



Board Meeting

June 24, 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, June 24, 2002, at 6:40 p.m. in the cafeteria of Aberdeen Middle School by Board President Eugene C. Chandler. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler called for a quorum call which showed all Board Members present. Student Representative Samuel S. Fromille IV, who had been graduated from Fallston High School the previous month, was not present due to his commitment as a plebe in the U.S. Naval Academy. Board Member Karen L. Wolf moved that the printed agenda be amended by removing Item J, Reaffirmation of Board of Education Sections of Policy Manual - First Reading, be deleted. The motion was seconded by Board Vice President Terry R. Troy and was passed unanimously by the Board. Mrs. Wolf then moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the amended agenda be approved. The Board also passed that motion unanimously. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler directed that Board Member Robert S. Magee lead those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION

Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Ayers explained to the Board that each year his office conducts a Custodial Recognition Program in which those schools which are maintained the most outstandingly are rewarded through a system of cash incentives and certificates to members of the schools' custodial crews. Later in the week, during the annual

custodial in service day, the full crews of each of the schools honored were recognized by their peers and others in the school system. Mr. Ayers introduced the first place winners and runners up in each of the elementary, middle, and high school categories. There was a four-way tie for first place in the elementary division - Dublin, Emmorton, and Ring Factory elementary schools; and the John Archer School. At the middle school level, there was a tie for first place between Fallston and Southampton middle schools. At the high school division, the winner was Havre de Grace high school. Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler presented representatives from each of the schools with certificates recognizing their achievement.

In a second recognition, Board Member Robert B. Thomas, Jr. presented ceremonial gubernatorial pens, used by Gov. Parris N. Glendening to sign a bill into law following the 2002 Maryland General Assembly, to the school system's Governmental Liaison Kathryn Carmello and Superintendent Haas in recognition of the exemplary work each had done working with state legislators during the 2002 session.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to approve items on the Consent Agenda including Minutes of the May 20, 2002 Board Business Meeting, the Monthly Report on Personnel listing those who have left the school system, placed on leaves of absence, or newly employed; the Transfer of four School Bus Contracts from Walter E. Walter to the B&T Transportation company, from Findley Bus Service, Inc. to J.D.T. Transportation, Inc.; from Black Horse Bus Line, Inc. to Nelson Bus Company, Inc.; and from Preston Bus Company to St. Clair Transportation Company, Inc.; the Approval of a contract for the Removal of Asbestos Containing Material at Aberdeen High School North, Bel Air Middle School, Edgewood High School, and George D. Lisby Elementary School at Hillsdale; and the Award of a Contract for Network Infrastructure Data Cabling at Nine Schools.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTIONS

APPROVAL OF THE 2002 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Maryland school systems are required to submit an Educational Facilities Master Plan to the State Department of Education by July 1 of each year. Beginning in 1995, it has been required that local Boards of Education approve the document prior to its submission. The Educational Facilities Master Plan is a planning tool that addresses the local school system's projected facility needs. The information, analysis, and conclusions provide substantiation

for each public school capital improvement project. Supervisor of Planning and Construction Kathleen Sanner, joined by Assistant Superintendent for Operations Joseph P. Licata, presented the Board with the chart to be submitted to the state which shows projected projects through FY 2009. Mr. Licata said the plan is a "fluid" one in the out years providing consistency in the decision making process while allowing for flexibility. Mr. Thomas asked how the plan being submitted will mesh with the Harkins Commission recommendations, due to be released in October. Mrs. Sanner said the state will allow for the Educational Facilities Master Plan to be amended in the fall. The opportunity for changes to the FY 2004 program closes in December, she said. Mrs. Haas said, if the recommendations of the Harkins Commission come to late for entry in the FY 2004 program, they could be instituted in future capital cycles. Mrs. Wolf noted forecasts for reduced amounts of state money in the school capital program in the coming years, noting that, if the projects listed in the plan are to be realized, much of the money would have to come from local sources. Mrs. Haas said a state commission is looking into the capital program from the perspective of the Maryland government. Acting on the motion of Past Board President David H. Galbreath and the second of Board Member Thomas D. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the 2002 Educational Facilities Master Plan for submission to the state.

