PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026

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 person on Monday, October 12, 2026. President Lauren Paige called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Board Members Present
All Board members were present.

In-person attendance: Ms. Liliana Norkaitis, Dr. Carol Mueller, Miss Vibha Nanduri, Mrs. BangTam Miller, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Ms. Lauren Paige.

Motion, Second and Vote
Mrs. Bruce 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. Miller and approved in a voice vote of 9-0.

Attendance of the Student Member of the Board in Closed Session - Motion, Second and Vote
Dr. Mueller made a motion to invite Miss Nanduri to attend closed session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce and approved in a roll call vote of 5-4. (Includes 1 affirmative student member vote). Casting the negative vote: Ms. Norkaitis, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Hahn, and Mrs. Alvarez.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Mueller, seconded by Mrs. Miller and approved in a voice vote 9-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session.

Closed Session

Board Members Present
All Board members were present.

In-person attendance: Ms. Liliana Norkaitis, Dr. Carol Mueller, Miss Vibha Nanduri, Mrs. BangTam Miller, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Ms. Lauren Paige.

Staff Present:
Dr. Dyann Mack, Superintendent
Bernard Hennigan, Deputy Superintendent for Schools
Lauren R. Driver, Esquire, General Counsel
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Dyann Mack, Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Lauren Driver, Esq., and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo.

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

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of candidate nominated by the Superintendent for the position of Director of Staff and Labor Relations.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the nominee.
Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Deputy Superintendent for Schools, led a discussion and presentation regarding the proposed candidate for the Director of Staff and Labor Relations.

Adjournment
With no further business, Dr. Mueller motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Miller, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:49 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call
President Lauren Paige called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

In-person attendance: Ms. Liliana Norkaitis, Dr. Carol Mueller, Miss Vibha Nanduri, Mrs. BangTam Miller, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Ms. Lauren Paige.

Adoption of Agenda
President Paige 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. Bruce and adopted in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 affirmative student member vote).

Pledge of Allegiance
Vice-President Wade Sewell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item A. Student Presentation "Harford Academic Challenge 2025 - 2026"
Ms. Liliana Norkaitis, Board Member, gave the Board background information for the Harford Academic Challenge. Ms. Mary Beth Stapleton, Manager of Family and Community Partnerships, introduced Mr. Benjamin White, AP Biology Teacher and Academic Team Coach for Fallston High School with the Harford Academic Challenge and Ms. Kelly Jara from Harford TV. Mr. White provided the Board a presentation on the "Harford Academic Challenge" program. Mr. White invited the Board to attend any of the upcoming scheduled student challenges.

Public Comments
Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. President Paige read a statement regarding protocol for public comments which included a provision that each speaker including those speaking on behalf of a group, would be allotted 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 nine (9) people registered and provided in-person public comment: Julia Fuller, Matthew Martin, Jeremy Martin, David Bauer, William Martino, Courtney Coulter, Jodi Troyer, Jackie Johnson, Cristina Lanocha.

There were no virtual speakers.

Board Member Comments
Board member comments were provided.

Superintendent's Report
Dr. Dyann Mack provided the Superintendent's report.

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

Item B. Consent Agenda
President Paige called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Contract Award: Student Laptop Lease
2. Contract Award: PFAS Evaluation, Design and Grant Services for Five Schools
3. Appointment of the 2026-2027 Negotiating Teams for the 2027-2028 Contract Year

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

New Business

Item C. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointment
Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Deputy Superintendent for Schools, sought Board approval of the proposed candidate for the following.

Director of Staff and Labor Relations
Daniel J. Reimers

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Norkaitis, to approve Mr. Daniel J. Reimers, for the position of Director of Staff and Labor Relations. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item D. Presentation on HCPS Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program Performance
The Board received a presentation from Mr. Andy Wachter, Supervisor of Accountability and Mr. Brian Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services. An update was provided regarding academic measures for Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). The presentation included student performance data from the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) in English/Language Arts Literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies. Mr. Wachter and Mr. Powell also informed the Board of the new Maryland System of Testing Academic Readiness (MSTAR) changes.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Presentation of Proposed 2027-2028 Harford County Public Schools Calendar
Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Deputy Superintendent for Schools, on behalf of Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, shared the proposed 2027-2028 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) calendar for Board consideration. The proposed calendar will be posted to the HCPS website for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. Following the 30 days, the proposed calendar will be presented for Board approval at a subsequent Board business meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment
With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

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Dyann R. Mack, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer

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Lauren Paige
President, Board of Education of Harford County

Attached

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026

OPEN SESSION: 5:30 PM – 5:35 PM
This meeting will be conducted virtually. The only item the Board will consider during this open meeting is consideration of meeting in a closed session.

CLOSED SESSION: 5:35 PM – 5:55 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
For this business meeting, in order to allow time for the Board to complete scheduled business, registered speaker's allotted time shall be limited to no more than **three (3) minutes for Individuals and individuals representing Groups.**

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a hybrid Business Meeting on Monday, October 12, 2026, 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 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, October 12, 2026. 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, October 12, 2026.
- 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** 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.