



Board Meeting

May 8, 2000

Karen L. Wolf, *President*
David H. Galbreath, *Vice President*
Eugene C. Chandler
Thomas D. Hess
Robert S. Magee
Robert B. Thomas, Jr.
Terry R. Troy
Catherine L. Brodo,
Student Representative
Jacqueline C. Haas, *Superintendent*
Secretary/Treasurer

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Education of Harford County President **Karen L. Wolf** called the open session of the Board of Education to order at 7:15 p.m., May 8, 2000, in the theater of Fallston High School. Mrs. Wolf directed that a roll call be taken with Board Member **Robert S. Magee** being temporarily absent (Mr. Magee arrived at 7:20 p.m.) and Student Representative **Catherine L. Brodo** absent for the meeting. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** moved that the agenda be adopted with the adjustment that Item "D," Appointment of the Assistant Supervisor in Construction," be removed and ratification of the Harford County Education Services Council (HCESSC) be substituted. That motion passed 6 to 0. Board Member **Terry R. Troy** moved and Board Vice President **David H. Galbreath** seconded the motion that Items "A" through "C" and Item "E" of the Consent Agenda be separated from Item "D." The motion passed 5 to 0 with Board Member **Eugene C. Chandler** abstaining. Mr. Galbreath led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Board Member **Thomas**

D. Hess, the Board unanimously approved Items "A" through "C" and Item "E" of the Consent Agenda – Minutes of Board meetings April 5 (Executive Session), April 8 (Budget Work Session), April 10 (Business Meeting), April 11 (Budget Work Session), and April 17 (Business Meeting); Monthly Report on Personnel – showing those employees who have left the school system or have been placed on leaves of absence or who are newly employed (during the month of April); Affirmation of Case Numbers 18-99-00, 19-99-00, and 21-99-00; and the approval of a change in the 2000-2001 Harford County Public School Calendar. The change in the calendar removes President's Day, February 19, 2001, as a potential inclement weather makeup day. House Bill 415, which was passed into law during the recently completed legislative session, mandates that President's Day be a school holiday in Maryland. The adjustment means that the first four days after the end of the regular school year would be used as inclement weather makeup days. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board voted 6 to 0 to ratify the proposed contract with HCESC, which represents secretaries, clerks, instructional assistants and other non-certificated personnel, for the 2000-2001 school year.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mitch Vocke, representing the North Harford High School Alumni Association as that organization's president, and David Fentress, president of the North Harford High School, told the Board that representatives of the two groups had met on April 12th, and had come up with a solution to the naming of the North Harford High School football field. The compromise entails the placing of six memorial stones around the flagpole at the stadium, with each stone bearing the name of a North Harford High alumni who perished in the Vietnam War. The area would be called the "Larry L. Robinson Garden of Remembrance." In addition, Mr. Fentress said the NHHS Class of 2000 would present a \$500 scholarship to a graduate who exemplifies service and tolerance. Mr. Thomas asked where the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 588 group stands on the issue. Wayne Shapiro, a social studies teacher at North Harford High School who is also co-sponsor of the Senior Class, said that the group had said they would take no position on the issue. Mr. Thomas said the only way he would agree to support the compromise is if the Chapter expressed its support. Mr. Galbreath said he feels the compromise involving the honoring of the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice without naming the stadium is a good one. Mrs. Wolf said the decision could be made at the May 22nd Board meeting, in time to allow the NHHS seniors to dedicate the garden at their May 31st senior assembly. Mr. Thomas moved that the Board suspend its bylaw restricting memorials on school grounds, with action to be taken on May 22nd. Mr. Galbreath and Mr. Hess seconded the motion which was supported by the Board 7 to 0. Mr. Thomas also asked Mr. Galbreath to amend his original motion in April to rename the stadium the Larry L. Robinson Vietnam Veterans Memorial Stadium to dedicated the flagpole area as the Larry L. Robinson Garden of Remembrance. Mr. Galbreath agreed and the motion was supported 7 to 0 with a final vote to be

taken on May 22nd.

William Rogers, a teacher at Havre de Grace High School and a resident of the community, told the Board that he would like to see the Havre de Grace High football field officially renamed the "James R. Harris Memorial Field." Mr. Harris was a Havre de Grace High School student who made the first point in the school's new gymnasium (1957) as a basketball player and taught at the school from 1968 until his death in 1993. Mr. Harris was football coach at the school and athletic director. The football field scoreboard now bears the name of Mr. Harris and Mr. Rogers said "90 percent of those in Havre de Grace" believe it was renamed in 1993 for Mr. Harris. Mr. Hess, who was a member of the Board at that time, said the field had been dedicated to Mr. Harris' memory, not renamed. Mrs. Wolf said the Board would take the recommendation under advisement and reminded Mr. Rogers that, if the Board does decide to consider the renaming, a 60-day waiting period to allow for public comment would be instituted.

