

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 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, November 4, 2024. Vice-President Melissa Hahn called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Miss Sasha Pazoki and Ms. Lauren Strauss, who were absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Denise Perry, and Mrs. Melissa Hahn

Virtual Attendance: Mr. Wade Sewell and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Motion, Second and Vote

Dr. Mueller 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 6-0. Mrs. Alvarez, Ms. Bruce, Miss Pazoki and Ms. Strauss, were absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(7)(8)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Mrs. Kocher, seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a voice vote of 6-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion. Mrs. Alvarez, Ms. Bruce, Miss Pazoki and Ms. Strauss, were absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

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

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

Virtual Attendance: Mr. Sewell and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Note: Ms. Lauren Strauss joined the meeting in-person after roll call was taken.

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations

Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

Eric Clark, Director of Budget

Daniel Reimers, Human Resources Staff and Labor Relations Specialist

Lauren R. Driver, Esquire, Deputy General Counsel

Matthew P. Legg, Esquire, of Brockstedt, Mandalas & Federico LLC Law

Benjamin J. Widlanski, Esquire, of Kozyak, Tropin & Throckmorton Law

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Sean Bulson, Dr. Eric Davis, Mr. Ben Richardson, Dr. Mae Alfree, Ms. Deborah Judd, Mr. Eric Clark, Mr. Daniel Reimers, Lauren Driver, Esq., Matthew Legg, Esq., Benjamin Widlanski, Esq., and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

Topic: Discuss status of mass litigation regarding damages related to the claim that pharmacy managers/manufacturers of insulin have improperly inflated the cost of the drug.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve attorney-client privilege and consult with counsel regarding potential litigation entered into by the Board of Education.

The Board received a presentation from Lauren Driver, Esq., Matthew Legg, Esq., of Brockstedt, Mandalas & Federico LLC Law, and Benjamin Widlanski, Esq., of Kozyak, Tropin & Throckmorton Law, regarding the mass litigation pertaining to insulin price fixing. Ms. Driver sought Board decision to accept or decline joining the litigation.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve joining the mass litigation as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher and adopted in a voice vote of 7-0. Mrs. Alvarez, Ms. Strauss, and Miss Pazoki, were absent.

Note: Ms. Lauren Strauss joined the meeting after this vote was taken.

Note: Lauren Driver, Esq., Matthew Legg, Esq., and Benjamin Widlanski, Esq., were excused from the following discussion

Topic: Discussion and possible decision regarding parameters for negotiations with bargaining units.

Reason for Closed Session: To maintain confidentiality of potential parameters, if any, of negotiation with bargaining units and discussions related thereto.

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, introduced Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations who discussed proposed bargaining parameters for the Board's consideration. Mr. Richardson, Dr. Alfree, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, Mr. Dan Reimers, Human Resources Staffing Specialist, were available to answer the Board's questions.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mrs. Kocher motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Mueller, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:48 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice-President Melissa Hahn called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Board Members Present

Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Alvarez, who was absent.

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

Virtual Attendance: Mr. Wade Sewell and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Adoption of Agenda

Vice-President Hahn called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Strauss and adopted in a voice vote of 9-0. Mrs. Alvarez was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Comments

Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. Vice-President Hahn 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 thirty-one (31) people registered and provided in-person public comment: Christine Bowers, Chrystie Crawford-Smick, representing the group "Harford County Education Association (HCEA)", Marcus Custer, representing the group "Harford County Cares", Kristin Doehring, Damion Garrison, Cynthia Hendrick, Karen Jankowiak, Gary Johnson, Andrea McClintock, Stephanie McKaughan, Pastor Al Reeves, representing the group "boys2MEN", Shawn Sharpeta, Corinne Turner, Sandra Welty, Melissa Williams, Sarah Taney, Crystal Rufenacht, Dr. Sheila Allen, representing the group "American Association of University Women (AAUW)", Marc Hamilton, representing the group "Harford County Elementary School Administrators Association", Rita Scharmann, Jennifer Sawyer Hathaway, Ruth Oswald, Jacob Bennett, James Ramsey, Bonny Knudsen, Stephanie Dowell on behalf of Cecelia Ledbetter, Tammy Schueler, Charles Hicks, Thomas Piddington, representing the group "Black Robed Regiment", Cristina Lanocha, and Patricia Jones .

Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on the individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following one (1) person registered to provide virtual public comment: David Bauer.

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Old Business

Vice-President Hahn 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: October 2024
2. Contract Award: HVAC Products Installation, Labor, Based Solutions, and Related Products and Services
3. Contract Award: Modular Classroom Buildings at Church Creek and Prospect Mill Elementary Schools
4. Contract Award: Pre-Construction Management Services for the New Combination Harford Academy and Elementary School Project

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

Meeting Break

The Board recessed until they were called back to order by Vice-President Hahn.

New Business

Item B. Decision on Special Education In District Classroom

Ms. Colleen Sasdelli, Director of Special Education, Ms. Robin Meyer, Special Education Coordinator of Non-Public Placements and Interagency Supports, Ms. Susan Miller, School Psychologist, and Ms. Megan Avampato, Special Education Non-Public Teacher Specialist, presented and sought Board approval to contract with Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI) to provide Special Education programming for eighteen (18) elementary and middle school aged students with intense behavioral needs in two, in-district classrooms located at the Swan Creek School. Funds will be reallocated from the existing non-public budget and the contract term is valid through June 30, 2026.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mueller, to award the contract to Specialized Education Services, Inc. (SESI), as presented. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential only affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Alvarez was absent.

Item C. Presentation of Harford County Public Schools Academic Performance Data: Career and Technology Education Updates

Mr. Andrew Renzulli, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Joseph Connolly, Supervisor of Career and Technology Education & Magnet Programs, Mr. Matthew Johnstone, Grant Coordinator of Apprenticeship and Workforce Development, and Ms. Christine Allred, Apprenticeship and Workforce Development Teacher Specialist at C. Milton Wright High School, provided the Board a presentation of the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Career and Technology Education (CTE) updates. The presentation highlighted a programmatic overview and the impacts the opportunities create for students. Discussion included the following: Program completion requirements, types of CTE completion programs, CTE completion data, apprenticeship overview, and the Harford Youth Workforce Investment Program.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item D. Presentation of Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2024

The Board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending September 30, 2024, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services. Ms. Judd shared that the financial ERP system transitioned to Oracle on July 1, 2024. The first quarter's financials are produced from Oracle and many of the reports typically presented in the quarterly financials are still in development. The change in reporting, which was created so Harford County Public Schools are in compliance with state Blueprint reporting requirements. Ms. Judd reminded the Board that the June 30, 2025, fund balance is not projected at the end of each first quarter.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson provided his updates to the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:11 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, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Attachment

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 – 4:55 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, November 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](#).

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, November 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, November 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 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.