



Board Meeting

April 15, 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

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County was called to order on Monday, April 15, 2002, by Board President **Eugene C. Chandler** at 7:05 p.m. in the cafeteria of Aberdeen Middle School. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler directed that a quorum call be conducted, resulting in all seven Board members and the Student Representative to the Board reporting present. Board Past President **David H. Galbreath** moved and Board Vice President **Terry R. Troy** seconded that the agenda be adopted as written. The motion was approved unanimously. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jenny Jenkins, who resides in the Highpoint Estates community near Forest Hill, renewed her call for the Board to reverse its action of March 25, 2002 relative to recommendation #3 in the Balancing Enrollment initiative which directed that the ten elementary students living in that sub-division be redistricted from Forest Hill to North Bend elementary school next school year. Mrs. Jenkins said the community would support the transfer of those students to North Harford Middle and High schools from Southampton Middle and C. Milton Wright High schools. She said that, as a result of the move of other students from Forest Hill Elementary, space exists at that school for the ten High Point Estates children. Mrs. Jenkins

asked that the ten children living in the community now be “grandfathered” into Forest Hill with any elementary-aged children who may move into the area or who are not in school now going to North Bend Elementary.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Board Member **Karen L. Wolf** and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board unanimously approved items on the Consent Agenda including the minutes from the March 18 work session and the March 25 business meeting; Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards; and Approval of Jarrettsville Elementary School Parking Lot – Expansion of Joint Use Agreement. Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** explained that the joint use agreement involves expansion by the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation’s parking lot on the Jarrettsville campus, but, since it involves a permanent change on school property, it was brought to the Board’s attention.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF POLICY 02.01.135 – POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW POLICY

Assistant Superintendent for Education Services **Bernard F. Barnes** told the Board that the Policy Review Committee had reviewed Board Policies 02.01.135 and 02.01.140 on Development and Review and Policy Review and determined the two should be combined. He said the proposed new policy – 02.01.135 – had been introduced to the Board last month and made available on the school system’s web site for review. Dr. Barnes said no comments had been received on the issue. He said the new policy prescribes a policy review time line and establishes the Policy Review Committee as a standing Board of Education committee. Mrs. Troy moved the revised policy be approved and Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** seconded the motion. Mrs. Haas said the page number of the Administrative Procedures would be added to the policy. Mr. Hess said some policies which are very public in nature merit a review of the procedures attached to them while others do not. Mrs. Troy recommended that the procedures immediately follow the policies in a single edition. She added that the MGT of America study had recommended that arrangement. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** suggested that the procedures be provided on a compact disk. Mrs. Wolf was assured that a copy of the procedures would be available in the Board Office. Mrs. Haas said the Board Policy Manual will be made available to the public on the school system’s Internet web site while the procedures will be available to those administrators charged with putting them into action on the school

system's Intranet web site. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion.

REVISION TO THE FY 2003 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES – NORTH HARFORD HIGH SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

Supervisor of School Planning and Construction **Kathleen Sanner** told the Board that it was necessary for the Board to revise its Capital Improvements Priorities for FY 2003, passed in September 2002, in order to reflect an increased capacity request for North Harford High School, from 1,200 to 1,600. She said the increase of the request reflects actions by the Board in expressing its intention to redistrict students to North Harford High which would justify the 400 student capacity increase. The original request was submitted to the County for planning funds and to the state for Planning approval. Mrs. Sanner noted that the project has been deferred by the State, but the Harford County government has expressed its support for planning of the 1,600 student project in its recommended FY 2003 capital budget. She said, if the Board concurred with the Superintendent's recommendation, the state would be notified of the increased student capacity request. Mr. Galbreath moved approval of the motion and Mr. Hess seconded the motion. Mrs. Haas answered Mr. Thomas' question, saying that nothing had been heard from the State Board of Public Works on the school system's appeal of the state's deferment of the North Harford High School project. She said a decision is not expected until May. Mrs. Wolf asked about the Health Department's stance on the increased capacity from 1,200 to 1,600 related to withdrawal of potable water and discharge of sewage. Mrs. Sanner said a certificate from the Health Department and the Department of the Environment is "achievable." She said the actual flows used by the building are well under the permitted amount and, since the current capacity of the building is over 1,400, the increase of less than 200 should not present a problem. Mrs. Sanner said the permit is for over 37,000 gallons of effluence per day and the flow is under 20,000 gallons per day. She said, even with 1,600 students, the flow would remain well below the current approved level and should not require an increase in the permitted flow. She said the system should "know within a month" whether approval will be granted. Mrs. Haas said contact had been made with the Executive Director of the School Interagency Committee for School Construction (IAC) concerning the proposed increase. The Board voted unanimously to approve the revision in the FY 2003 capital request to reflect the larger capacity for the North Harford High School building.