A series of speakers spoke on the Board's decision to cut 19.5 Schoolwide Enrichment/Gifted and Talented teachers from the school system budget for the 2000-2001 school year. **Joan Cable**, enrichment teacher at Roye-Williams Elementary School; **Gay Bowen Hull** of Wellington Way in Baldwin; **Delane Lewis** of Pemberton Ridge in Baldwin; **Ann Cogan** of Chesapeake Drive in Havre de Grace; **Noah Cogan**, son of Mrs. Cogan; **Lisa Tannenbaum**, daughter of **Lee Tannenbaum** of Brighton Lane in Bel Air; **Paul Tannenbaum** of Idlewild Road in Bel Air; **John Caspero** of Runnymede Lane in Bel Air; **Sandy Gorrell**, an enrichment teacher at Youth's Benefit Elementary School; **Madelein Synnott**, teacher specialist in enrichment for the school system; **Wendy Weyant** of Glen Elyn Way in Baldwin; **Lauren Brown** of Hardley Court; and **Therese Delahunty-Brown**, enrichment teacher at Church Creek Elementary School, all spoke, urging the Board to find a way to restore the schoolwide enrichment/gifted and talented positions.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPOSED POLICIES

Acting Deputy Superintendent **Robert C. Williams** and Mr. Ekey presented the Board with proposed Board Policies on School Sponsored Dances and the Use of Metal Detectors. The Board had asked Mr. Williams, as head of the Board Policy Review Committee, to develop a policy restricting those over 21 years of age from attending school sponsored dances as guests, and to develop a metal detector use policy which would allow principals to request the use of the devices by police authorities if the need arose. Mrs. Wolf said that the Board would not vote on the proposed policies at the meeting, but would instead hold the proposals over for 30 days. Mr. Thomas said he is fearful the use of metal detectors will "take the school system to a quasistructured penal institution." He said he feels it is a very serious matter to leave the sole decision on the use of metal detectors to the principal. Mr. Thomas said, prior to the scan, he feels the superintendent should be consulted and give approval. Mr. Magee said the

principal has the authority now to conduct searches and to call police in situations which warrant such action. Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler asked about potential litigation involving the use of metal detectors. Mr. Hess said that principals have the authority now, and are using it, to call in police.

SUSPENSION OF BOARD BYLAW ON ENDING TIME OF MEETINGS

With the 10:00 p.m. curfew time for the introduction of new issues at a Board meeting approaching, Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Hess seconded that the Board suspend its bylaw to allow for the continuation of the meeting. The Board voted 6 to 0 (Mr. Galbreath was absent at the time) to support the motion.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – PROPOSED FIRE/ RESCUE EMT CADET PROGRAM

Mrs. Haas asked Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction **Deborah Heiberger** to discuss the possibility of the introduction of a Fire/Rescue Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Cadet Program for public high school students. The Fire/Rescue EMT Committee began working in September 1999 and recently submitted a Report of Findings and Recommendations to Mrs. Haas. Members of the committee found that the incorporation of a Fire/Rescue EMT Cadet Program would meet the needs of students, the Harford County Public Schools, and the Harford community. Committee members have visited other school systems and worked with the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute. Four sub-committees were formed and met on issues surrounding legality, marketing and curricular concerns. The superintendent recommended that the school system move forward in working with the County government, the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute, and the Association of Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services of Harford County for a September 2001 implementation of the Fire/Rescue EMT Cadet Program. Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, the Board voted 7 to 0 to support the superintendent's recommendation.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Magee thanked Dr. Seccurro for his efforts as the "driving force" behind career and technology education for more than two decades. He called Dr. Seccurro a "good friend and valued employee," and commended him for his work with the Association of Public School Administrators and Supervisors of Harford County (APSASHC). Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Hess seconded that the Board move to change Article III of its bylaws (service on Board grandfathered). The Board approved the holding over of the motion for 30 days to allow for public comment and possible action at the June 13th meeting. Mr. Hess noted that the Montgomery Board of Education has suspended its policy on the student use of communication devices in school and said that the Harford Board needs to keep an eye on developments. Mrs. Wolf said that she will direct the Board Policy Review Committee to review the system's policy on eligibility and the issuance of plaques in naming portions of buildings in honor of

