

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, APRIL 29, 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, April 29, 2024. President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM

Board Members Present

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

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

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez

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 8-0. Ms. Bruce and Miss Sabirova were 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. Kocher, seconded by Mrs. Hahn and approved in a voice vote 8-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion. Ms. Bruce and Miss Sabirova were 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, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Ms. Carol Bruce

Note: Ms. Bruce joined the meeting virtually, after roll call was taken.

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

Kimberly H. Neal, General Counsel

Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum

Kilo Mack, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, and Adaptive Physical

Martha Barwick, Supervisor of Innovation in Learning

Joseph Connolly, Supervisor of Career and Technology Education & Magnet Programs

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Sean Bulson, Dr. Eric Davis, Kimberly Neal, Esq., Ms. Heather Kutcher, Mr. Kilo Mack, Ms. Martha Barwick, Mr. Joseph Connolly, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

Topic: Discuss proposed membership of three (3) Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Citizen Advisory Committees.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding proposed applicants for committee membership.

Ms. Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum, Mr. Kilo Mack, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, and Adaptive Physical, Ms. Martha Barwick, Supervisor of Innovation in Learning and Mr. Joseph Connolly, Supervisor of Career and Technology Education & Magnet Programs, presented the Board information regarding the proposed candidates for the following Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Citizen Advisory Committees: Career and Technology Education Citizens Advisory Committee, Family Life Education Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Gifted Education Citizens Advisory Committee for the 2024-2025 school year.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mrs. Hahn motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Kocher, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:45 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. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, Miss Madina Sabirova, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez and Ms. Carol Bruce

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 Miss Sabirova 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

Item A. Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) Presentation, Mr. Milt Nagel, Executive Director for MABE

Mr. Milt Nagel, Executive Director for the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) presented to the Board the programs and services that MABE provides to members. Mr. Nagel's presentation highlighted MABE's focus on actions, strategies, and supports associated with the Blueprint for Maryland's future and included legislative proposals to improve the Blueprint.

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 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 ten (10) people registered and

provided in-person public comment: David Bauer, Meagan Fitzgerald, Rachel Jenkins, Suzie Scott representing the group “Moms for Liberty of Harford County”, Lucille Sonnichsen, William Martino, Jacob Bennett, Christina Lanocha, Tina Graf, and Alexa Sciuto. No virtual speakers registered to provide public comment.

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

After Board discussion on this item, President Poynton called for a motion to approve the following old business item:

1. Decision on Previously Tabled: Approval of English Digital License Renewal

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve old business item one (1) “Decision on Previously Tabled: Approval of English Digital License Renewal”. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. The motion passed in a roll call vote of 7-3. Casting the negative votes: Mrs. Kocher, Ms. Strauss, and Mrs. Hahn (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

After the above action, the Board made a request to Ms. Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, and her team, to report back to the Board on the mitigation efforts they will take regarding the issues raised by some of the Board members during this discussion.

Item B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Non-Renewal Recommendations
2. Contract Award: Hook Lift, Dump, and Refrigerated Trucks Purchase
3. Contract Award: Full Exterior Renovation at the Hickory Annex Building
4. Contract Award: Laptop Lease
5. Contract Award: Removal and Replacement of Kitchen Ovens
6. Contract Award: Resurface Running Track at Aberdeen High School
7. Contract Award: Aberdeen Middle School HVAC Systemic Renovation
8. School/Organization Sponsored Project - Havre de Grace Middle/High School Susquehanna Rail Bridge Project Harris, Field Improvements
9. Citizens Advisory Committees Membership for the 2024-2025 School Year

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

Item C. Contract Award: Renewal of College and Career Software

President Poynton opened the proposed approval of the “Contract Award: Renewal of College and Career Software” for Board discussion. After Board discussion the following motion to vote was made.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to table the vote until the next Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 7-2. Casting the negative votes: Ms. Bruce and Dr. Mueller (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Perry abstained from providing a vote.

Item D. Contract Award: iReady Online Assessment

President Poynton opened the proposed approval of the “Contract Award: iReady Online Assessment” for Board discussion. After Board discussion the following motion to vote was made.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve “Contract Award: iReady Online Assessment.” The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

New Business

Item E. Presentation on Family Life Education Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Kilo Mack, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, and Adaptive Physical PreK-12, Ms. Brittany Pettus, Health Curriculum Specialist PreK-12, and Ms. Jennifer Joseph, Committee Chairperson, presented the Board an update on the Family Life Education Citizens Advisory Committee. An overview of the committee’s 2023-2024 school year accomplishments was provided, and Board inquiries were addressed.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent’s report was provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:25 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 29, 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, April 29, 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 29, 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 29, 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.