



## Board Meeting

*February 25, 2002*

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**

Board President **Eugene C. Chandler** called the regular business meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County to order at 6:40 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2002, in the multipurpose room of Magnolia Middle School. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler directed that a roll call of Board members be conducted with all members present except **Robert S. Magee** who was excused. Board Vice President **Terry R. Troy** moved and Board Past President **David H. Galbreath** seconded that the agenda be approved as printed. The Board voted 6 to 0 to approve the agenda. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **RECOGNITION**

#### **EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME – FEBRUARY 2002**

Beginning in October 2002 and during each month of the school year since, the Board of Education of Harford County has inducted two members into the Harford County Public School Educator Hall of Fame. The former teachers and/or administrators were selected for the honor by a committee of the Harford County Retired School Personnel Association (HCRASC) based on their exemplary service to the Harford County Public School System for a period of at least 20 years. Each of the honorees receives a plaque and certificate from

the Board in addition to a laminated copy of the feature story about them which was published that month in the *Harford Schools* newspaper. The honorees also have their picture placed on a wall at the school system's central office in Bel Air. For the month of February, the former educators added to the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame were **Earl J. Lightcap, Jr.** and **Thomas L. Smith**. Dr. Lightcap was a 31-year educator in the Harford County Public School System, best known for being the first principal of the new Edgewood High School. Dr. Lightcap taught for just three years before being named principal of Old Post Road Elementary School in 1952 and, two years later, being chosen to open Edgewood High School. He was the principal at Edgewood High for 16 years before being named Assistant Superintendent in charge of the school system's operations in 1970. He retired in 1980. Mr. Smith came to Harford County in 1947 following several years as a teacher in his native Adams Township (Pennsylvania) High School and served during World War II as leader of an anti-aircraft group on the Burma Trail. After several years as an English/Social Studies teacher, he left Harford to become a supervisor in St. Mary's County, returning after 4 ½ years to assume a similar position in Harford, overseeing teachers at several area secondary schools. In 1973, he was promoted to supervise the school system's curriculum office before retiring in 1977. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** presented Dr. Lightcap and Mr. Smith with their awards. Both retired educators introduced members of their families and other friends who had accompanied them to the awards ceremony. Each provided an insight into the joys and challenges of their careers as outstanding members of the Harford County Public School System.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Pat Benedict**, president of the Harford County Council of PTAs, reported that in an informal survey of 20 PTA presidents, none thought the MSPAP tests should be given this year. She said she had come to believe that MSPAP is a valuable tool, but, because of uncertainties surrounding the test scores this past year, it would be wise not to administer the tests this year. She said the subject would be raised formally at the HCCPTA March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. She noted that the Baltimore County Teachers Union had joined with Montgomery and Carroll County Boards of Education in calling for a stop to the administration of the tests to third, fifth, and eighth graders.

**Deb Merlock**, vice president of legislation for HCCPTA, reported on HB 675, the School Clean Air bill. She said that there are no guidelines on school clean air. She added that the Harford County Public Schools has been proactive in working with outside groups in ensuring clean school air.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted

unanimously to approve those items on the Consent Agenda including Minutes of the January 16 and 22 Board Budget Work Sessions, and the January 28 Board Business Meeting; as well as the Monthly Report on Personnel; Proposed Resolutions on National Music In Our Schools and Youth Art Month and Maryland Women's History Month and International Women's Day; and Approval of Award of Contract for Paper and Duplicating Supplies.

## **ACTIONS**

### **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL FENCE**

The Board engaged in a discussion on the merits and peripheral issues involving a proposal from the Bel Air Town government to have an eight-foot high chain link fence erected on the west boundary of Bel Air High School as the school property adjoins businesses along the Baltimore Pike (Business Rt. 1) the length of the school property. Mrs. Haas reminded the Board that the Town, through its Mayor **Robert Cassilly**, had brought the issue to the Board previously. She said the Town is not seeking funding for the project (estimated to cost about \$15,000) but is looking for Board support for the project for which funding would be sought from alternative sources. Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata** told the Board that the Harford County government has declined to add any funds to the project, instead suggesting that Bel Air High School might apply the \$5,000 it received as a beautification grant to the project. Mr. Licata said that another issue has arisen, that of a bridge which would span a small stream on the southeastern side of the Bel Air High School property, connecting it to a foot path leading to S. Atwood Road and one of the signalized crossings (Bond Street being the other at the extreme northeastern end of the property). He said the bridge had not been included in the projected cost of the fence. Mrs. Haas said no survey had been done on the proposed project. Mr. Licata added that the previous proposal for connecting paths from the Bel Air Town trail system to the schools in the Bel Air High/Middle/Homestead/Wakefield campus had been rescinded. Mrs. Troy asked if lighting for the foot path had been discussed and was told it had not. Mrs. Haas reminded the Board that the recommendation before them was for their support of a Proposed Resolution supporting the fence project with no connection to the foot bridge, path, lighting or other issues that have surfaced during the discussion. Board Member Mr. Thomas said he would "reluctantly support" the proposal, pointing to the "eleventh hour" additions of the foot bridge, path and lighting and the potential cost to the school or school system in maintaining the fence and ancillary improvements. "At what point does the Board or the school system assume the responsibility for student safety?" Mr. Thomas asked, pointing to the fact that, if students and others choose to cross the busy thoroughfare at undesignated crossing points, they do so on their own. Student Representative to the Board **Samuel S. Fromille IV** added his support to Mr. Thomas' position, pointing out that the project had been brought to the Board "by a third party" who then added the other issues as an afterthought. "I am upset at the way this has been presented," Mr. Fromille said. Board Member **Karen L. Wolf** said she was taking a "different view" in supporting the Town's approach, pointing out that the Bel Air government is not asking the Board to commit for funding of the fence or any of the ancillary improvements. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mrs. Wolf that the Board support only the resolution backing the

