



Board Meeting

September 9, 2002

Terry R. Troy, *President*
Robert S. Magee, *Vice President*
Eugene C. Chandler
Ruth R. "Robin" Rich
Robert B. Thomas, Jr.
Karen L. Wolf
Mark M. Wolkow
Molly P. Harris,
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 Terry R. Troy at 7:02 p.m. in the auditorium of North Harford High School. A roll call was conducted with all Board Members reporting present. Board Member Mark M. Wolkow and Robert B. Thomas, Jr. moved and Board Member Karen L. Wolf seconded that the agenda as printed be accepted. The Board voted unanimously to support that motion. Mr. Thomas led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Schatz, president of the Harford County Education Association, thanked the school system administration for their assistance in HCEA's greeting of new teachers. He said that the Maryland State Teacher's Association has developed a school improvement model that aligns with the SIIMS/Baldrige initiative currently being developed by the school system. He added that HCEA and the school system have two active committees working on coaches/sponsors salaries; and the issue of the time teachers put in before and after school. He pledged that neither initiative "will fail because of HCEA inflexibility" since the association will be actively seeking agreements on both.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Board Past President Eugene C. Chandler and the second of Board Member Ruth R. Rich, the Board voted unanimously to endorse items on the Consent Agenda including the Minutes from the August 12, 2002 Board Business Meeting; Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards; and Award of Contract for Fuel Oil.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

Since Mrs. Troy had served as chair of the committee looking at revisions to the school system Mission Statement, she turned the gavel over to Vice President Robert S. Magee who presided during the discussion on the topic. Mrs. Troy said the proposed Mission Statement, which had been developed by a broad based committee of school system and community members, was presented to the Board at its June 10, 2002 meeting and public comment has been sought on the proposal since that time. She said that Belief Statements, aligned with the Board's Mission and Vision, would be forthcoming. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler moved that the word "productive" be substituted for the word "good" in the proposed Mission Statement, but there was no second for the motion. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler then moved that the Mission Statement be approved as proposed. Mr. Thomas and Ms. Rich seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Mission Statement reads: "The mission of the Harford County Public Schools is to foster a quality educational system that challenges students to develop knowledge and skills, and inspires them to become life-long learners and good citizens."

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION SECTIONS OF THE POLICY MANUAL

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board unanimously approved revisions to the Board of Education section of the Policy Manual. Assistant Superintendent for Education Services Bernard F. Barnes, Sr. discussed several minor changes made to the last section of the manual to have been reviewed by the Board's Policy Review Committee and confirmed by the Board. Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas said the complete Policy Manual will be posted on the school system's web site (previously approved sections have been on the system's web site). In addition, at the request of Mr. Thomas, the confirmed Policy Manual will be sent to the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE).

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS/PROMOTIONS

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Monica T. Contee-Brown to be a Pupil Personnel Worker. In addition, Mrs. Haas announced that Joyce Stevenson has been assigned to be assistant principal at Havre de Grace Elementary School, replacing Courtenay Servary who had left the system just before the start of school to accept a principal's job in Carroll County. Ms. Stevenson had previously been approved by the Board to be added to the

elementary school assistant principal's pool.

APPROVAL OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES FY 2004 TO FY 2009

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the FY 2004 Capital Budget Priorities. The priorities had been reviewed by Assistant Superintendent of Operations Joseph P. Licata and Supervisor of Planning and Construction Kathleen Sanner. Mrs. Sanner explained to the Board that the \$24.1 million FY 2004 proposal – which will now go to the County government for review and subsequently to the State Interagency Committee for School Construction – contains ten capacity projects including the moving of ten relocatables; the balcony alternative and contingency funds for Aberdeen High School; the first part of construction funding for North Harford High School's modernization; planning for a new middle/high school; \$1.5 million for the third floor of the Aberdeen High Math/Science magnet (Mrs. Haas said the Federal government has declined to provide funds for the construction); planning for the conversion of the Aberdeen High North building to a purpose which could be alternative education or staff development; full-day kindergarten provisions for Magnolia, Hall's Cross Roads, Havre de Grace, Edgewood, George D. Lisby at Hillsdale, Bakerfield, and Roye-Williams elementary schools; a new central office administration building; equipment and infrastructure for tech labs; and additional funds to continue the remediation of Southampton Middle and C. Milton Wright High schools. Mrs. Sanner noted that there are no new elementary school capacity projects being proposed. A systemic project involving the complete heating/ventilation; air conditioning of Edgewood Middle School, Jarrettsville Elementary School and Roye-Williams Elementary School roofing projects; and a wastewater treatment plant for the three schools on the North Harford school campus. Mrs. Sanner said Aging Schools and QZAB funds may permit additional projects if the funding is continued. In addition, she said funds are included in the request for technology replacement equipment, furniture and equipment, safety/security fire alarms, two-way communications, intrusion alarms, \$18,000 for site improvements at Harford Technical High School; storm water management project at Ring Factory Elementary School, \$10,000 for playgrounds; as well as compliance funds (asbestos removal at Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School). Mr. Thomas said he would not like to see any air-conditioning projects interfere with modernizations of schools down the road. Mrs. Sanner said six schools are involved in possible addition of air conditioning which would not begin until FY 05 if funds are available. Mrs. Wolf suggested the State may want to "buy in" to air conditioning buildings in a similar manner they did with the Technology in Maryland Schools (TIMS) grants which wired schools for the Internet.

