

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

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 Thursday, February 1, 2024. President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Carol Bruce, Ms. Lauren Strauss, and Miss Madina Sabirova, who were absent.

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Motion, Second and Vote

Mrs. Hahn 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. Kocher and approved in a voice vote of 7-0. Ms. Carol Bruce, Ms. Lauren Strauss, and Miss Madina Sabirova were absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Mrs. Kocher, seconded by Mrs. Hahn and approved in a voice vote 7-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion. Ms. Carol Bruce, Ms. Lauren Strauss, and Miss Madina Sabirova were absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Carol Bruce, Ms. Lauren Strauss, and Miss Madina Sabirova, who were absent.

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Staff Present:

Ben Richardson, Assistant Director of Human Resources
Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations
Daniel Reimers, Human Resources Staff and Labor Relations Specialist
Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services
Eric Clark, Director of Budget
Kimberly H. Neal, General Counsel
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Mr. Ben Richardson, Dr. Mae Alfree, Mr. Daniel Reimers, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

Virtual attendance: Ms. Deborah Judd, Mr. Eric Clark, and Kimberly Neal, Esq.

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

Topic: Discussion and possible decision regarding parameters for negotiations with bargaining units.

Reason for Closed Session: To maintain confidentiality of potential parameters, if any, of negotiation with bargaining units and discussions related thereto.

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, introduced Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations who discussed proposed bargaining parameters for the Board's consideration. Mr. Richardson, Dr. Alfree, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, and Mr. Daniel Reimers, HR Staff & Labor Relations Specialist were available to answer the Board's questions. Dr. Alfree sought the Board's direction and approval to proceed with the proposed parameters as presented and discussed. The following actions were taken.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to accept the proposed recommendations relating to the Harford County Education Association – Education Support Professionals (HCEA-ESP) bargaining proposals as presented with modifications as discussed. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Alvarez and approved in a voice vote of 7-0. Ms. Carol Bruce, Ms. Lauren Strauss, and Miss Madina Sabirova were absent.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to accept the proposed recommendations relating to the Harford County Education Association (HCEA) bargaining proposals as presented and discussed. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher and approved in a voice vote of 7-0. Ms. Carol Bruce, Ms. Lauren Strauss, and Miss Madina Sabirova were absent.

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Mueller motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Hahn, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 4:37 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 OPEN SESSION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

OPEN SESSION: 3:00 PM – 3:05 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 3:05 PM closed session.

*The only item the Board will consider during this open meeting is consideration of meeting in a closed session.

CLOSED SESSION: 3:05 PM – 4:30 PM