



## Board Meeting

*August 13, 2001*

Eugene C. Chandler, *President*  
Terry R. Troy, *Vice President*  
David H. Galbreath  
Thomas D. Hess  
Robert S. Magee  
Robert B. Thomas, Jr.  
Karen L. Wolf  
Samuel S. Fromille,  
*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 by Board President **Eugene C. Chandler** at 6:02 p.m. in the lecture hall of Southampton Middle School. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler asked for a quorum call of all Board Members with all reporting present except **Karen L. Wolf** whom the Board President said was excused from the meeting because of adverse weather conditions which made driving hazardous from the Maryland Eastern Shore where she and her family had been vacationing. Board Vice President **Terry R. Troy** moved that Item 'L' under Old Business -- Recommendations for Solutions, Southampton Middle School and C. Milton Wright High School Overcrowding, be deleted from the evening's agenda and that the appointment of a Reading Excellence Coordinator be substituted in its spot. Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** seconded the motion which was passed by the Board 6 to 0. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** moved that the agenda be accepted as amended. Mrs. Troy seconded the motion and it was passed 6 to 0. Student Representative to the Board **Samuel S. Fromille** 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 Mr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to approve items listed on the Consent Agenda, including: Minutes of the July 9, 2001 Board Business Meeting, the Monthly Report on Personnel, Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards, Appointment of members for Special Education Advisory Committee,

Award of Contract -- Paper and Duplicating Supplies, and Affirmation of Student Appeal Hearing Decision.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PROPOSED ETHICS POLICY**

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources **Donald W. Harmon** told the Board that the proposed changes in the Board's Ethics Policy involved the removal of complaint procedures and their placement in the system's Administrative Handbook, in keeping with the streamlining practice of other Board Policies. In addition, Dr. Harmon said the Board's Ethics Panel would review the financial reports filed by school system administrators annually in September.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** presented her Superintendent's Report to the Board, informing them that she has been named co-chair of a committee appointed by State Superintendent **Nancy S. Grasmick** which is looking at the possibility of mandatory or targeted full-day kindergarten issues including age of entry and curriculum related matters. She said that the State Superintendent has also formed a "visionary panel" similar to the Sondheim Commission which set the tone for educational reform that took place during the 1990s. She said the group will look at issues which have arisen concerning the Maryland School Performance Program (MSPP) and High School Assessments, and that the core group will examine the issue of closing the achievement gap between majority and minority students, the teacher and administrator shortfall, the assessment issue; while the sub-group on which she is serving will examine the issue of school leadership. She said a report is due to the State Superintendent in December.

Mrs. Haas said a school climate survey will be conducted at mid-year and that two samples have been received from the Harford County Education Association (HCEA). She said the system will be looking at other samples and added the survey would be done at mid-year to allow for new teachers to have had the opportunity to "settle in."

The Superintendent said that the "interest based bargaining" training would occur for Board Members and members of the school system administrative staff involved in bargaining with associations representing school employees on September 14, 15, and 17, 2001.

Mrs. Haas said the school system is exploring the possibilities of an International Baccalaureate magnet program at Edgewood High School to be implemented in September 2002. She said she has spoken with EHS Principal **Joseph Schmidt** who has expressed his support for the program which would have about 200 seats and would be open to students throughout the county. Mrs. Haas said the program would join the Finance Academy at EHS, Cisco Networking at Joppatowne High, Agricultural studies at North Harford High, and the possibility of the math/science/technology magnet program at Aberdeen High

School (provided the Federal government supplies the funds necessary for the construction and operation of the magnet) as examples of magnet programs which the Board said it wanted developed at the high schools.

Mrs. Haas said that there are limited openings that continue to exist for school professional employees as the 2001-02 school year is about to begin. Openings in the area of math, English, and Special Education teachers as well as school psychologists (where there has been a 25 percent turnover) exist.

The Superintendent said that the recalculation of school capacities caused by order of the State's Interagency Committee for School Construction reducing the multiplying factor from 90 percent to 85 percent has resulted in the loss of 500 student seats in building capacity at both the middle and high schools in Harford County's Public Schools.

In answer to questions from the Board, Mrs. Haas said if the birth date necessary for pre-kindergarten/kindergarten/first graders were to be changed from its current December 31st to September 1st, it would result in the one year loss of 33 percent in funding for students at those ages from the state. She said, if full-day kindergarten is instituted, it would result in the necessity to increase existing capacity at local schools by a factor of one-half (since students now attend for only a half day). She said the state has made no commitment to supply the funds that would be needed to increase school capacity. Mrs. Haas said that some sub-divisions which currently have full-day kindergarten use private facilities for the purpose.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler asked and was told by Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey** that the state's change in the capacity formula would result in a reduction from 1,270 to 1,200 in the state rated capacity of the new Aberdeen High School. Mrs. Haas said the system will change its official capacity figures when the September 30 school enrollment figures are released.

