



## Board Meeting

*December 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** - Board of Education of Harford County President Terry R. Troy called the regular business meeting of the Board to order on Monday, December 9, 2002, in the gymnasium of Bel Air Middle School at 7:02 p.m. Mrs. Troy directed that a quorum call of Board Members be conducted, the action showing all Board Members to be present.

Mrs. Troy then directed Student Representative to the Board Molly P. Harris lead those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Robin R. Rich and seconded by Eugene C. Chandler that the agenda as presented be approved. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion.

Edgewood Middle School eighth grader Margaret "Maggie" Sheehan presented autographed copies of the Harford County Public School 2002 holiday greeting card to each Board member. Ms. Sheehan had won the annual contest to design the front cover of the card.

Her design, featuring a snowman between two pine trees, was chosen by Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas and other members of the school staff from among the dozens which were submitted in the contest overseen by the HCPS Art Department. The design was converted into a card and reproduced for distribution to about 700 individuals or groups which support the Harford County Public School System throughout the year. Ms. Sheehan and each Board member received 50 unsigned cards for use in greeting their HCPS associates. The Edgewood Middle School student also received a Board certificate and a commemorative Harford County Board of Education paperweight seal. Ms. Sheehan was accompanied during the ceremony by her parents, her principal Tom Pomilla, and her art

teacher Lynn Villa.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Acting on the motion of Board Member Ms. Rich and the second of Board Past President Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to approve items listed on the Consent Agenda including Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards; Approval of Minutes from the October 28, 2002 Board Business Meeting; Approval of Equipment Lease; and Approval of the Proposed Resolution on Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **APPROVAL OF PROMOTIONS/APPOINTMENTS -INTERNAL AUDITOR**

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Robert B. Thomas, Jr., the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Joseph Ford to the position of Internal Auditor for the school system.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **DRAFT MASTER PLAN**

Superintendent Haas and Deborah J. Heiberger, former Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and current consultant working on the Harford County Public School Master Plan, presented the first draft of that document to the Board. Mrs. Haas explained that the Master Plan, a requirement of the State's 'Bridge to Excellence' legislation passed during the 2002 session, is due to the County government officials August 1, 2003 and to the Maryland State Department of Education on October 1, 2003. However, she pointed out that the proposed Master Plan has a direct tie to the proposed 2004 operating and capital budgets. Therefore, it is necessary for the preliminary plan to be presented to the Board so that provisions of the plan can be considered for inclusion in the FY 2004 operating budget, due to be presented to the Board on December 16, 2002 and passed by the Board in late January for submission to the County Executive by February 1, 2003. Dr. Heiberger explained that the US Congress had passed the 'Elementary and Secondary No Child Left Behind' Act (NCLB) and it was signed into law by the President in January, 2002. She said the act, through a series of five Performance Goals and Indicators, prescribes high academic standards and accountability requirements to ensure that every child across the nation learns well and is prepared for a challenging future. NCLB mandates that each state design annual assessments to measure student learning in reading and mathematics grades three through eight. The performance of students on these assessments will be reported annually. Schools and school districts failing to demonstrate sufficient yearly progress towards proficiency for all students will be targeted for assistance and,

ultimately, corrective action. Dr. Heiberger added that the 'Bridge to Excellence' State of Maryland legislation requires the Maryland State Department of Education to establish student performance standards and ensure that adequate resources are available to schools and school systems so that students meet those standards. Schools and school systems will be held accountable for the performance of all students. Dr. Heiberger said the long range comprehensive action plan (five years) prescribed by the Federal and State legislation must describe the goals, objective, and strategies that will be used to make sure all students meet state and local performance standards. She told the Board the purpose of the Master Plan is to ensure that the school system's resources are allocated efficiently and effectively to improve teaching and learning so that every student acquires essential knowledge and skills.

Dr. Heiberger said, in accordance with national and state direction, the HCPS plan will be revised annually based on an analysis of student academic performance, the success of identified local actions in promoting student academic performance and in meeting the requirements of NCLB and Bridge to Excellence, and an ongoing assessment of local needs.

Dr. Heiberger said the plan will be updated each year, reflecting progress made during the previous year's plan.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler pointed out that Harford County is "way ahead of the game" in having an affirmative action plan included in the system's Master Plan proposal. Board member Mark M. Wolkow called the proposed Master Plan as submitted "reasonable to understand." Board member Mr. Thomas said the Master Plan is tied to dollars and its success will depend, in large measure, on the amount of resources that can be applied to it.

Board Vice President Robert S. Magee moved and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler seconded that the Master Plan be the subject of the school system's first budget work session due to be held at Havre de Grace High School's auditorium on Tuesday, January 7, 2003 (6:30 p.m.). The Board voted unanimously to support the motion.

## **MIDDLE STATES STANDARDS**

Director of Secondary Education David Volrath, along with high school principals Joe Schmitz (Edgewood High), Macon Tucker (Joppatowne High), and Mike Thatcher (North Harford High School) presented information on the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools accountability program. Mr. Volrath said the program has been in existence since 1938. Mr. Tucker said, between 1938 and 1980, the process, which provided accreditation in ten-year cycles, had served schools well. However, he said changes including the cutting of the numbers of evaluators on each team and the decreasing of the evaluation time from ten to five years, have made the process less useful to local schools.

Mr. Volrath said, with the coming of high school accountability in the form of Functional tests and now the High School Assessments and Bridge to Excellence/No Child Left Behind requirements, the appeal of the Middle States process has diminished. He said the process costs the school system \$20,000 each year and disrupts the operation of the schools for a period of at least three days, not counting the time it takes to prepare for the evaluation. He added that Middle States looks at programs available in each school and not at student achievement. Mr. Volrath said Howard County Public Schools has withdrawn from the Middle States process without any noticeable decline in the effectiveness of its schools. He

said that 19 jurisdictions and about 80 percent of the state's public high schools currently take part in the Middle States process. The Board agreed to take the recommendation of the Superintendent - that HCPS withdraw from membership in the Middle States Association for an initial period of five years with a committee reviewing the decision after four years to provide recommendations for going beyond the fifth year - under consideration. The Superintendent also recommended that high school principals develop opportunities for school improvement teams to participate in school visitations and for peer program evaluation in the county.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Haas told the Board that the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP) scores had been released the previous week on line. She said the 2001-02 cycle will be the last for Maryland with the Maryland School Assessments, which will be administered next March in grades three, five, eight and ten (reading), will take their place.

Mrs. Haas said the final MSPAP testing involved only third and fifth grades in Harford County, reflecting a general downward result for third graders and an upward series of scores by fifth graders. She said the High School Assessment scores from the 2001-02 year were also released on line. However, she said there was no "cut score" - or passing score - released by the State Department of Education. Mrs. Haas said the new MSA tests are being created by CTB and McGraw Hill. She added that the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) will continue to be administered in grades two, four, and six.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and Mrs. Wolf and the seconds of Mr. Wolkow and Mrs. Rich, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board was due to have concluded its quarter of meetings at Bel Air Middle School on Monday, December 16 before shifting for the third quarter of 2002-03 to Edgewood High School for business meetings in January, February, and March 2003. In addition to its January 7, 2003 work session at Havre de Grace High School, the Board will hold additional budget work sessions on Saturday, January 11 (North Bend Elementary School, 9:00 a.m.), Wednesday, January 15 (Fallston High School, 6:30 p.m.) and Tuesday, January 21 - if necessary (HEAT Center, 6:30 p.m.). The regular business meetings at Edgewood High in January will be held on Jan. 13 (7:00 p.m.) and Jan. 27 (6:30 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.

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.

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