PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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 26, 2026. Vice-President Wade Sewell called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Board Members Present
All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Lauren Paige, who was absent.

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

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 Ms. Norkaitis and approved in a voice vote of 8-0. Ms. Paige was absent.

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. The motion failed in a roll call vote of 4-4. (Includes 1 affirmative student member vote). Casting the negative vote: Ms. Norkaitis, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Hahn, and Mrs. Alvarez. Ms. Paige was absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(9) 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 7-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session. Miss Nanduri and Ms. Paige were absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present
All Board members were present with the exception of Miss Vibha Nanduri and Ms. Lauren Paige, who were absent.

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

Staff Present:
Dr. Dyann Mack, Superintendent
Bernard Hennigan, Deputy Superintendent for Schools
Lauren R. Driver, Esquire, General Counsel
Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Daniel Reimers, Director of Staff & Labor Relations
Deborah Judd, Chief Financial Officer
Eric Clark, Director of Budget
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Dyann Mack, Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Lauren Driver, Esq., Mr. Ben Richardson, Mr. Daniel Reimers, Ms. Deborah Judd, Mr. Eric Clark, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo.

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

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, was joined by Mr. Daniel Reimers, Director of Staff and Labor Relations, Ms. Deborah Judd, Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget. Mr. Reimers led a discussion, answered questions, and informed the Board on negotiations.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment
With no further business, Dr. Mueller motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Norkaitis, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:52 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call
Vice-President Wade Sewell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Lauren Paige, who was absent.

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

Adoption of Agenda
Vice-President Wade Sewell called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Norkaitis made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and adopted in a voice vote of 8-0. (Includes 1 affirmative student member vote). Ms. Paige was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance
Dr. Carol Mueller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item A. HCPS Community Partner Presentation: "Nature Worx"
Ms. Mary Beth Stapleton, Manager of Family and Community Partnerships, introduced Mr. Phil Hosmer, Executive Director and Ms. Lisa Robbins, Director of Operations from "Nature Worx" for their presentation. Mr. White and Ms. Robbins provided the Board a presentation on their Nature Woks program and shared their program's goal to help students slow down, connect with nature, get a break from screens, and return to the classroom more focused and ready to learn.

Public Comments
Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. Vice-President Wade Sewell 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 five (5) people registered and provided in-person public comment: David Bauer, Allison McCord, Cristina Lanocha, David Faby, Dom Heath.

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
Vice-President Wade Sewell announced no "Old Business" was scheduled for discussion.

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report: September 2026
2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: August 17, September 8, September 14, and September 28, 2026

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Norkaitis. The consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 8-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Paige was absent.

New Business

Item C. Presentation on Harford County Public Schools Intentional and Purposeful Use of Classroom Technology
The Board received a presentation from Ms. Heather Kutcher, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Dr. Martha Barwick, Supervisor of Innovation in Learning. Ms. Kutcher and Dr. Barwick gave the Board an overview of the initial recommendations developed to support the intentional and purposeful use of technology and the digital well-being of Harford County Public Schools' students. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and Mrs. Hahn asked if "Wikipedia" is still accessible on student devices. Dr. Barwick confirmed that "Wikipedia" is blocked an all HCPS devices.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment
With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

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

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Wade Sewell
Vice-President, Board of Education of Harford County

Attached

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

OPEN SESSION: 5:00 PM – 5:05 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: 5:05 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
Registered speaker's allotted time shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes for both individuals and individuals representing groups.

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a hybrid Business Meeting on Monday, October 26, 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 26, 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 26, 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.