduled December 18, 2023, Board meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

##### Item D. Decision on Transfer of Funds Between Capital Projects

The Board received a presentation on the proposed transfer of funds between capital projects, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, and Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction. The proposed recommended transfer is as follows:

Capital Projects that have Available Balances to Transfer			
FROM			
Project	Project Balance	Transfer Funds Available	Amended Balance
JHS - Stormwater 312 - 8179	750,000.00	(106,307.71)	643,692.29
Old Havre de Grace High 312-7800 (Close out project)	71,614.29	(71,614.29)	-
<b>Total From</b>	<b>821,614.29</b>	<b>(177,922.00)</b>	<b>643,692.29</b>
TO			
	Project Balance	Fund To Transfer	Amended Balance
Joppatowne HS Column Structure 312 - 8112	54,009.00	177,922.00	231,931.00
<b>Total To</b>	<b>54,009.00</b>	<b>177,922.00</b>	<b>231,931.00</b>

Since the funds are all contained within the Site Improvement category, County Council and County Executive approval is not needed. Board approval was sought for the Superintendent’s recommendation of capital projects transfers in the amount of one hundred seventy-seven thousand, nine hundred twenty-two dollars and zero cents (\$177,922.00).

Motion, Second, Vote – Ms. Bruce moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of the capital projects transfers in the amount of one hundred seventy-seven thousand, nine hundred twenty-two dollars and zero cents (\$177,922.00). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry and approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Student members of the Board are not eligible to vote on this matter, Miss Sabirova cast 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item E. Decision on Transfer between State Categories for the FY 2024 Budget

The Board received a presentation on the proposed transfer between State Categories for the FY 2024 Budget, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, and Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction. Per the Blueprint section 5-213, beginning in fiscal year 2024 local school systems were to allocate \$62 per K-12 student to work with Local Workforce Development Board to implement career counseling for all 6-12 grade students. HCPS budgeted those funds in 103 Instructional Salaries because we thought HCPS was going to hire staff to provide those career counseling services. As the MOU was being developed between Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN), Harford Community College and HCPS, and after receiving clarification from Maryland State Department of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board, it became clear most of the funds were to be transferred to SWN. To facilitate that process an inter-category transfer is necessary between 103-Instructional Salaries and 105-Other Instructional Costs. The calculation for the transfer is:

Calculation for SWN Career Counselor Transfer			
K-12 Enrollment 9/30/12	37,067.58		
\$62 per student	\$ 62		
Total Allocation		\$ 2,298,190	
HCPS Employee Salary and Benefits		\$ (144,792)	
Funds to transfer to SWN (transfer 103 to 105)			\$ 2,153,398

Board approval was sought for the Superintendent’s recommendation of the inter-category budget transfer in the amount of two million, one hundred fifty-three thousand, three hundred ninety-eight dollars and zero cents (\$2,153,398), in accordance with Section 5-105 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Motion, Second, Vote - Dr. Mueller moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to transfer the money to be in compliance with the law. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sewell and approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Student members of the Board are not eligible to vote on this matter, Miss Sabirova cast 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item F. Presentation of Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2023

The Board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending September 30, 2023, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services. Ms. Judd gave a narrative analysis of the presented financial reports. She provided details on the object level for each category, the object level for the Unrestricted Fund as a whole, and the allocated account balances for each office and school. Reports also provide detail for the Food Service Fund and Capital Projects Fund. All budget accounts are within reason at this time and do not require any actions. Projections are not calculated after the first quarter as the first quarter review typically focuses on outliers and comparing to recent years for line items and categories. Revenues and expenditures are in line for a typical first quarter analysis.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Presentation of FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program - Local Priorities

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 fifth presentation for the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The presentation covered the local only funding needs as identified by Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) stakeholders. These needs include, but are not limited to, technology refresh; the purchase of replacement buses; and projects to meet the most critical compliance, security, facilities, and educational requirements of HCPS. The presentation reviewed the results of the priority score. HCPS will continue to work with the Board of Education and stakeholders to finalize the FY 2025 local CIP and align the request with the operating budget. In December, Board approval will be sought for the FY 2025 CIP for submission to Harford County local government.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's comments were provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:49 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, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Attachment

**\*Start Time is 6:00 PM\***

**BUSINESS MEETING: 6:00 PM – ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid fashion and public attendance will be permitted as explained below:

**DOORS WILL OPEN AT 5:50 PM AND THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM**

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a hybrid Business Meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:00 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, November 13, 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 6:00 PM on Monday, November 13, 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.**