



Board Meeting

September 10, 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 -- William C. Smith, Work Experience Coordinator, at Harford Technical High School, spoke to the Board about the advantages of magnet school, adding that Baltimore County's use of magnet schools did not change the demographics, but did create transportation problems. Mr. Smith added that he took a \$5,000 pay cut to come to Harford and others considering a move to teach here may face \$10,000 to \$15,000 cuts. He urged collaboration between HCEA and the Board. **Monica Hidan** of Abingdon spoke to the Board about the need to build new schools in the Abingdon/Bel Air area. She said she was disappointed that she had not received "open and honest" answers to her questions about a boundary exception situation. **Donald Criss**, mechanic in the school system's Transportation office, told the Board about the need for replacement trucks in the Facilities Management fleet. **DeLane Lewis** of Baldwin urged the Board to reinstate a full time instrumental music teacher at Youth's Benefit Elementary School, pointing to the recent decision by the system to decrease the former full time instrumental teacher there to .8 (four days a week) with the remainder of his time (.2/one day a week) at Forest Hill Elementary School. **Brook McKeown**, a current seventh grader at Fallston Middle School and former Youth's Benefit Elementary School student, praised the influence of her elementary school instrumental music teacher and played a selection on her clarinet. **McKenzie Hull** of Baldwin, another former Youths Benefit Elementary School student and current Fallston Middle School seventh grader, added her request that the full time music teacher be restored there.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Prior to taking action on the Consent Agenda, Mrs. Wolf asked if, in Item "A", Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards, resurfacing tennis courts at a cost of \$700,000 was in the capital budget. Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata** said the funds were being provided by the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation and the item is a representative of the "joint use" projects shared by the school system and Parks and Recreation. Mrs. Wolf then moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the Consent Agenda, including Minutes of the August 6 Board Work Session and the August 14 Board Business Meeting; Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards, Award of Fuel Oil Contract, and Award of Unleaded Gasoline and #2 Diesel Fuel Contract be approved. The Board passed the motion 6 to 0 with an additional affirmative preferential vote by the student representative.

AWARD OF CONTRACT BID PACKAGES FOR ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Kathleen Sanner, Supervisor of Planning and Construction, and **Christopher Morton**, administrative assistant of planning and construction, presented information concerning the new Aberdeen High School project now underway. The school officials showed a series of video slides depicting various views of the building, which is to be completed during the 2003-04 school year. Mrs. Sanner reported that the North Building parking lot was completed in time for the start of school and that other improvements to the North Building necessary to permit the start of school for students in that building were completed. She said the efforts put the project slightly behind schedule but that it is anticipated the lost time can be made up without serious problems. Mrs. Sanner added that the demolition of the South Building is proceeding even though some asbestos removal, as expected, has been encountered. The package of bids, totaling \$25,594,084, contains 19 bids providing a variety of service. The recommendation was that only one alternate be added to the base bid package and that would cover "Low E" (energy saving) glass, at a cost of \$15,000 be approved. Mrs. Sanner said, due to the fact there is only a 3 percent contingency built into the project, alternatives which would have added a 142 seat auditorium balcony (which means the single level auditorium will house only 375 students), a greenhouse, a TV studio, and a student surveillance system are not being recommended. Several Board members expressed their regrets that the auditorium balcony, and other alternatives could not be part of the project and noted that there would be no way to add them later because of the sequence of the work. In response to a question from Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** about holding this item over until the September 24, 2001 meeting, Mrs. Sanner said that, because of the 90-day time frame which began with the opening of the bids in August, consideration could be carried over to that meeting, but not through the October 8, 2001 session. It was decided that further consideration of possible alternatives would take place at the Sept. 24th meeting. Acting on the motion of Past President **David H. Galbreath** and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board approved by a 6 to 0 vote (with an additional favorable preferential vote from Mr. Fromille) that the recommendation to approve the 19-bid package for \$25,594,084 with the \$15,000 alternative for the energy saving glass be approved.

MOVEMENT OF ITEM 'G' MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH HARFORD COUNTY JUVENILE DRUG COURT AND THE HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted unanimously to move ahead consideration of Item "G", a Memorandum of Understanding with the Harford County Juvenile Drug Court, to the next item to be discussed. Harford County Circuit Court Administrative Judge **William O. Carr**, Harford Office of State's Attorney **Denise Sulzbach**, and Assistant Supervisor in Pupil Services **Robert G. McCone** appeared to discuss a program, begun last October through a Federal grant, in which first time student drug offenders (ages 13 to 17) would enter the program as an alternative to incarceration. The \$500,000 grant over three years would involve a juvenile who has not been charged with a violent crime. Initial screening would be done by the Department of Juvenile Justice and then approved by an addictions counselor, assistant public defender or private attorney, State's Attorney, and Judge Carr. Upon successful completion of the program, the charge(s) against the youth would be stricken, and, at age 18, the youth may ask that any remaining findings of juvenile delinquency be stricken. The program includes initial care and random drug testing three times a week in its initial phase with after care and less frequent drug tests along with appearances before a judge as the program proceeds. The program is broken into three, three-month phases. The petitioners asked that the Board allow the superintendent to consider, on a case-by-case basis, setting aside normal procedures in the discipline of those involved with drug offenses if they agree to take part in the Juvenile Drug Court program. Board Member **Robert S. Magee** moved and Mrs. Wolf seconded, that the superintendent be authorized to sign the Memorandum of Understanding to allow the school system's participation in the Juvenile Drug Court pilot program. The motion passed unanimously (with Mr. Fromille casting an affirmative preferential vote).

