

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, JULY 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>*

Open Session

The Board of Education of Harford County met in open session in hybrid format in person and via video teleconference on Monday, July 15, 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 Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Miss Sasha Pazoki, who were absent.

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

Motion, Second and Vote

Mrs. Alvarez 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. Bruce, Mrs. Hahn, and Miss Pazoki 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. Alvarez and approved in a voice vote 7-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion. Ms. Bruce, Mrs. Hahn, and Miss Pazoki were absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Hahn and Miss Pazoki, who were 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, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Staff Present:

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

Topic: 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.

Note: Mrs. Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary, was excused from the above discussion

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus, President Aaron Poynton adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM.

## Business Meeting

### Call to Order / Roll Call

President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Melissa Hahn, who was absent.

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

### Adoption of Agenda

President Poynton called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to table the FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program presentation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry and adopted in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Hahn was absent.

Revised Agenda Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to adopt the revised agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher and adopted in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Hahn was absent.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Student Member of the Board, Miss Pazoki led the Pledge of Allegiance

### Item A. Swearing-In Ceremony, 2024-2025 Student Board Member, Miss Sasha Z. Pazoki

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson introduced Miss Sasha Z. Pazoki and conducted the oath to swear her in as the 2024-2025 Student Member to the Board of Education of Harford County. Ms. Cindy Mumby, Chief of Community Relations of Harford County, presented Miss Pazoki with a citation in honor of her new position on the Board.

### Item B. Special Announcement from Dr. Aaron Poynton, Board President

President Poynton provided a message for the Board and the public of treating each other with civility by treating each other with respect and mutual understanding. Together we can create a community where everyone feels valued and heard.

### 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 due to the amount of registered speakers, each speaker would have three (3) 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 sixty-five (65) people registered and provided in-person public comment: Christopher Providence, Amber Milnes, Devin DeFord, Derick Maull, David Marshall, Cassandra Beverley, Suzie Scott, Emile Cromwell, Lia Lucas, William Martino, Timothy Manning, Erica Richardson, David Bauer, Genesis Scott, Melissa Williams, Eva Fitzgerald, Megan Fitzgerald, Christine Bowers, Seleste Harris, Patrick Owens, Jim Thornton, Sharoll Love, Lisa Stoneham, Mary Brown, Kareem Wallace, Chrystie Crawford-Smick, Charlene Haupt, Zalena Giles, Lillian Moss, Christian Houck, Tanya Tyo, Victoria Harvey, Brenda Tarrant, Jeremiah Pettigen, Kawanee Flowe, Annie Beeson, Jason King, Noa Myers, Gretchen Lindsey, Ann Paige Garner, Heather Tucci, David Eltringham, Christina Lanocha, Jordan Cook, Rev. C. Hunter, Amber Hopkins, Felicia Hopkins, Bonny Knudsen, Ronald Wooden, Mike Parker, Rita Scharmann, Joyce Boyd, Morgan Reitz, Reverend William Fisher, Emma Peller, Sylvia Harris, Jacob Bennett, Jeannine Cannito, Rodney Johnson, Leah Wynn, Addison Golding, Raine Curtis, and Constance Rosser.

Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following two (2) people registered to provide virtual public comment: Aravinda Pillalamarri and Beverly Talbot.

#### Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

#### Old Business

President Poynton presented the following items for Board discussion. After Board discussion on each item, President Poynton called for a motion to approve the following old business items:

1. Decision on Previously Tabled - Contract Award: Discovery Education Experience District License Renewal

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve old business item one (1) “Decision on Previously Tabled - Contract Award: Discovery Education Experience District License Renewal”. The motion was seconded by Ms. Strauss. The motion passed in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Hahn was absent.

2. Decision on Previously Tabled: Decision on Women in Perspective for Regular Status

Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion to approve old business item two (2) “Decision on Previously Tabled: Decision on Women in Perspective for Regular Status”. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. The motion passed in a voice vote of 8-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Kocher abstained from voting. Mrs. Hahn was absent.

#### Item C. Consent Agenda

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

- Contract Award: Renewal of CommonLit (Digital Literacy Program)
- Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: April 15, 2024, April 29, 2024, and May 20, 2024

Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Hahn was absent.

#### Meeting Break

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

#### New Business

##### Item D. Revised Advanced Placement African American Studies for Regular Status Decision

Ms. Erin Lange, Supervisor of Science, Ms. Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Andrew Renzulli, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Robert DeLeva, Principal Bel Air High School, Mr. Andrew Austing, Social Science Teacher Bel Air High School, Mr. Michael Harris, Social Science Teacher Joppatowne High School, and Mr. John Mobley Social Science Teacher Aberdeen High School presented to the Board an updated social science curricula presentation on the Advanced Placement African American (APAA) studies course. Background information, course scope and sequence, course skills, and feedback from students, teachers, and principals of the APAA studies for regular status was provided. Board feedback and concerns were discussed and addressed. After Board discussion, Ms. Lange sought the Board’s approval for the AP African American Studies course for regular status.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion to approve the revised Advanced Placement African American Studies for regular status. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sewell. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Hahn was absent.

Item E. Revised Social Sciences 6 for Regular Status Decision

Ms. Erin Lange, Supervisor of Science, Ms. Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Andrew Renzulli, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Brian Fischer, Social Science Teacher Aberdeen Middle School, and Ms. Elizabeth Nemeth, Social Science Teacher Havre de Grace Middle School presented to the Board an updated social science curricula presentation for the Social Science 6 Human Geography course. Background information, grade 6-7 framework, Maryland state standards, course scope and sequence, changes between the old curricula and the new curricula, was provided. Board feedback and concerns were discussed and addressed. After Board discussion, Ms. Lange sought the Board's approval for the Social Sciences Human Geography 6 course for regular status.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve the revised Social Sciences 6 Human Geography curricula with current and proposed changes, as presented for regular status. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sewell. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 6-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Kocher abstained from voting. Ms. Bruce was not present for the vote. Mrs. Hahn was absent.

Item F. Presentation on the FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program

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, were prepared to provide the Board a presentation on the FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program. When the Board adopted the agenda at the start of this meeting they approved to table this presentation for a subsequent scheduled Board meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's report was provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 1:21 AM.

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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, JULY 15, 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 5:55 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, July 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](#).

**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, July 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, July 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 for individuals 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.**