## **RECOGNITION**

### **PAST BOARD PRESIDENT DAVID H. GALBREATH**

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler presented Board Past President **David H. Galbreath** with a plaque recognizing the year -- July 2000 through July 2001 -- that Mr. Galbreath had served as Board President. Mr. Galbreath thanked the Board and the public for its support during that time.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Fran Matthews**, Athletic Director at North Harford High School, urged the Board to increase the funding for athletic field maintenance and improvements. She cited many problems that exist with the maintenance of fields using the \$1,000 allotment (she said which had been cut from a former \$3,000 per year). Mrs. Matthews also mentioned that longtime Edgewood High School Athletic Director **Bob Slagle** had left the school system

and said there is a need to make the athletic director positions fulltime.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PRIORITIES, FY 2003-2008**

Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata** and Supervisor of Construction **Kathleen Sanner** discussed the proposed Capital Budget which the Board has been asked to approve for FY 2003 and the ensuing years of the proposal through FY 2008 on which the Board is not required to take formal action. Mr. Licata explained that the Havre de Grace track/stadium issue, which had been a point of discussion at the Board's July 9 meeting, had involved an original proposal to expend \$75,000 for track improvements which had been bumped to \$100,000 and the \$400,000 when it was realized that the project would necessitate the movement of the track from its current location. He said the \$400,000 is available to be incorporated with additional funds being sought by a community-based committee which is attempting to have a new stadium constructed for the school. Board Member **Robert S. Magee** suggested that Aberdeen High North be eventually converted into a professional development center for county teachers and administrators, or to a new central administrative center, or to an alternative education center for students. Mr. Thomas echoed Mr. Magee's sentiments, adding he would particularly support its conversion to an administrative center.

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Mr. Galbreath, the Board voted 5 to 1 (Mr. Thomas dissenting) to add \$331,400 in local money and \$538,000 in state money to its request to be used for a new roof at Magnolia Middle School. Then, action on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the seconds of Mr. Galbreath and Mr. Hess, the Board voted 6 to 0 to approve the entire package for FY 2003 which would involved a request of just over \$15 million in county funds for capital projects.

### **AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR ABERDEEN HIGH REPLACEMENT SCHOOL**

Mrs. Sanner told the Board that it would eventually be asked to approve a total of 23 bid packages for Aberdeen High School's replacement building at a total of \$32.7 million. She said, at this meeting, there was a need to approve only two of those packages in the Multiple Prime Construction Management process. Approval was sought for site improvements (Dixie Construction -- \$3,083,311) and concrete work (Schuster -- \$1,458,442). Action on the motion of Mr. Magee and the second of Mr. Hess, the proposal was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Steve Hillyer**, coach of the 2000-01 Joppatowne High School Envirothon team, and three members of the team, appeared to tell the Board that the group had topped a first in the county and first in the state performance by finishing seventh in the international competition held in July at Jackson, Mississippi. The group had also finished first in one division of the competition -- forestry. Mr. Hillyer said, in eight years, Joppatowne High

teams had won more than 50 local, state or international titles, ranking in the upper 100th percent of the 5,000 to 10,000 students who had taken part in the Envirothon program during that time. Mr. Hillyer told the Board that Maryland will host the 2003 international Envirothon.

**David Glen** of Havre de Grace appeared to urge the Board to oppose the potential changing of the Havre de Grace High School nickname/mascot from “Warrior” as has been suggested by the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and in a resolution passed 10-2 by the Maryland State Board of Education. Mr. Glen said such a change would be expensive and that the symbol, far from being intended to be offensive to Native Americans, is used to honor the heritage of the Havre de Grace area.

**Cindy Poteet**, a seven-year coach of girls teams at North Harford High, appeared to support Mrs. Matthews’ position calling for additional funds for field maintenance. She reported many problems which have beset her field hockey and lacrosse programs in dealing with divots and ruts in the field caused not only by the high school teams but recreation teams and vandalism.

#### **PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING -- PHASE II -- JOHNSON CONTROLS**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the seconds of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Troy, the Board voted unanimously approve Phase II of the Performance Contract Project with Johnson Controls which includes lighting and other enhancements to seven schools -- Magnolia Elementary, Magnolia Middle, Joppatowne High, Fallston High, Southampton Middle, Riverside Elementary, and Homestead Elementary -- at a “cost neutral” basis to the school budget (energy savings equaling the amount spent on improvements); and at Bel Air High School at a cost of up to \$50,000 annually. In addition to lighting retrofits and upgrades, heating/ventilation and air conditioning upgrades, facility management system upgrades, water conservation measures, systemic duct cleaning, systemic air balancing, and equipment replacements are to be undertaken at the schools identified to provide for more efficient use of energy.