APPROVAL OF NORTH HARFORD HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS/FEASIBILITY STUDY

On March 25, 2002, the Board of Education of Harford County approved recommendations from the Superintendent to redistrict students from C. Milton Wright High to North Harford High School. The action resulted in a change in scope for the North Harford High modernization projection. The Educational Specifications for the project have been developed with a focus on Agri-Science and Environmental Science and to create a facility that functions as the center of the rural community. The Educational Specifications reflect a "phasing" of the project. Mrs. Sanner, accompanied by Director of Secondary Education William Ekey, presented the Board with the plan, Mr. Ekey saying he was pleased with the results and that the school will serve the needs of the community for the next 50 years. He said the plan "preserves what is best" about the school while expanding and modernizing the building for future use. Mrs. Sanner answered a question from Mr. Thomas by saying that Executive Director of the Maryland Interagency Committee for School Construction Yale Stenzler has an advance copy of the study. Mr. Thomas added that Dr. Stenzler had expressed his concern to Mr. Thomas two weeks before concerning the projected cost of the building, now estimated to be between \$36 and \$37 million. Mrs. Sanner said the scope of the building and its resulting cost is under the purview of the Board which can seek additional local funds. She said that the State IAC will apply a formula based on the eligible square footage of the building. She said \$37 million is the current projected "total" cost of the building including furniture and equipment. Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to approve the North Harford High School Educational Specifications. Mr. Hess commented that the architect on the project - Grimm and Parker - has done another outstanding job in planning the building, providing a building that will be unique to the community, yet share aspects with other buildings which

contribute to the economy of the project.

APPROVAL OF HCC TRANSITION COURSES IN HIGH SCHOOL

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to approve a program involving the teaching of Harford Community College Transition Courses in High School. The courses will involve transitional math programs only. Mr. Ekey reported that the Student Outcome and Achievement Report (SOAR), which was initially released in 1993 providing information on state high school graduates from 1991, has consistently shown there is a high percentage of Harford County Public School graduates who require remediation in math (with lesser percentages in reading and writing) upon entering Harford Community College. The SOAR report from 2000 (Class of 1998) shows that of the 659 graduates that year who continued their education in two or four year colleges (the vast majority attending Harford Community College), 69 percent required remediation in mathematics. During the fall of 2001 Harford Community College scheduled 64 sections of remedial mathematics courses and 43 sections of remedial writing and reading courses. As a result, discussions were begun in October 2001 with Harford Community College to better address the needs of students who are not ready to take college math/reading courses. In mid-February, 83 Edgewood High School and 37 Bel Air High School juniors were tested in several areas of mathematics. In part, the study showed that students not taking Algebra 2 are almost certain to be unable to qualify for a college level mathematics course. With the Board approval, and pending General Curriculum Committee endorsement, Edgewood High and Bel Air High will offer math transition courses as a pilot next year. High school students will be able to take the transition courses without paying tuition. Mrs. Haas said, if there is a charge assessed, the school system would withdraw from the program. Mr. Magee said he believes there is a misalignment between the test and the math programs offered in high schools around the state.

APPROVAL OF THE FINAL BUDGET FOR 2002-2003

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Mr. Galbreath, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the final budget for the 2002-2003 school year. The Board endorsed the \$259,280,329, reflecting an increase of \$524,933 over the amount which had been previously approved by the Board. The increases (or decreases) occurred in state aid (\$136,451), summer tuition fees (\$39,068), county reserve funding (\$377,538), background check fees (\$45,000) and community services base transfer (-\$73,124). In addition, there were budget expenditure reductions in retirement funding (-\$118,925), FICA savings adjustment (\$37,044), textbooks (unallocated base budget transfer) (-\$303,615), and bus turnaround time (\$279,401). Combined with the expenditures related to the increased funding, a total of \$822,042 in additional revenue was made available to be allocated. The Superintendent presented a list of proposed expenditures to make use of the additional funding. However, Mr. Thomas said the school system has been accused of "playing the shell game" by moving money around in the budget. Mr. Hess' motion calls for the superintendent come back after the first of the fiscal year (July 1) with particulars on a priority list for the expenditure of available funds while the Board approved the bottom line of the budget. A subsequent motion by Mrs. Wolf with a second by Mr. Hess authorizes the

inclusion of the \$377,538 in county reserve funding for the budget as well as the expenditure of \$201,500 for substitute wages, \$170,038 for instructional software, and \$6,000 as the school system's portion of the funding for the mobile agriculture lab. The Board voted unanimously to approve that motion.

APPROVAL OF TECHNOLOGY PLAN - 2002-2005

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the Plan for Technology, 2002-2005. The first HCPS Technology Plan was written in 1996. The plan was updated in 1998. Since 2000, the state approved technology plan has been a requirement for the submission of e-rate applications. To receive Maryland State Department of Education approval of the local school system's technology plan, it must be in a three-year format. Director of Technology and Information Services Andrew Moore told the Board the plan is a "road map" of where the system is headed in the area of instructional and administrative technology and outlines the system's attempts to match the recommendations of the Maryland Business Roundtable on Education.