PROPOSED ETHICS POLICY

Donald W. Harmon, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, submitted the proposed revision of the Board's Ethics Policy, which consists largely of administrative changes, moving much of the detail to the Administrative Handbook. Mrs. Wolf suggested that there be a statement made at the beginning of the policy as to the expectation for all employees and that it be pointed out that the procedures for filing complaints and other information could be found in the Administrative Handbook. Mrs. Haas said the revisions would be made and submitted to the Board at a later date for action.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR NORTH HARFORD HIGH SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

William M. Ekey, director of secondary education, presented the Board with the plan to create educational specifications for the proposed project which would modernize the 51-year-old North Harford High School building. Mr. Ekey said two major problems exist: where to house students during construction; and water and sewer concerns, since North Harford is served by wells and a septic system. Mr. Ekey said, if the building were to be reconstructed for the current enrollment, it would be 9,000 square feet larger, based on

current regulations. Mr. Ekey said the project is currently slated to start after July 2003 and that it would be completed in the winter of 2005-06. He said that five meetings have been scheduled for the initial work of the Educational Specifications Committee from October 11 through November 15 and that committee members are currently being identified. He said, during September, a core group of North Harford High staff and community members will consider the nature of the instructional program so that information and options can be provided to the committee as a “jump start” to the process. In addition, Mr. Ekey said that there is a consideration of capacity at the school. He said the State Department of Education would consider certifying the building for a larger capacity than the projected 1,255 students who would be there when the new structure opens if an approved redistricting plan is in effect. He suggested that, if the Board were to approve the movement of 400 students from C. Milton Wright High School as part of its balancing enrollment program, the North Harford building could be built for a 1,655 capacity and would be 240,000 square feet. He said the Superintendent is recommending that the Board provide information to the Educational Specifications Committee whether it would approve a transfer of a number of students to North Harford in order for the committee’s work to be guided by the ultimate size of the building. Mr. Ekey said the educational specifications need to be in place by March 2002. Mrs. Haas emphasized that the choice of 400 students was merely for discussion purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORTS FOR SOUTHAMPTON MIDDLE AND C. MILTON WRIGHT HIGH SCHOOLS

Mrs. Haas told the Board that Southampton Middle School is currently 400 students over capacity and C. Milton Wright High School is 250 students over capacity. She said that staff members have visited the schools and sought proposals that would ease the overcrowding and make the educational process at the schools more viable. She said that charts with suggestions have been accumulated and some have already been implemented. Included has been the provision of additional lockers and photocopy machines. Also, an extra administrative intern and staffing positions have been provided at Southampton Middle. **Thomas P. Ackerman**, newly appointed principal at C. Milton Wright High, appeared before the Board to review his updated suggestions for improvements. He said a technology storeroom has already been converted, with a portion being used as a classroom for the Work Experience Program, thus freeing up the former space being used by WEP for a regular classroom. The principal said his priorities for the school would be a psychologist, a full-time long term substitute, and secretarial assistance; with additional parking, a new intercom system, a new telephone system, three additional copy machines and a redesigned stairwell. Parking and bus access issues at Southampton Middle School were discussed. Several Board members made suggestions to be considered. Mr. Licata was asked to consult with State highways and State school officials about the requirements for an additional bus lane at Southampton. Mrs. Wolf inquired about the feasibility of enclosing an area at C. Milton Wright to create classrooms. Mr. Licata said it could be done, but would entail a number of issues, including expense and design. The Board directed that the chart presented to them be reorganized with those items already achieved eliminated and those remaining organized in priority order. A decision on which ones to be implemented

would be made at the September 24, 2001 business meeting.

SUSPENSION OF CURFEW

With the approach of 10:00 p.m., the time after which no new item can be considered without the Board's unanimous suspension of its rules, Mr. Magee moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the Board's rules be suspended to permit additional business items to be discussed. Mrs. Wolf moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that Item "H", Professional Development Plan, be moved to the September 24, 2001 meeting. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion with Mr. Fromille casting an affirmative preferential vote.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ekey discussed the impact of the high school improvement program, including the approach of high school assessments. He said that the \$75,000 that was used to alter the schedule at the end of last school year to permit orderly taking of both high school finals and high school assessments was not included in this year's budget. Mr. Ekey presented the Board with the schedule of high school assessments in the current school year. Last year, during assessment week, opening of school for non-tested, non-senior students was delayed. Again, this year, the administration of the high school assessments is scheduled during the same week as senior activities. Last year, the Board was presented with the options of: canceling senior exams, rescheduling senior exams to the week prior to the high school assessments, close school for the non-tested, non-senior students, or delay the start of school for the non-tested, non-senior students until 11:00 a.m. This year, an additional option exists: change the dates of graduation from the week of May 27 to the week of June 3. Senior activities would then take place during the week after the high school assessments. Mrs. Wolf said the options need to be in "the public eye" and suggested speaking with principals as well as having them address the issue with their communities during "Back to School" nights. She added the issue should be on the agenda of the Harford County Council of PTAs. Mr. Ekey said he would follow both suggestions.

OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO PRESENT NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Mrs. Troy discussed issues surrounding special education funding and said that resolutions in that area could be addressed during the Board's legislative position evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled Board business meeting will be held on September 24, 2001 in the lecture room at Southampton Middle School, beginning at 6:30 p.m. a work session on Title I school improvement plans and legislative positions is scheduled for September 19. Beginning with the October 8, 2001 meeting and for the October through December quarter, Board business meetings will be held at Fallston Middle School.

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; Or call the HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.

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