fence and none of the ancillary projects, the Board voted 6 to 0 to approve the resolution (Mr. Fromille cast a dissenting preferential vote).

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **REVISED POLICIES FOR STUDENT PARKING AND STUDENT LOCKERS**

**Stephen C. Lentowski**, director of student services, reminded the Board that, on January 11, 2001, it had adopted in concept the Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan which delineates a number of strategies to foster positive school climate and to reduce the likelihood of violence and crime. The plan, he said, calls for the establishment of a locker use policy and a campus parking policy. Mr. Lentowski presented a first reading of a proposed policy on each developed by the Board's Policy Review Committee. The proposed policy directs each school where lockers are available to develop procedures which would address purpose, parameters for locker assignment, rules for student use and locker upkeep, and notice of the right of school personnel to search a locker. The proposed student parking privilege policy would require each high school to adopt a set of regulations that set reasonable limits concerning eligibility and student use, and notice to students of applicable search and seizure laws. The responsibility and authority for decisions based on the standards would be vested with the principal or his/her designee. Mr. Lentowski said the proposed policies would "codify what has been in practice for many years" and the intent is that notice of the procedures at the school level would appear in student handbooks. Mr. Thomas said he had a "small problem" with the policy in that he feels there should be uniform application of the procedures throughout the school system. Mr. Lentowski said that there has to be flexibility, especially in the parking policy, since conditions at each school are different, including varying fees charged. Mrs. Wolf said she feels the fees should be the same. Mr. Hess said he, too, feels there should be "standardization" in the policies to avoid each school developing its own. "That would take the burden off the schools," he said. Mr. Galbreath said the new policy calls for an "annual notice" concerning parking availability, whereas current practice involves a three-times-a-year notice in connection with the various sports seasons. Mr. Fromille said there are "different demographics" at each school and the conduct of the locker/parking procedures should be left to the school based administrators. In connection with the Superintendent's recommendation, no action was taken on the proposal, pending a 30-day period of study during which public input would be sought.

### **OVERPRESSURIZATION PROJECT UPDATE**

#### **(EDGEWOOD HIGH/MIDDLE/ELEMENTARY AND DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY)**

**Jeffery C. Ayers**, director of facilities management for the school system, and **Doug Richmond**, representative from the County's Emergency Operations Center, appeared with members of the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office **Brian O'Donnell**, **Kathy DeWeese**, **Miquel Monteverdi**, and **Nancy Hoffman** to provide the Board with an update on the over pressurization situation involving four schools in the Edgewood area in

connection with the Department of Defense's recent announcement that it would accelerate the demobilization of the chemical stockpile at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground to the end of this calendar year. The four schools – Edgewoods high, middle and elementary; and Deerfield Elementary – have areas inside the buildings which can be “overpressurized” to provide for safety of students and staff in case of a chemical accident on the Army base which would result in a plume of dangerous airborne toxins in the area. The program – Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) — began in 1989 with monetary assistance from state and local governments. The overpressurization was completed in the spring of 1995. Training was conducted in November 1998 of the system. Mr. O'Donnell said, following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., orders had come forward to move the scheduled three-year neutralizing of the chemical agents ahead to a July through December 2002 time frame. When the agents are neutralized, the original need for the overpressurization would come to an end, Mr. Ayers said. However, there has been some call for the overpressurized areas to remain to provide a safety measure for students and others beyond the December 2002 date, in case of other air borne problems. Maintenance of the equipment would have to be done by the local school system since support from the outside agencies would end in December, 2002, the officials said. The Superintendent's recommendation is that the school system end its participation in the project in December 2002. Mr. Richmond told the Board that the system was instituted to protect against mustard agent stored on the Edgewood Area and would not offer protection for many other chemicals. He said there is a \$30,000 annual cost for maintenance of the system. Mr. Richmond said, if the overpressurization program is discontinued, normal “shelter in place” procedures and other systems in place would be used. Mr. Hess said, as a new Board Member in 1992, one of the first briefings he had received was from the CSEPP leaders and that he “appreciates the 13 years of protection.” The Board took no action on the Superintendent's recommendation, pending a 30-day period to receive public input.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**Kathryn Carmello**, the school system's consultant for governmental affairs, presented an update on the bills currently before the General Assembly in Annapolis. She told the Board there are over 200 bills involving education which have been filed by either the House or Senate in the 2002 session. She provided an update on bills which have passed either the House or Senate. The Superintendent recommended the Board oppose HB 675, an indoor air quality inspection proposal filed by Harford Delegate **Charles Boutin**, unless there is funding which will accompany the proposal. School officials pointed out that the system already does periodic inspections and is currently working closely with the American Lung Association to implement “Tools for Schools,” a practical set of procedures to ensure good indoor air quality in school buildings. However, Mr. Thomas suggested that the school system would be better served to “take no position” on the legislation at this time. His motion to that effect was seconded by Mr. Troy and unanimously passed by the Board. Mrs. Carmello and Mrs. Haas said a further update would be presented to the Board at its

