

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, APRIL 15, 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>

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 with the exception of Ms. Carol Bruce and Mrs. Denise Perry.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Miss Madina Sabirova, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez

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. Hahn and adopted in a voice vote of 8-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Bruce and Mrs. Perry were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Hahn led the Pledge of Allegiance

Item A. 2024 Harford County Envirothon 5th Topic Presentation – “Mission Renewable Energy”

Mr. Howard Eakes, Assisting Supervisor of Science and Ms. Laura O’Leary, North Harford High School Envirothon Advisor introduced the Harford County Envirothon presentation to the Board. The winning 2024 team is from North Harford High School and the following students were present: Blake Carberry, Madalyn Caiazzo, Anna O’Leary, Frank DeLucia, Jonathan VanBuskirk, and they discussed their team’s topic: “Mission Renewable Energy”. The highlights of their three-tiered mission, consisted of energy efficiency, diversifying sustainable energy, and impact assessment.

Item B. Presentation on Career and Technical Educational Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Joseph Connolly, Supervisor of Magnet and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs and Miss Madisyn Bobb, student at Harford Technical High School, provided the Board a presentation of the Harford County Public Schools Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). A composition of the 2023-2024 CTE CAC members, selection criteria, and committee charges was provided.

Item C. Presentation of Oracle Cloud Implementation

Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Jose Peres, Sr. Director, Cherry Road Technologies, Mr. Stephen Lange, President & COO, Cherry Road Technologies, and Ms. Pamela Brown, Oracle Project Manager provided the Board a presentation on the Oracle Cloud implementation. They shared background information of Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) using Infor Lawson as the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for over 20 years. Due to increased reporting demands and requirements for information, the need for up-to-date technology and a desire for security enhancements and increased efficiency, HCPS has entered into a contract with Cherry Road Technologies to implement Oracle as the system to replace the current version of Infor Lawson. They reported that the project kicked off in January 2023, the planning and budgeting system went live in November 2023 and the finance system is on schedule to go live on July 1, 2024, with human resources and payroll scheduled to go live by January 2025.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

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: Danielle Bedsaul, Max Lister, Marc Hamilton, Madisyn Bobb, Sean Abel, Sandi Easton, Jennifer Walter, William Martino, Suzie Scott, Deborah Heredia, Jennifer Budelis, Chrystie Crawford-Smick, Oliver Michael, Crystal Rufenacht, David Bauer, Tracy Papinchock, Della Collins, Kelly Fonger, Bonny Knudsen, Ali Weedn, Andi Weedn, Melissa Williams, Jason King, Cathy Kowalewski, Jackie Johnson, Jeannine Cannito, Christina Lanocha, Thomas Piddington, Jacob Bennett, Tunisia Gannon, and Reed Scott. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following one (1) person registered to provide virtual public comment: Melissa Frasqueri-Santiago.

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Meeting Break

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

Old Business

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

Item D. Consent Agenda

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

1. Approve Proposal for Harford Academy Concept Review and Preliminary Site
2. Contract Award: Independent Financial Audit Firm
3. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: January 8, 2024, January 18, 2024, January 22, 2024, February 1, 2024, and February 12, 2024

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 8-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Bruce and Mrs. Perry were absent.

Item E. Approval of English Digital License Renewal

President Poynton opened the proposed approval of the English Digital License Renewal for Board discussion. After Board discussion the following action was taken.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Kocher made a motion to table the approval of the English Digital License Renewal for the next Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hahn. The motion was approved in a voice call vote of 6-2. Casting the negative votes: Dr. Mueller and Mr. Sewell (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Bruce and Mrs. Perry were absent.

New Business

Item F. Preliminary Response to the County Executive's Budget Announcement

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent, led a presentation to the Board with Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, and Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget present for support with questions. The presentation addressed the County Executive's Budget announcement. Superintendent Bulson shared that the funding level provided is the same as last year for the current expense fund and cautioned that the terms should not be interpreted as adequate. He spoke about the Blueprint initiative and services that limit the ability for HCPS to make its own decisions. Superintendent Bulson highlighted the

following areas that are not protected by the Blueprint: class size, safety & security, arts & music programs, world language, athletics, extra-curricular activities & clubs, field trips including Harford Glen, historically small schools, transportation, 1:1 tech, and employee benefits. These areas are where HCPS will need to look at to reallocate funds. Superintendent Bulson shared the next steps in the process for the budget and asked the public to provide their input at one of the upcoming scheduled community engagement budget sessions and also Board listening sessions. Superintendent shared that the final budget is due to be submitted to Maryland state by July 1, 2024.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Decision on Proposed New Board Policy Display of Flags

Board President, Dr. Aaron Poynton presented proposed new Board policy entitled, Display of Flags. This policy was already posted for public comment and feedback was received on both sides of the policy. A discussion with the Board Members ensued and further substantive changes to the policy were proposed, which requires the proposed policy to be reposted for public comment for another thirty (30) days. Board approval was sought for the proposed policy as is without any changes.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion to approve the proposed Board Policy entitled, Display of Flags, as presented without any changes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller. The motion failed in a roll call vote of 2-6. Casting the negative votes: Mrs. Kocher, Dr. Mueller, Miss Sabirova, Mr. Sewell, Mrs. Hahn, and Dr. Poynton (Includes 1 preferential negative student member vote). Ms. Bruce and Mrs. Perry were absent.

Item I. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's comments were provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 10:20 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, APRIL 15, 2024

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, April 15, 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, April 15, 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, April 15, 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.