individuals. Mr. Magee asked about the practice of ruling a student ineligible to participate in extra curricular activities and was told it has been the practice to declare a student ineligible for 60 days. Mr. Thomas said that a representative of the Public Safety Training Institute, who was involved with the Columbine tragedy, will be in the area for a presentation on June 23rd. Mrs. Wolf reported that Del. **Charles Boutin** has asked the State Attorney General to provide an opinion on the controversy between the County Government and the Harford County Public School System concerning the placing of funds by the County into a "fifteenth category" contingency fund. Mrs. Wolf said the Board needs to respond. Mr. Thomas said the Board needs to officially ask Mr. Boutin to receive a copy of the opinion when it is issued. Mr. Hess said it is a courtesy he wishes the Board had been extended, but was not, in the letter written to the Attorney General. Mrs. Wolf said the "Friends of Harford" organization has requested a Board representative. She added that a contingent from the school system and Board would travel to Western High School the next day to find out which projects will be funded by the State government this year.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** presented a series of reports to the Board. Joined by Magnolia Middle School Principal **Joseph Mascari**, the superintendent discussed with the Board a proposal by Baltimore Clayworks to have a mural reflecting the works of **Harriet Tubman** painted on one outside wall of the school by a professional artist. One of only five in the state, the mural would be painted sometime in July. Mr. Thomas moved and Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler seconded that proposal be laid on the table for 30 days to be voted on by the Board at its first business meeting in June. The motion was unanimously supported by the Board. Mrs. Haas reported that she and members of the Board had attended the dedication of the William H. Amoss Performing Arts Center at Harford Technical High School on the previous Sunday. She also reported that **William B. Seccurro**, who was in the audience, had announced his retirement, effective July 1, 2000, and will assume the position of CEO of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Haas thanked Dr. Seccurro for his 34½ years of service to the Harford County Public School System. Mrs. Haas said that she apologizes for any misunderstanding that came from an article printed in "The Aegis" quoting her as saying the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee had been responsible for the recommendation to remove Schoolwide Enrichment/Gifted and Talented teachers from the budget. She said the proposal was included in the CBAC's recommendations, but that it is only the Board which has the power to make such a decision and it doesn't really matter from whom the recommendation came. The superintendent discussed the dedication/open house of Bakerfield Elementary's renovated building the previous Sunday. She informed the Board that **Dan Purcell**, a junior at Fallston High School, had been elected by the Harford County Regional Association of

Student Councils to be the Student Representative to the Board for the 2000-2001 school year. Mrs. Haas asked Director of Elementary Education **Patricia Skebeck** to inform the Board about summer student feeding programs which will continue despite the cut of elementary summer school. Mrs. Skebeck said summer meals will be available for five schools --Magnolia, Edgewood, Havre de Grace, Hall's Cross Roads, and William Paca/Old Post Road elementaries -- at two sites -- Havre de Grace and William Paca/Old Post Road - with transportation to be provided from the schools to the two feeding sites.. The superintendent also reported on the difficulties encountered by the 90 degrees plus temperatures of the school day just completed and the absence of air conditioning at many buildings. She said that only three of the Harford public schools are totally non-air conditioned (Deerfield, Joppatowne and Meadowvale elementaries), but many other buildings are partially air conditioned. And, Mrs. Haas said, because of the sudden need to switch from heating to air conditioning, many of the school systems did not operate properly or had not been converted. She said it remains the system's goal not to send students home, because of the uncertainties in the community where many students have both parents working and homes may be locked or parents may not be able to make arrangements for their children. Mr. Thomas said that he is anxious to find data on the impact of Joppatowne Elementary and others which lack air conditioning on student performance on the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP), which began its two-week program that day. He said he feels the heat may have a negative impact on student performance. Mrs. Haas also spoke about the NAACP annual dinner which was held the previous Saturday evening. She said the event had been very enjoyable and a positive experience.

PRESENTATION -- SYSTEM USE OF INTERNET AND E-MAIL

Superintendent Haas asked Director of Information Services **Andrew Moore** and Supervisor of Educational Technology **Phyllis VanWinkle** to discuss an "acceptable use telecommunications policy." Mr. Moore said that an Internet use policy is needed and the school system is "ill prepared" to face impending challenges of student and employee use of the vehicle. Dr. VanWinkle said that procedures for the use of copyright material, publishing student works or student information on the web, and on-line user agreements are needed. She said that Mrs. Skebeck and Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey** along with Director of Public Information **Donald Morrison**, principals and supervisors and others will work on the acceptable use policy with a goal of having the procedures in place in time for the 2000-2001 school year. The effort will involved changes/additions to the Board Policy Manual as well as information in the Procedures Manual. Mrs. Troy suggested that teachers be added to the committee. Mr. Magee suggested that Mrs. Troy be added to the committee as the Board's representative. Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the committee be formed. The Board unanimously supported the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County will be held on Monday, May 22, 2000, in the Fallston High School Theater, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Board business meetings will be held through June at Fallston High School.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Board meetings or other matters affecting the Harford County Public Schools, contact the system's Director of Public Information, 410-588-5203; or call the system's Customer Relations Action Line, 410-638-0022 (which can also be used as a 24-hour-a-day tip line for safety concerns).

The Harford County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. Inquiries related to the policies of the Board of Education of Harford County should be directed to the Director of Public Information at 410-588-5203.