

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, JUNE 24, 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, June 24, 2024. President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Miss Madina Sabirova and Mrs. Diane Alvarez, who were absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Ms. Carol Bruce and Mr. Wade Sewell

Note: Ms. Bruce's microphone was on mute during attendance roll call

Motion, Second and Vote

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

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, and Mr. Wade Sewell

Staff Present:

Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Lauren R. Driver, Esquire, Deputy General Counsel

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Mr. Ben Richardson, Lauren Driver, Esq., and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of candidate nominated by the Superintendent for the following position:

- Supervisor of Mathematics

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the nominee.

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, led a discussion and presentation regarding the proposed candidate for the Supervisor of Mathematics position.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Note: Lauren Driver, Esq., Deputy General Counsel and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary, were excused from the following discussion

Topic: Discuss Superintendent's annual performance assessment

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the Superintendent's performance.

President Poynton introduced the annual performance assessment to the Board and sought their input for discussion.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus, President Aaron Poynton adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.

#### 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 Miss Madina Sabirova, who was absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Ms. Carol Bruce and Mr. Wade Sewell

##### 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 Mrs. Kocher and adopted in a voice vote of 9-0. Miss Sabirova was absent.

##### Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Hahn led the Pledge of Allegiance

##### Item A. 2024-2025 Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils – Student Officers Swearing In Ceremony

Dr. Aaron Poynton, Board President introduced the newly elected officers for the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils (HCRASC). Dr. Poynton conducted the oath to swear in the following HCRASC officer for 2024-2025 school year: President – James (Trae) McVicker. The following HCRASC officers for the 2024-2025 school year also took the oath and were sworn in individually: First Vice President - Shreeya Shah, Second Vice President - Rylie Semple, Treasurer – Viraj Singh, and Chief of Staff – Cameron Houck. The following HCRASC Executive Board members for the 2024-2025 school year also took the oath and were sworn in as a group: Student Legislative Affairs Coordinator-Gabrielle Moore Brooks, MASC Liaison-Vibha Nanduri, Equitable Affairs Coordinator-Kareem Wallace, Community Service Coordinator-Camden Seaborn, Historian-Lily Annunziato, Charitable Activities Coordinator-Justin Davis, Secretary-Solika Phann, Student Workshop Coordinator-Lexie Carven, Student Voice Coordinator-Nicole Filip

##### 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: Laura Wade, Bonny Knudsen representing the group “NAACP”, Jessica Fendryk, Melissa Williams, William Martino, Suzie Scott representing the group “Moms for Liberty Harford County”, Cristina Lanocha, Charles Hicks, Jeannine Cannito, Rev. Dr. Marlon Tilghman, representing the group “Racial Justice Alliance of MD”. No virtual speakers registered to provide public comment.

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Old Business

President Poynton announced no “Old Business” was scheduled for discussion.

Item B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Contract Award: Wood Floor Refinishing and Repair
2. Contract Award: Manufacturer Direct Cereal Products
3. Contract Award: Cafeteria Equipment
4. Contract Award: Milk and Dairy Products
5. Contract Award: Vehicle Upfitting Services
6. Contract Award: Dreambox Seat License Renewal
7. Contract Award: Microsoft Campus Renewal
8. Appointment of Audit Committee Member
9. Office of Internal Audit - FY2024 Annual Update
10. Office of Internal Audit - FY2025 Audit Plan

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. Miss Sabirova was absent.

New Business

Item C. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, sought Board approval of the proposed candidate for the position of Supervisor of Mathematics

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kocher, to approve Ms. Laura A. Potter for the position of Supervisor of Mathematics. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. Miss Sabirova was absent.

Item D. Decision on Proposed, Revised, Renamed Board Policy 0022-000 Student Behavior Intervention – Use of Physical Restraint and Exclusion

Lauren R. Driver, Esq., Deputy General Counsel, Ms. Stephanie Swisher, Coordinator Special Education, and Mr. Joe Harbert, Director of Health and Wellness, presented to the Board information regarding the proposed, revised, and renamed Board policy 0022-000 Student Behavior Intervention-Use of Physical Restraint and Exclusion. The proposed changes to this policy were first presented to the Board at the May 20, 2024, Board business meeting. The proposed new policy was posted on the HCPS website for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. Two (2) comments were received and shared with the Board for their review. Ms. Driver sought Board approval of the recommended proposed, revised, renamed Board Policy 0022-000 Student Behavior Intervention-Use of Physical Restraint and Exclusion.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Kocher made a motion to approve the proposed, revised, renamed Board Policy entitled, 0022-000 Student Behavior Intervention – Use of Physical Restraint and Exclusion. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Alvarez. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. Miss Sabirova was absent.