#### **PROPOSED POLICY ON BOUNDARY EXCEPTIONS AND SCHOOL TRANSFERS**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted unanimously to support a proposed policy on Boundary Exceptions and School Transfers which establishes a framework for those desiring to have their children attend a school outside that assigned by virtue of residence. The policy directs that the administrative procedures and guidelines (approved by the Board at its July 9 meeting) will be reviewed on an annual basis each winter prior to the March 1 application period for the next school year.

#### **SETTING OF SAFETY/SECURITY PRIORITIES FOR 2001-02**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mr. Magee, the Board voted unanimously to approve five priorities in the area of safety/security for the school year

2001-02. The priorities would either be implemented or worked on during the coming school year. The priorities were lifted from a proposed safety/security plan which continues to be in preparation and review. The priorities are: Establish policies directly related to safety and security; develop school and site specific safety and critical incident response plans; require all staff and middle and high school students to wear picture identification cards; acquire software to capture suspension data and create suspension database; revise and update Emergency Procedures Manual and Critical Incident Response Plan into more user friendly format.

## **AGE OF ENTRANCE POLICY -- PRE-KINDERGARTEN, KINDERGARTEN, AND FIRST GRADE**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted unanimously to formalize into policy the existing practice of the Harford County Public School System in requiring that children reach the age of four by December 31 to be eligible for admittance to pre-kindergarten; five by December 31st to be eligible for kindergarten; and six by December 31st for admission into first grade. A four-year old may be considered, by request of the parent or guardian, may be admitted into kindergarten when it is documented by the school system that the child demonstrates capabilities warranting early entrance. Similarly, a five-year-old, upon request of the parent or guardian, may be admitted to the first grade when it is documented by the school system that the child's capabilities warrant advanced placement.

## **RATIFICATION OF BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENTS**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board took unanimous formal action to ratify the contracts with the four bargaining units which represent school employees. The agreements contain language that allows for some further study on areas such as instructional assistants' salaries, review of pay differentials for licenses and degrees, and a review of the school system's sick leave policy. The Board will also compile a record of credited, satisfactory out-of-county professional experience for teachers.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **INTERNET COURSES FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Mr. Ekey told the Board that the school system will "move more slowly" in its implementation of Internet courses in the area of alternative education than had been originally proposed. He said a "pilot" program will be instituted and that "voluntary" admissions to the alternative program will be severely curtailed at the outset of the upcoming school year. Traditional alternative education services for those students on long term suspensions or expulsions will be provided at Edgewood Middle School.

### **APPOINTMENT OF READING EXCELLENCE COORDINATOR**

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to appoint **D. June Clark** as Reading Excellence Coordinator for 2001-02.

## **NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler noted that Mrs. Wolf has officially been appointed by the Governor and sworn in for a second five-year term. He congratulated her on the reappointment.

Mr. Thomas officially withdrew his motion to have metal detector systems installed at two Harford County Public schools because, he said, there were not sufficient votes on the Board to pass the motion, and the system has been making significant progress on the safety/security issue. Mr. Thomas said he would like to see an official Board policy on extracurricular activities taking place outside in weather conditions where the heat index exceeds 100 degrees. Mrs. Haas said she provided information to schools that they should take note of the heat index as practice begins for fall athletic teams.

Mr. Magee said that he and Mrs. Troy will lead a committee in examining the school system's vision, mission and goals as included in its strategic plan to ensure they truly represent the ideals of the system. He said a group of invited members will meet on Sept. 21 from 7:30 until 9:30 a.m. at the HEAT Center in Aberdeen to look at the present vision and the goal is to have a new proposed vision by the conclusion of that meeting.

Mrs. Troy noted that the school system's Educator Hall of Fame program had received a Golden Achievement Award from the National School Public Relations Association.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Mrs. Troy, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. as a result of a unanimous vote by the Board.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next regular Board business meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 10, 2001 in the lecture hall of Southampton Middle School, beginning at 7:00 p.m. (Note: unless otherwise scheduled, the first Board business meeting each month will begin at 7:00 p.m. while the second monthly meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.)

## **MORE INFORMATION**

The school system is attempting to prevent duplications and reduce production/mailing costs of the printed versions of B-Line. Those who are able to access B-Line on line and who would like their copy of the printed version of the document discontinued should e-mail the Director of Public Information: [drmorrison.gs@hcps.k12.md.us](mailto:drmorrison.gs@hcps.k12.md.us); Or call the HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.

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