The Board also approved, in concept, by a 6 to 1 vote (Mr. Thomas dissenting) the FY 2005-2009 Capital Budget proposal as required by the State IAC. Mr. Thomas said he believes the \$24 million that would be requested from the County in FY 2005 and the \$27 million in FY 2006 is "unrealistic" since the County has never provided more than \$15 million. Mr. Thomas mentioned the suggested request of \$17 million from the State in FY 05 is similarly unrealistic given the fact the State is facing a billion dollar deficit and

funding for capital projects for the entire state is \$79 million.

PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING

Mr. Licata and other members of the school staff presented a proposal for the approval of Phase II of “performance contracting” to 14 schools which would provide Lighting retrofit and upgrades, HVAC & ATC restorations; Facility Management System upgrades, Water conservation measures, Systemic air balancing, and Equipment replacements at Aberdeen Middle, Bel Air Elementary, C. Milton Wright High, Deerfield Elementary, Edgewood High, Edgewood Middle, Havre de Grace High, Havre de Grace Middle, Jarrettsville Elementary, John Archer, North Harford Middle, Wakefield Elementary, and Youth’s Benefit Elementary schools. Phase II involves the Johnson Controls firm performing detailed engineering assessments, evaluate possible energy saving measures and develop firm fixed pricing. The goal of the program is to replace infrastructure with modern cost-saving and more efficient equipment that will, in a two to 15 year pay-back, result in a “cost-neutral” investment (the energy savings over time would equal the cost of the new equipment with continuing savings to be realized for the life of the new equipment). The presentation was a “first reading” with the Board due to act on the proposal at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

NEW BUS ORDER FOR 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR

By a 7 to 0 vote, the Board approved the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler to order 42 contractor school buses and 14 Harford County Public Schools special needs buses for the 2003-04 school year. The contractor buses (which are paid for over a 12 year period) would require \$135,000 in the FY 04 budget with the 14 school system-owned buses requiring \$910,000 to be added to the FY 04 budget (less if the buses are leased). The order for new buses must be placed in October to have them on line for the following school year, Director of Transportation Norman Seidel told the Board.

ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN

Mr. Licata presented the Annual Facilities Management Department Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for 2002. The listing of the projects to be undertaken by that department during the coming year and beyond is a requirement of the Maryland State Department of Education, and must be approved by the local Board. The presentation was a “first reading” with the plan due to be approved at an upcoming Board meeting.

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Mr. Seidel presented the Board with the annual Transportation Report, outlining the work of the 50 contractors who serve the school system by operating 319 buses; as well as the

county-owned bus program. Mr. Seidel said bus owners and drivers have requested that cameras be added to school buses as a way to improve discipline on the buses. Mr. Seidel mentioned that the recent MGT of America Performance study provided six of its 60 commendations of the Harford County Public School System to the Transportation Department and surveys done by MGT showed that principals, teachers and the central office reflected a positive attitude by most toward the program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas told the Board that the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) or, as it is better known, "No Child Left Behind;" as well as the "Bridge to Excellence" State legislation requires that a master plan be developed around five goals. She said the Board's four goals fit nicely into the requirements of ESEA and Bridge to Excellence. Mrs. Haas said, as part of the program, "Town Meetings" will be held on October 8, 9, and 10 with Board Members paired with school system staff members to gather information from the public on its expectations of the school system. She added that the Board of Education of Harford County would be hosting a Town Meeting at the request of MABE on October 29. The meeting will be conducted in a "Study Circles" format with about ten invited community members working in groups to look at how quality and effectiveness of the school system is assessed. Five jurisdictions in Maryland will be looking at "What Counts in Education" as will similar groups in 30 other states, Mrs. Haas said.

BOARD NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Wolf said she has visited the newly renovated Stephen Decatur High School on the Eastern Shore, a 1200 student school which was refurbished at a cost of \$25 million. She said the entire community is proud of the project which is similar to the upcoming modernization of North Harford High School.

Mr. Thomas thanked the superintendent for setting up the upcoming "field trip" for Board Members and selected staff to Carroll County to visit modernized schools in that county.

Mr. Wolkow said he is optimistic about the possibility of getting funding for school projects since every person running for public office and every elected official is "100 percent behind public education."

Mrs. Troy thanked Meadowvale Elementary School Principal David Denton for his leadership in the recent rededication of the school which was modernized thanks to the funding of the County and State governments.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the seconds of Mrs. Wolf and Mr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:34 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board will hold its final business meeting at North Harford High School on Monday, September 23 (6: 30 p.m.) and will then shift to Bel Air Middle School for its regular business meetings in October, November and December. In addition, there will be a work session at the HEAT Center starting at 6:30 p.m. on September 17. A subsequent work session will be held at the HEAT Center on October 21 at 7:00 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; 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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