APPROVAL OF PROMOTIONS/ APPOINTMENTS

The Board of Education approved a series of promotions/appointments as recommended by the superintendent. Appointed to be Director of Secondary Education was David A. Volrath, former principal of Aberdeen High School. Also, Patrice M. Brown, former teacher/department chair at Bel Air High School, was named Assistant Supervisor for Language Arts K-12. Karl E. Wickman, administrative intern at Southampton Middle School, was named North Harford Middle School assistant principal; and Joseph M. Collins, Virginia M. Popiolek, and Amy M. Woolf were appointed to the secondary assistant principal pool. Mr. Collins has been a social studies teacher at Fallston High, Mrs. Popiolek has been an adapted physical education teacher specialist at John Archer School, and Ms. Woolf has been a science teacher at Edgewood High School.

APPROVAL OF POLICY ON PRIVACY RIGHTS OF PARENTS/STUDENTS - STUDENT RECORDS

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mrs. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to support the revised policy concerning student records. The last amendment of the policy took place on August 23, 1999. The Policy Review Committee did a comprehensive review of the student record policy to ensure conformity with Federal and State law, particularly the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the recently enacted 'No Child Left Behind Education Act of 2001.'

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted unanimously to suspend its 10:00 p.m. curfew rules to allow for the completion of the agenda. Mrs. Haas said it would not be necessary for her to orally present information on the field trip account report, relying on the Board and public to have read the self-explanatory

report.

PRESENTATIONS

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Licata presented the Board with a first reading of the proposed FY 2003 HCPS Capital Improvement Plan. While he said projections are for a "bleak" future in the area of state funding for capital projects, "all we can be sure of is what we will receive for 2003."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Continuing the presentations by representatives of sub-groups on areas of recommendations from the MGT of America organization, Mr. Licata provided information on the Food Services program, reviewing the recommendations of the MGT study and the review by the sub-group. In addition, Mrs. Haas said she had presented the Board with a report from Music Supervisor Jim Boord on Music Transportation Funding. At the June 10, 2002 Board meeting, many parents and students from Fallston High School had appeared to express their displeasure involving "cuts" in funding for music field trips. The report shows that there will actually be a \$10,000 increase in funding for music field trips next year to \$47,912 (there had been an almost \$4,000 increase during the 2001-02 school year). The report discloses that Fallston High's music program had been allocated \$8,464 during the current school year. However, in an "effort to ensure equity and fairness in providing funds to all schools" a Music Steering Committee created a set of guidelines for the distribution of funds in a given year. The guidelines will provide for all schools to receive sufficient funds for required/traditional trips in the coming year. In addition, Fallston and all Harford schools will have some funds for voluntary trips. Also, funds that remain unused after all schools have had the opportunity to apply will be distributed to those schools who desire to take additional trips.

DISCUSSION

OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO PRESENT NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hess said he has been part of a three-person committee along with Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Haas looking into whether the school system should continue having an attorney on retainer to look into legal matters or if legal services should be brought "in-house." He said the move would be largely "budget neutral." Mr. Hess said the superintendent had developed a position advocating that an attorney be hired to provide legal services as an employee. Mr. Thomas said the MGT study had recommended having an attorney on the school payroll and that "dialogue" had occurred with the County Council relative to the possibility of bringing school legal services in-house. Mr. Hess moved and Mrs. Wolf seconded that the school system hire an attorney to provide legal services to the system. The Board voted 7 to 0 to support the motion.

Unless the Governor has not appointed a new Board member and he/she is not confirmed in time for the July 8, 2002 Board meeting, the June 24, 2002 meeting would be the last for Mr. Hess who is completing his second full five-year term on the Board. Several Board members expressed their feelings about Mr. Hess' service. Mr. Thomas called his colleague a "calming influence during turbulent times." He said most people have no idea the sacrifices Mr. Hess made as a Board member. "He was a constant professional," said Mr. Thomas. Mr. Hess said that "society has grown afraid of adolescents, criminalizing normal adolescent behavior." He said young people need to be allowed to make bad decisions while realizing there are consequences to be paid. He urged that the many not be punished for the actions of a few and added, "adolescence is not a disease." He said he enjoyed his work with the Board, the people with whom he worked, and the process. "It's been a wonderful ride," he added, saying that he hoped he had been able to make a positive contribution.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said this would be his last meeting as president of the Board (the Board rotates its leadership each year). He expressed his appreciation for the support of the Board and the staff in his efforts. Mr. Thomas thanked Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler for his service as Board president, especially in the tough times that followed the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. and his leadership through the redistricting (balancing enrollment) process.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler thanked Aberdeen Middle School Principal Gladys Pace and her staff for hosting Board business meetings for the past three months.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mr. Galbreath, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Board business meetings will be held during the next three months - July through September - at North Harford High School in the school auditorium. There will be one meeting in July (July 8) and August (August 12). The twice monthly meetings will resume in September.

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.

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