PRESENTATIONS

CALENDAR POLICY AND PROCEDURES

On March 11, the Board heard a presentation concerning issues surrounding the school calendar. As part of the presentation, Mrs. Haas had pointed to the need to review and change the current policies on the development of the school calendar. Policy 02.09.002 prescribes when the school year will start for students and 02.09.005 determines when graduation dates will be held. Mrs. Haas said, with the increased state/federal requirements for testing and the fact that the vast majority of school systems in Maryland begin classes a full week before Labor Day – putting Harford at least a week behind those systems in the

presentation of materials on which students would be tested – there is a need for flexibility in the setting of school schedules. **Donald R. Morrison**, director of public information for the school system, presented the Board with the proposed Policy 02.09.002 which would replace the current policy of that number as well as 02.09.005. The new policy would dictate the establishment of a two-year calendar and the creation of an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board to make proposals on the schedule. The policy would provide the Board with flexibility in creating the calendar. Mr. Morrison reviewed the procedures which accompany the policy, indicating that a 19-person committee composed of 11 school employees and eight members of the public – including a student – would be on the committee which would make recommendations to the Board on the proposed schedule. He said the Board would provide the Superintendent with parameters for the new “out-year” schedule which would be presented to them by the committee at the Board’s first meeting in April. The Board would establish the “out-year” calendar in May of the year prior to the first year of the schedule. The proposed new policy will be held over to receive public input with the Board scheduled to take action at its May 6 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATIONS

REAFFIRMATION OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS SECTION OF POLICY MANUAL

Dr. Barnes presented the Board with sections 02.09 and 03.05 – General Administration and Instructional Programs, respectively – of the Board Policy manual. He explained that the Policy Review Committee, which he coordinates, is charged with reviewing all Board policies. Dr. Barnes said the Policy Review Committee has undertaken a comprehensive review of the most up-to-date manual available. He said the review included policy format, policy language, legal citation, need for reaffirmation/signature update. Dr. Barnes said the proposed reaffirmation will be held over for one month to provide for public input and that the Board would be scheduled to act at its first meeting in May – May 6. He noted that other sections of the policy would be similarly reviewed and reaffirmed.

HCC TRANSITION COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey** and Supervisor of Math **Sarah Morris** presented the Board with a proposed pilot at Edgewood and Bel Air high schools. Mr. Ekey reported that 69 percent of Harford County Public School seniors who enrolled in Harford Community College in the year 2000 needed remediation in math, with lesser percentages needing the remediation in writing and reading. During the fall of 2001, HCC scheduled 64 sections of remedial math and 43 sections of remedial writing and reading courses. College officials initiated discussion into the provision of remedial of “transition” courses at high schools prior to students graduating. Mr. Ekey said no fee would be charged for the courses which would begin in the 2002-03 school year involving students currently in grade 11 at Edgewood and Bel Air high schools. Mr. Ekey said, in mid-February 83 Edgewood High

School juniors were transported to Harford Community College where they took the COMPASS assessment. Meanwhile, at that same time, 37 Bel Air High School juniors were tested in the computer lab in their school. Mr. Ekey said, pending support from the General Curriculum Committee and the Board, the principals of Edgewood High School and Bel Air High School hope to offer the transitional courses in their schools next year. Students would earn high school credit for the transitional courses. If the pilot is successful, the hope is to expand the transitional courses to all high schools in the county in 2003.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

POTASSIUM IODIDE (KI)

Mrs. Haas introduced **Doug Richmond** of the Harford County Emergency Operations Center and **Joseph P. Licata**, assistant superintendent for operations, who presented the Board with an approved program from the Governor and the County Executive which would supply Potassium Iodide (KI) in doses to be delivered to students in the five public school and one private school which are located within the emergency planning perimeter of the Peach Bottom Atomic Plant, in case there were to be a release of radioactive material. Mr. Richmond said the dosages would not protect those taking it from radiation exposure, but would protect the thyroid of those individuals. He said the first option would be to evacuate those in the area but, if it was not possible to move them, the dosages would be administered on orders from the Harford County Health Officer to students and staff at those schools – North Harford high, middle and elementary; and Dublin and Darlington elementaries along with Harford Christian School. Mr. Richmond said the September 11 terrorist events had spurred the government into taking action. He said the stock of KI is in hand at the Emergency Operations Center and can be dispensed to the schools at any time. It was noted that there is a need to train nurses, inform parents and receive their approval, and make other provisions for the dispensing of the KI. Mr. Richmond said the KI has a “shelf-life” of five years. Mrs. Haas said “late August” would be an ideal time to begin the program, in time for an implementation next school year. An original expected implementation date had been set for May 1st, but has been extended by the Governor to June 1st. Mr. Richmond explained that the Calvert Cliffs nuclear plant in southern Maryland has significantly more students within the emergency planning zone, necessitating the extension of the anticipated implementation date.