Item E. Decision on Social Science Curriculum Updates

Ms. Erin Lange, Supervisor of Science, presented to the Board information regarding the Social Science Curriculum. After presentation and Board discussion and questions, Board approval of the Social Science Curriculum updates was sought. The following actions were taken.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to vote on each Social Science Curriculum course individually. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 9-0. Miss Sabirova was absent.

AP African American Studies Course for Regular Status Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve the AP African American Studies course for regular status. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. The motion failed in a roll call vote of 4-5. Casting the negative votes: Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kocher, Ms. Strauss, Mrs. Hahn, and Dr. Poynton. Miss Sabirova was absent.

Women in Perspective Course for Regular Status Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Terri Kocher made a motion to table the vote for Women in perspective until the July 15, 2024, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Strauss. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 5-4. Casting the negative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Mueller, Mrs. Perry, and Mr. Sewell. Miss Sabirova was absent.

Social Sciences 6 Course for Regular Status Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve the Social Science 6: Human Geography course for regular status. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. The motion failed in a roll call vote of 4-5. Casting the negative votes: Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Kocher, Ms. Strauss, Mrs. Hahn, and Dr. Poynton. Miss Sabirova was absent.

Meeting Break

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

Item F. Decision on 2024 Educational Facilities Master Plan and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent of Schools, 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, presented the Board a high-level summary of the 2024 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan. The 2024 EFMP includes all the essential elements required by the State and has been reviewed by the appropriate school system personnel. The Capital Improvement Projects proposed in the plan are the basis for the FY26 Capital Improvement Program. The timeline of Capital Projects included project funding needs through FY 2032. The anticipated State and local funding and the impact on the long-term capital plan was discussed. After the presentation Mr. Brown sought the Board's approval for the 2024 Educational Facilities Master Plan and the 2024 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for submission to the State.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kocher, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of the 2024 Educational Facilities Master Plan and the 2024 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for submission to the State, as presented. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. Miss Sabirova was absent.

Item G. Presentation on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 02-0036-000 Dress Code

Ms. Katie Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Dr. Paula Stanton, Supervisor of Equity and Cultural Proficiency, presented information regarding the proposed revisions to Board Policy 02-0036-000 Dress Code, which was last affirmed on March 21, 2005. The Board requested the administration to propose a revised Dress Code policy. The proposed, revised policy was presented to the Board Policy Review Committee on June 12, 2024, and is moving forward to the Board as presented at the committee. The proposed revised policy will be posted on HCPS.org for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. Following the 30 days, Board approval of the proposed revised Board Policy 02-0036-000 Dress Code will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Presentation of Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 20-0038-000 Public Information Act Requests

Lauren R. Driver, Esq., Deputy General Counsel, presented information regarding the proposed revisions to Board Policy 20-0038-000 Public Information Act Requests. This policy was most recently amended in December 2010. The principal purpose of the proposed changes to this policy is to reflect the change in the law, transparency, and identify the proper statutes under which citizens will submit Maryland’s Public Information Act (MPIA) requests and Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) will review and respond to such requests. The proposed policy refers to the Maryland attorney general’s MPIA manual and a detailed procedure, both of which align with current submission, processing, and production requirements under the MPIA. The Board Policy Review Committee met and reviewed the proposed, revised Policy on May 1, 2024, and no issues, concerns, or objections were raised at that time. The proposed revised policy will be posted on HCPS.org for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. Following the 30 days, Board approval of the proposed revised Board Policy 20-0038-000 Public Information Act Requests will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item I. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent’s report was provided.

Superintendent Bulson wished everyone a great end to the school year.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:09 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, JUNE 24, 2024

**OPEN SESSION: 4:30 PM – 4:35 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: 4:35 PM – 5:30 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 5:55 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, June 24, 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](#).

**Due to a full agenda, for this Board of Education business meeting, the President has set the time on agenda for public comment to 60 minutes in order to allow time for the Board to complete its scheduled business. For this reason, each speaker shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes for individuals and also for individuals representing groups.**

**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, June 24, 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, June 24, 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) for individuals and also 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.**