

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, MARCH 18, 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 Monday, March 18, 2024. President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Miss Madina Sabirova, who was absent.

In-person attendance: Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez and Mr. Wade Sewell

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 9-0. Miss Sabirova was absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Mrs. Hahn, seconded by Mrs. Kocher and approved in a voice vote 9-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion. Miss Sabirova was absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Miss Sabirova, who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Note: Mr. Sewell joined the meeting in-person after roll call was taken.

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

Kimberly H. Neal, General Counsel

Ben Richardson, Assistant Director of Human Resources

Bernard Hennigan, Executive Director of Student Services

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Sean Bulson, Dr. Eric Davis, Kimberly Neal, Esq., Mr. Ben Richardson, Mr. Bernard Hennigan, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of persons recommended by the Superintendent for the following positions:

- Elementary and Secondary Principal pool assignment and Elementary and Secondary Assistant Principal pool assignment.

- Pupil Personnel Worker pool assignment
- Supervisor of School Social Workers

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the nominees. Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, joined by Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Executive Director of Student Services, presented and discussed the proposed candidates for the Elementary and Secondary Principal pool assignment, Elementary and Secondary Assistant Principal pool assignment, Pupil Personnel Worker pool assignment, and Supervisor of School Social Workers appointment.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mrs. Alvarez motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Hahn, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:29 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Miss Madina Sabirova

Adoption of Agenda

President Poynton 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

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, due to the number of registered speakers, a provision that each speaker would have two and a half (2.5) minutes to speak for all individuals and those representing groups. 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 thirty-one (31) people registered and provided in-person public comment: David Bauer, Meagan Fitzgerald, Gina Gibson, Victoria Harvey, Brian Kelly, Cristina Lanocha, Lea Ann Lynch, William Martino, Reed Scott, Suzie Scott, Mary Frances Tracy, Tanya Tyo, Nicole Wildart, Debra Schreiber, Jason King, Ben White, Jackie Johnson, Gary Johnson, James Ramsey, Sue Miller, Melissa Williams, Jeannine Cannito, Jacob Zebley, Jacob Bennett, Bonny Knudsen, Chrystie Crawford-Smick, Douglas Rudd, Thomas Piddington, Christine LaMastra, David Faby, Leslie Grimes. 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: February 2024

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

Item B. Approval of 7th Grade Career Compass Course

President Poynton opened the proposed approval of the 7th Grade Career Compass Course for Board discussion.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion to approve the 7th Grade Career Compass Course. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item C. Approval of Middle School Drama Curriculum

President Poynton opened the proposed approval of the Middle School Drama Curriculum for Board discussion.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion to approve the Middle School Drama Curriculum. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. The motion 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.

New Business

Item D. Presentation on the Immersion Program at Emmorton Elementary School

Dr. Chandra Krantz, Supervisor of English Language Learners and World Language, Ms. Erin Steelman, Curriculum Specialist - World Languages, Mr. Juraj Duracka, ESOL Teacher Specialist, Mrs. Elena Libertini, Program Manager, DoDEA Grant, and Mr. Zachary Greenbaum, Principal of Emmorton Elementary School, provided the Board a presentation on the Teaching through Immersion in Elementary Schools (TIES) and highlighted the grant-funded Spanish immersion program at Emmorton Elementary School, TIES.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Presentation on Harford County Public Schools Library Planning Workgroup

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Martha Barwick, Supervisor of Innovation in Learning, Ms. Christina Davis, Library Media Specialist, and Ms. Tracy Papinchock, Library Media Specialist, on the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Library Planning Workgroup. An overview of the work of the Library Planning Workgroup was provided and the recommendations of the workgroup were shared through the presentation of the proposed administrative procedure addressing the evaluation, selection, and reconsideration of library materials. The proposed administrative procedure will be posted on HCPS.org to allow for public comment on this procedure.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources sought Board approval of the proposed candidates for the following.

Supervisor of School Social Workers: Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sewell, to approve Ms. Christina M. Alton for the position of Supervisor of School Social Workers. The motion was approved with 8 affirmative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Ms. Bruce, Mrs. Kocher, Dr. Mueller, Mrs. Perry, Miss Sabirova, Mr. Sewell, Ms. Strauss, and Dr. Poynton (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Abstained from providing a vote: Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Hahn.

Elementary and Secondary Principal Pool: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve the following nine (9) candidates to be added to the Elementary Principal pool assignment: Ms. Stephanie A. Barnes, Ms. Sondra L. Bender, Ms. Sara Jo Brown, Ms. Lorien B. Covelly, Ms. Jacqueline N. Fisher, Ms. Jeanna M. Gentile, Ms. Shelby M. Houseman, Ms. Danielle O’Neill, and Ms. Erica D. Vick; and the following seven (7) candidates to be added to the Secondary Principal pool assignment: Ms. Joanne C. Frailer, Ms. C. Brooke Harrell, Mr. Drew E. Hoagland, Mr. Lamark A. Holley, Mr. Albert J. Johnson, Ms. Christine I. Kelly, and Ms. Erin L. O’Hara. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hahn. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Elementary and Secondary Assistant Principal Pool: Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion to approve the following seven (7) candidates to be added to the Elementary Assistant Principal pool assignment: Ms. Cathy C. Corun, Ms. Lauren N. Donnelly, Ms. Amy E. Fee, Ms. Lauren M. Hunter, Ms. Kristin M. Schaub, Ms. Kristine M. Stahm, and Ms. Andria L. Walker; and the following two (2) candidates to be added to the Secondary Principal pool assignment: Ms. Lindsay N. Beyer and Ms. Stacey E. Chanski. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Pupil Personnel Worker: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kocher, to approve Mr. Matthew F. Markowski for the position of Pupil Personnel Worker. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item G. Decision on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 06-0005-000 Portable Communication Devices

Board President, Dr. Aaron Poynton presented Board policy entitled, Portable Communication Devices. This policy was already posted for public comment and feedback was received. A discussion with the Board Members ensued and further non-substantive changes to the policy were proposed. Board approval was sought.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve Board Policy entitled Portable Communication Devices. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item H. Decision on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 04-0020-000 Controversial Issues

Board President, Dr. Aaron Poynton presented Board policy entitled, Controversial Issues. This policy was already posted for public comment and feedback was received. A discussion with Board Members ensued and further changes to the policy were proposed.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to table Board Policy titled Controversial Issues until the summer time frame and then amended her motion to table until the scheduled May 6, 2024, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 7-3. Casting the negative votes: Dr. Mueller, Mrs. Perry, and Mr. Sewell (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item I. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bulson’s comments were provided.

Superintendent Bulson shared that every school district had to submit their Blueprint Implementation Plan and the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) plan was submitted on March 15, 2024. You can view the HCPS Blueprint Plan on HCPS.org under the Superintendent’s tab.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) recently recognized the very first Parent Academy Most Valuable Parent (MVP) award recipient. The February award was given to Ms. Carrie Hunter of Edgewood Elementary School. The MVP Award recognizes one HCPS parent/guardian a month during the school year for their efforts to go above and beyond in modeling one or more of the National PTA Standards.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 10:07 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, MARCH 18, 2024

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 6:00 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 – 5:45 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, March 18, 2024, 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](#).

For this Board of Education business meeting, the President has set the time on agenda for public comment to 75 minutes in order to allow time for the Board to complete its scheduled business. In accord with established practice and procedure, each speaker shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes and five (5) minutes for individuals representing groups. If the total amount of public speaking time is projected to exceed 75 minutes based on the number of registered speakers, each speaker's allotted time will be reduced accordingly.

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, March 18, 2024. 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, March 18, 2024.
- **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.