



Board Meeting

December 11, 2000

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

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County was called to order on December 11, 2000 at 7:05 p.m. in the cafeteria of Edgewood High School by Board President **David H. Galbreath**. Mr. Galbreath directed that a roll call be taken with all Board members reporting present except **Thomas D. Hess**, whom Mr. Galbreath announced was officially excused from attending due to a family emergency. Board Member **Karen L. Wolf** moved and Board Vice President **Eugene C. Chandler** seconded that the agenda be adopted as printed. The Board supported the motion 6 to 0. Mr. Galbreath led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance..

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Sally Cherry, president of the Joppatowne High School PTA for the past two years, thanked the Board for its support during that time and said she hoped to introduce the school's new PTA president, **Kathy Dennis** and Vice President **Val Dennis** at an upcoming meeting.

Raymond J. Willis, co-chair of the Board's Citizen Advisory Committee on Special Education, presented a report on the group's prioritized recommendations for programs to be included in the 2001-02 school system operating budget. Mr. Willis listed assistive technology, recruitment of

additional staffing, integration of the Aberdeen attendance area (inclusion), two additional elementary support programs, contractual funding for physical therapists, additional speech therapists for John Archer School's post-secondary program, two additional work experience instructional assistants, funding for additional staff training opportunities, additional funding for Extended Year Services, increased staffing at the pre-school level to maintain a 1:4 class ratio, increase in funding for non-public school placements, and funding increase to make certain that instructional assistants and instructional aids receive competitive salaries. Mr. Willis said the group had met on October 2, 2000 with 40 people in attendance providing 40 testimonials. He said an overview of the Special Education program had been provided by the program's director, **Janet Ambrose**, pointing out that the system is now serving 5,900 students.

Barbara Yost, president of the Harford County Education Services Council (HCEC), which negotiates for clerks, secretaries, nurses, instructional assistants, and other non-certificated staff, said employees in her organization are among the lowest paid in the state. She said, in particular, instructional assistants' jobs have changed from being "teachers' aids" to a complex set of tasks involving the creation of lesson plans, working with computers, and working one-on-one with students. She said the group has been told to "wait till next year" in obtaining salary improvements, but the time has come to make good on those promises.

OLD BUSINESS

PRESENTATIONS

REPORT FROM HCEA

Paul Schatz, president of the Harford County Education Association (HCEA), which negotiates for teachers, said the organization would like to plan a workshop on interest-based bargaining for February or March and would like to include the Board of Education membership. He said three counties – Carroll, Anne Arundel and Montgomery -- to his knowledge now use interest based bargaining models in negotiations. He also credited the work of **Debbie Moore** in the school system's Payroll Office in providing prompt and accurate information to his group.

UPDATE ON RELOCATION OF ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

William M. Ekey, director of secondary education, presented a report on recommendations from the Aberdeen High School Relocation Committee, which was charged with providing a proposed plan for implementation in moving students from that school's South Building during the three years the

building will be razed and a replacement building erected. Mr. Ekey said the Board had directed him to establish a committee of parents and teachers to make the recommendations. Mr. Ekey said the group met four times and began with an aim of minimizing the impact on Aberdeen High and Aberdeen Middle School (where Aberdeen High ninth graders would be relocated). He said moving high school students creates significantly greater problems than similar moves which have involved elementary students in recent years. He said there would be seven relocatables involved, two at the high school and five at the middle school. The group also recommends added staff for both schools and an upgrade in the electrical service for the North Building of Aberdeen High, which will remain during the building of the replacement school and will house tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders. Mr. Ekey said the cost of the relocation would be about \$900,000, with \$500,000 of that amount needed in the first year. In answer to questions from Board members, Mr. Ekey said the upgrades to the North Building would pay long lasting benefits because the system plans to use the structure for other educational purposes, once the new Aberdeen High School is occupied. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** asked if any of the money had been requested from the State's Interagency Committee for School Construction (IAC) and was told it had not. He added that the County Executive had not seen the request as yet, either, pending review by the Board. Aberdeen High Principal **David Volrath** and Aberdeen Middle School Principal **Gladys Pace** joined Mr. Ekey in the presentation to the Board, both expressing their support for the committee's recommendations. The Board was asked by the Superintendent to include additional funds in the FY 02 budget and in future budgets to support the recommendations of the committee. The Board took no action on the proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Board Member **Terry R. Troy**, the Board voted unanimously to approve items on the consent agenda including minutes of the November 27, 2000 Business Meeting, and the monthly report on personnel as of November 30, 2000, including names of those who have left the school system, been placed on leaves of absence, or who have been newly employed.

PRESENTATIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** provided the Board with information from the release of the 2000 Maryland School Performance Report (MSPP), which

had occurred on November 29, 2000. Mrs. Haas said the school system had maintained its third place ranking on the Composite Index which measures the performance on the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP) of the 24 school systems in the state. She said that three Harford schools – Jarrettsville Elementary and Bel Air and Fallston middle schools – had achieved overall CI's in excess of the 70 percent of its students passing the six test areas the state has established as the level of satisfactory. Mrs. Haas said the system had turned in the excellent performance despite funding which the 2000 MSPP report showed had fallen to 24th and last in per-pupil expenditures. She said the system will need to have the funds to provide a comprehensive professional development program, money to support teachers and administrators, time to use the school calendar as a learning resource, intervention programs in every school to help those students who are falling behind, and an expansion of the Research, Testing and Evaluation office to fulfill the promise that "Every Kid Counts." Mrs. Haas said the MSPAP results can be used as a diagnostic tool to see where improvements need to be made. Mr. Thomas asked why the system dropped from 18th to 24th in per-pupil funding. Assistant Superintendent for Business Services **John Markowski** told Mr. Thomas the figure is provided by the state based on actual expenditures. He said the report released with the 2000 MSPP covered spending for the 1998-99 school year. Mr. Thomas said that curriculum and professional development has been cut by the Board due to lack of funding in recent years and that it is not out of the question that Harford's CI could fall to seventh or tenth unless changes are made. He said the fact that Harford's CI has slipped two years in a row is "a warning bell for me." Mr. Galbreath said the Board does not have control of how much funding is received, but that it does control new ways of using staff. He said new strategies for using staff as mentors is possible. Mrs. Haas said there needs to be "imbedded staff development" rather than one-shot days used for that purpose. She reminded the Board that, as part of its efforts to balance the budget last April, some teacher specialists had been cut and it is they who help teachers implement curriculum. She said that Howard County had recently turned an underutilized school into a school for professional development.

In another part of her report, Mrs. Haas said Harford County would need 85 additional secondary teachers and ten more elementary teachers to implement the Board's class size goals in the county schools.

In addition, she asked the Board to clarify its proposal for a work session in January to talk about school safety/metal detectors. She was told that Board members had agreed January 29, 2000 would be the date for the meeting. Mr. Thomas said the topic for the meeting would be safety and security with the use of metal detectors as a sub-set of the session. He said the expert he is proposing the Board contract can talk on both topics. He reminded the Board that he has a pending motion on the use of metal detectors as a pilot program in two area high schools. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said he had been under the impression that the

Board and key staff members would be going to see metal detectors in action.

INTERNET-BASED CURRICULUM

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Deborah J. Heiberger** presented the Board with a report on the state's study of web-based learning opportunities in Maryland. She said eight Maryland local school systems reported on a statewide survey that they are currently using web-delivered courses in a variety of ways for primary students. She said, in the late spring, the State Superintendent had established an Internet-based Learning Study Group to focus on current models and uses of web-delivered courses for high school students. Mrs. Wolf discussed the possibility of a "virtual high school" which would use web-based courses. Mr. Magee asked about the CoNect School model in Harford schools which uses technology and project based learning. Dr. Heiberger said the five local elementary schools are in the third and final year of the model and that four of the five schools had seen their CI's go up in the most recent release of MSPAP data. Mrs. Wolf mentioned that the Board's current policy prohibits cell phones, pagers and Palm Pilots for student use and that the policy was written before the state began to explore such web-based opportunities. Mr. Galbreath asked that the topic be brought back for further Board consideration at a later date.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Wolf said that a recent Maryland State Department of Education bulletin discussed the possibility of State Superintendent **Nancy S. Grasmick** tripling funding for school libraries provided local systems match the state appropriation.

Mrs. Troy thanked Student Representative to the Board **Daniel E. Purcell** for his invitation to Board members to attend the recent Middle School Leadership Training conference put on by the Harford County Regional Association for Student Councils. She said the session was a resounding success.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said he continues to be a member of the APG Alliance which is supporting a magnet school for Aberdeen High School. He said the group is attempting to enhance the image of Aberdeen Proving Ground as a center for technology.

Mr. Purcell thanked Mrs. Troy and Mrs. Wolf and Mr. Thomas for attending the Middle School conference.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the seconds of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:07

p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Following the December 18, 2000 business meeting of the Board in the cafeteria of Edgewood High School, the Board will resume its meeting schedule with a series of work sessions on the proposed 2001-02 school system budget as well as regular business meetings. On January 3, 2001, the Board will meet in the Bel Air Middle School gymnasium from 7:00 until 9:30 p.m. to hear public comment on the proposed budget and to hold a workshop on the topic. On January 8th, at the same location, the Board will hold its next business meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. On January 9th and January 11th, at the HEAT Center, the Board will hold two workshops from 7:00 until 9:30 p.m. on the proposed budget. The Board will hold a fourth budget workshop at Norrisville Elementary School on Saturday, January 13th from 9:00 a.m. until noon in the school's media center. Then, if needed, the Board will hold a fifth work session on the budget at Forest Hill Elementary School in the media center from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. On January 22nd, the Board will then hold its next regular business meeting, at Bel Air Middle School in the gymnasium, beginning at 7:00 p.m. On January 29th, in the Bel Air Middle School media center, the Board is scheduled to hold a work session with the tentative topic of school safety and security as the topic. The meeting is slated to begin at 7:00 p.m. Board business meetings in January, February and March are to be held at Bel Air Middle School, with the meetings due to shift to North Harford High School for the April, May, and June quarter. A schedule of all Board meetings, including work sessions, is available on the HCPS web site – www.co.ha.md.us/harford_schools.

MORE INFORMATION

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