March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting during which time it would be asked to take additional positions on legislation impacting education.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Haas reported to the Board on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by the Federal government. She said that the MSPAP test is being aligned to meet the academic standards as prescribed by the Federal government. She said, under the guidelines of ESEA, any school receiving Title 1 or supplemental funds from the Federal government, if it shows two straight years of declining scores, would be declared a school from which parents could opt to move their children; a third year of falling scores would result in more severe action. Mrs. Haas said, another part of the reauthorization, calls for there to be a certified teacher in every classroom, meaning a teacher needs not only to have a bachelors degree, but certification in the field he or she is teaching. The Superintendent reported that the Maryland State Board of Education would hear a report the following day that, of the 26 schools in the state with American Indian mascots/logos, 13 have changed to a symbol not connected with Native Americans and 11 have decided not to change while two are still involved in a process. She said that only one county in the state has a policy statement guiding how school nicknames/mascots/logos would be chosen. Mrs. Haas said that all three Harford schools with a Native American symbol – Havre de Grace High, Middle, and Elementary – have retained those symbols. She added that most of the ones which have changed in the state were connected to elementary schools. Mrs. Haas said another report coming to the State Board the next day involved readiness for school as measured in kindergarten. She said the state average is 49 percent while Harford's average is 69 percent. Mrs. Haas said, while it is laudable that Harford County's average is 20 percent greater than the state's, having more than three of ten not ready to learn when they enter school is "not good enough."

## **DISCUSSION**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON BALANCING ENROLLMENT FOR 2002-2003**

**Jenny Jenkins** of Highpoint Estates in Forest Hill asked why her neighborhood had been targeted for redistricting when it has just 27 school-aged children. She said she had been told the reason was to "clean up boundary lines" but said moving children in that community from Forest Hill to North Bend elementaries would "sever ties and break up the community," since the area has traditionally been part of Forest Hill. She said, if a change needs to be made in secondary school, the 11 middle school students in the community should remain at Southampton and move with the high school group from C. Milton Wright to North Harford highs in 2005.

Mrs. Haas clarified that, at the upcoming public hearing on Balancing Enrollment to be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, she would spend 20 minutes providing an introduction before the public speaks .

## **CLOSING**

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mrs. Troy said Bel Air Middle School had raised \$15,600 in its latest 'Hoops for Heart' fundraiser, improving upon last year's fourth best in the region \$14,900.

Mr. Thomas mentioned that he had enjoyed the PTA's Founders Day celebration the previous Thursday evening and credited the group for its efforts in support of the school system. He added that the Balancing Enrollment public hearing on February 20<sup>th</sup>, during which more than 30 speakers provided testimony, reflected a very "professional and conscientious" approach by the speakers, considering the controversial and emotional nature of the problem. He said the Board is in "no rush to judgment" and thanked each parent for his or her patience. He reminded that a Howard County school official, **Maurice Kalin**, who has handled redistricting in that county for the past 28 years, last December told the local school system that it did not have to do a county wide redistricting, that it's problem areas are the ones identified by the Superintendent's Technical Advisory Committee.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said that he and Mrs. Troy had attended a Baldrige Continuous Improvement seminar that day and had been impressed with the program. Mrs. Haas said a team of school system administrators and community leaders are working on a formal partnership with Baldrige that would integrate many of the programs initiatives into the local system.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board of Education will continue its series of quarterly meetings at Magnolia Middle School through March with scheduled meetings on March 11 and March 25 (7:00 and 6:30 p.m., respectively). The Board also has a work session on the MGT of American Management Performance Study to be held on Monday, March 18, 2002 at the HEAT Center in Aberdeen (7:00 p.m.). During the April through June quarter, the Board will hold its twice monthly business meetings in the CAFETERIA of Aberdeen Middle School. Consult the HCPS web site for complete B-Line reports, [updated meeting schedules](#), and [minutes of Board work sessions](#).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 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.

**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 HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.**

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