



## Board Meeting

*December 16, 2002*

Terry R. Troy, *President*  
Robert S. Magee, *Vice President*  
Eugene C. Chandler  
David H. Galbreath  
Thomas D. Hess  
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 16, 2002, in the gymnasium of Bel Air Middle School at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Troy directed that a quorum call be conducted which showed all Board Members present with the exception of Karen L. Wolf who had been excused to attend the 25th anniversary celebration of Fallston High School. Board Past President Eugene C. Chandler moved and Board Member Mark M. Wolkow seconded that the agenda as printed be adopted. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion. Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **RECOGNITION**

**HCPS EDUCATOR HALL OF  
FAME – MAURICE B. HOWARD  
AND WILLIAM L. TAYLOR**

Since October 2000, the Board of Education of Harford County has been inducting two

members each month during the school year into the Harford County Public School Educator Hall of Fame. The nominees are selected by the Harford County Retired School Personnel Association based on the retired educators' extraordinary service to the local schools for a period of at least 20 years. The Board officially inducts the nominees who had been featured in that month's edition of Harford Schools newspaper. The Board presents a laminated copy of the article to the inductees as well as a plaque and certificate. The Hall of Fame inductees have their pictures displayed on a wall of the school system's central office in Bel Air, along with all of the other inductees. For December, 2002, the Hall of Fame inductees, honored by the Board, were Maurice B. "Mo" Howard and William L. "Bill" Taylor. Dr. Howard parlayed his love of the English language into a career as a teacher of English and developer of the talents of others in the classroom. Dr. Howard was a teacher and supervisor in the Harford County Public School System for 20 years – from 1965 through 1985. He taught English at Bel Air High School and was a building supervisor at Aberdeen Junior High and Aberdeen Middle School – being credit in large part with developing the middle school model that Harford County Public Schools continue to follow.

Dr. Howard was supervisor of curriculum and instruction for the Harford County Public Schools and was Chief of General Curriculum and Arts and Sciences at the Maryland State Department of Education where he helped develop the Functional Tests and the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program as well as laying the ground work for the High School Assessments. He was also Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the Baltimore City Public Schools and spent two years in charge of curriculum development for the schools of the Department of Defense in 15 foreign countries. Now, he teaches advanced instructional strategies to teachers at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Howard is also an accomplished musician, having been organist and choir director at two Harford churches.

Mr. Taylor made Harford County history as one of the first African Americans to hold a school administrative position in integrated schools here when he was named Assistant Principal at Havre de Grace High School in 1971. He spent the next 12 years mentoring students and faculty with his unique brand of toughness and tenderness. Two current Maryland Superintendents – Carl Roberts of Cecil County and Jon Andes of Worcester County – credit Mr. Taylor as having been major influences in their development as successful school administrators. "Mr. T." rose from poverty in West Virginia to teach science first in his native Hinton and then at the old Havre de Grace Colored High School as well as Havre de Grace Consolidated School. He had spent two years as a combat soldier in the South Pacific during World War II. When schools were integrated in Harford in 1965, Mr. Taylor came to Havre de Grace High, making a huge contribution in easing tensions that existed during that time as schools adjusted to the change. Mr. Taylor, who retired in 1982 after 31 years as an educator, continues to be very active in the community and works a full schedule at Boyle Buick at age 82.

## **100 YEARS OF SUPERINTENDENCY IN HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Mrs. Troy led a ceremony recognizing 100 years of the office of the superintendent in the

Harford County Public Schools. Mrs. Troy said that the Maryland State Legislature had chartered public schools in Harford in 1865, but it was not until 1902 that the Harford Board felt the need to appoint a fulltime superintendent of schools, choosing Charles T. Wright to be the first to lead the system. Mr. Wright was succeeded by his nephew, C. Milton Wright, who served from 1915 through 1945, when he was succeeded by Charles W. Willis. Dr. Willis served through 1970 when A.A. Roberty was named as superintendent, serving until 1988 when he, in turn, was succeeded by Ray R. Keech who occupied the office until 1996. Jeffery N. Grotzky was superintendent in 1996 and 1997 before being succeeded by Mrs. Haas. During the ceremony, Mrs. Haas and Dr. Roberty were present to receive a plaque from Mrs. Troy and the Board (plaques were sent to Dr. Keech and Dr. Grotzky, the other two living superintendents) honoring each superintendent's role in leading the school system. Mrs. Troy read the resolved portions of a proposed resolution honoring the 100 years of the superintendent's office which was approved unanimously by the Board. Following the presentation, several elected officials including Sen. Robert Hooper, Dels. Barry Glassman and Joanne Parrott, Council Members Roni Chenowith and Richard Slutzky made presentations to Dr. Roberty and Mrs. Haas noting the significance of the occasion. The County Executive, who could not be present, was represented by his Education Liaison Dale Neeper.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Acting on the motion of Board Member Ruth R. Rich and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to approve items on the Consent Agenda including: Minutes of the November 11, 2002 Board Business Meeting; Monthly Report on Personnel, Re-approval of Tenure Candidates; and Proposed Resolutions on: January – National Mentoring Month; January — Maryland Reading Month; and February – African American History Month/Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 20, 2003).