MGT REPORT – SECTIONS 4/5

Mrs. Haas and Dr. Barnes presented the Board with a review of the evaluation made by work groups which studied the recommendations of the MGT of America group. MGT had done an evaluation of the Harford County Public School operation beginning last July with the report made to the Superintendent in December. The Board will hear reports by senior staff members who were tasked with coordinating the work groups on each area of the MGT report. Mrs. Haas provided the report on Section 4 – School System and Management; while Dr. Barnes reviewed Section 5 – Educational Service Delivery.

SUSPENSION OF BOARD RULES

By a 6 to 0 vote (with Mr. Magee dissenting), the Board voted to suspend its rules to allow for the introduction of additional business items following their 10:00 p.m. curfew.

DISCUSSION

BOARD NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Haas reminded the Board members they had waived their policy last year which permits only those 21 years of age or younger to attend school dances including proms. Mrs. Haas told Board members that the prom season is approaching and they would need to establish whether they want to enforce their policy on the age of participants or if they would like to waive it again. She said there had been the intent to review the policy following last year's waiver but that due to an "oversight" the review had not been conducted. Acting on the motion of Mr. Magee and the seconds of Mrs. Troy and Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to waive the policy which would leave it up to individual schools to determine regulations involving the age of prom and other dance attendees.

Mr. Thomas said the Harkins Commission on School Construction had just begun its meetings and the issue of the Wagner Farm, now being constructed off Prospect Mill Road is an issue that could be discussed. He said young people who will reside in those houses are currently ticketed to attend Southampton Middle and C. Milton Wright High schools. Mr. Thomas moved that young people who live there be assigned to Aberdeen or Havre de Grace secondary schools. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wolf. Mr. Magee mentioned that there have been cases where the school district to which students would be assigned for a particular development has been advertised in newspapers. He said he was under the impression that such advertisement is illegal. Mrs. Haas said there is a controversy whether such advertisements are illegal. Mr. Hess said, while he understands, philosophically, the motives behind Mr. Thomas' motion, however, he said he could not vote for the motion, equating it to requiring a permanent seat license (PSL in certain National Football League stadiums permitting the holder to buy a ticket). Mr. Hess said the school system "needs a new (secondary) school." The motion failed with only Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Wolf voting for it.

Mr. Magee said he and Dr. Barnes had attended a retirement celebration for longtime Harford Technical High School support employees **Lois Hawks** and **J.C. Perry** recently. He said they were two of the "finest people" he had ever known.

Mrs. Troy noted that five Bel Air Middle School teams had won state championships in the recent Destination Imagination competition held at the University of Maryland/Baltimore County, qualifying them to take part in the World competition at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn.

Mr. Thomas moved that the ten elementary students living in the High Point Estates subdivision be permitted to remain at Forest Hill Elementary School through their fifth

grade year. His motion said that any new elementary students who move into the area or who become of school age would attend North Bend Elementary School. Mrs. Wolf seconded the motion. Mr. Magee said he was “not surprised” at the motion but was “disappointed” noting that the message to the public is that, if they don’t like a decision of the Board, “just keep coming back – this is not a good way to run a show.” Mr. Hess said he felt parents who have been urging their children be permitted to stay at Forest Hill Elementary and move to a new school district when they become secondary students are making a mistake since that is a more difficult transition, but said he would vote for the motion. The Board voted 5 to 2 to approve the motion (Mr. Magee and Lt. Col. Ret. Chandler; as well as Student Representative to the Board **Samuel S. Fromille IV** dissenting).

Mrs. Haas announced the ten finalists in the Harford County Public School Teacher of the Year 2002-03 program. They are: **David Barczak**, Aberdeen Middle School, Science; **Elizabeth L. Buecker**, Dublin Elementary School, Kindergarten; **Deborah Chatham**, Dublin Elementary School, Fifth Grade; **Heather Drenning**, Havre de Grace Elementary, Music; **Howard Eakes**, Fountain Green Elementary School, Fifth Grade; **Mary M. “Sue” Fox**, Joppatowne High School, Science; **Jane Gross**, Bel Air Middle School, Math; **Beth A. Moore**, Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School, first grade; **L. Joyce “Joy” Richardson**, George D. Lisby Elementary School at Hillsdale, Kindergarten; and **Christopher S. Schall**, Bel Air High School, Social Studies.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler asked for volunteers to work on the school system’s mission statement, mentioning that Mrs. Troy and Mr. Magee had headed the committee which wrote the system’s new vision statement. Mrs. Troy and Mr. Hess volunteered to head a group that would write the mission statement.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler thanked **Kathy Carmello** for providing “quality service” as governmental relations person during the recently completed Maryland General Assembly session.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:xx p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board will continuing holding its business meetings at Aberdeen Middle School through June, including it’s May 6 and 20 meetings. The April 29th work session has been cancelled.

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.

In addition, for those who would like to receive emergency or other important school announcements automatically at their e-mail address(es), check the schools-out.com initiative on the home page of the HCPS web site.

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.

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.