## **APPROVAL OF LAWSON 8.0 UPGRADE**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Wolkow and the seconds of Board Members Robert B. Thomas, Jr. and Mrs. Rich and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Lawson 8.0 Upgrade. In August 2002 the Board had approved \$200,000 for the Lawson 8.0 Upgrade project. Lawson software is the integrated application software used by Harford County Public Schools for financial, budget, purchasing, payroll, and human resources. It was selected and implemented as part of the Y2K strategy and replaced a variety of internally developed mainframe software systems. Phase I of the project was to implement the applications prior to January 1, 2000. During the implementation, significant flaws in the encumbrance accounting component of the Lawson product were revealed. Lawson 8.0 includes a new encumbrance module to address the deficiency. Phase II of the project added web-based products to enhance the functionality of the software in the areas of purchasing, printing, reporting, and human

resources.

## **APPROVAL OF BALANCING ENROLLMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's recommendations to move forward on the implementation of strategies to balance enrollment in five schools during the 2003-04 school year. The Superintendent's Technical Advisory Committee, under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent for Operations Joseph P. Licata had met to review the official enrollment figures/projections from September 30, 2002, compared to the capacities of the schools. Six schools were identified as needing attention in the area of enrollment/capacity for the coming school year. The schools – Darlington Elementary, Prospect Mill Elementary, Fallston Middle, Bel Air High, Southampton Middle and C. Milton Wright High – were identified by the committee and reviewed with the Board at a work session this past fall. Darlington was on the list because its enrollment has dwindled to the point it will soon be below 60 percent of capacity – the level at which the Maryland State Department of Education directs that a review of the school's continued operation be conducted. Mr. Licata said the committee's findings were that several programs be relocated to the school and that the use of the building be monitored. Prospect Mill is proposed to have an additional relocatable classroom; Fallston Middle is to have an Operations Intervention Team formed to discuss ways of addressing what is believed to be a temporary significant over enrollment at the school, one which is projected to ease over the next several years; and Bel Air High, where two additional relocatable classrooms are proposed to be moved. Also, at Southampton Middle and C. Milton Wright High schools, it is recommended previously approved additions/alterations be continued; that a new middle/high school in the Bel Air be requested; that the system proceed with Phase II of the attendance area boundary adjustments initiatives adopted in 2002; and that North Harford High School's capacity of 1600 students be supported. In addition, incoming boundary exceptions to those schools which are over capacity continue to be denied. Mr. Thomas said a "game is being played" with the request for the new middle/high school, which both state and local government officials agree is needed, but for which the state has not yet provided planning approval (which would commit the Maryland government to fund its share of the building in subsequent years). Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler was assured that only hardship boundary exceptions would be considered for movement of students into the identified schools (except Darlington where boundary exceptions of all types would be considered).

## **PRESENTATION**

### **FAMILY LIFE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board of Education agreed to hold over for 30 days consideration of recommendations from the Citizens Advisory Committee on Integrating Focus Area III Content into Middle School Program; Include STD Prevention in the HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Policy; and Development of a Middle School Health Education Offering. Currently, one three week unit on Family Life and Human Development is a component of the HCPS seventh grade science curriculum. Over the past several years, members of the Family Life Committee

have become frustrated in reviewing new materials for the seventh grade unit. The existing curriculum has not been updated since 1983 and does not reflect current data that indicates children are maturing and engaging in sexual activities at earlier ages. All commercial abstinence-based curriculum materials for middle school programs now contain topics within Focus Area III. Although Maryland State Department of Education regulations permit Focus Area III instruction at the middle school level, Harford County Public Schools have been following an unwritten policy for a number of years prohibiting such instruction.

During the Family Life Citizen Advisory Committee's report in October 2001, the recommendation was made that Focus Area III content be integrated into the middle school curriculum. The Board directed that the committee survey and study which school systems across Maryland include such material below grade nine. The 2002 report included results of the survey, 19 of the responding counties said they taught the Focus Area III materials in the middle schools, with two saying they did not. Coordinating Supervisor of Career and Technology Education Susan Garrett presented the Board with approaches that would be used to integrate topics such as STD prevention, the advantages of abstinence, and the impact of teenage pregnancy to the existing seventh grade Family Life Unit in science. A second approach would be to include Focus Area III content in a middle school health curriculum. A third approach could be the integration of health education into the physical education curriculum.

Prior to the report by Mrs. Garrett, several members of the public addressed the Board.

Debbie Green told the Board there is a compelling need to bring the Focus Area III content instruction into the middle schools. She said middle school teachers' "hands are tied in not being able to provide adequate information about sex education to students of that age."

She added the teachers would not be teaching morality, they would just provide facts.

JoAnn deBorja said she supported the recommendations of the committee and that the information could save the lives of some young people. Ms. deBorja said she is aware that such information is most properly supplied from the home, but that many parents do not have the expertise to give the correct information. Donna Seibly, chair of the Family Life Committee, said students are maturing much more rapidly than 20 years ago and that there are many dangers lurking in the lives of middle school aged children. Joann McDonald said STD's are a public health concern and that the school system needs to "move into the 21st century" in teaching sex education at the earlier age. Laurie Dowley said she is in favor of the curriculum change, adding that "not all parents are doing their duty and it is the school's job to fill in for parents' failures." However, Mrs. Chenoweth said sex education should be dealt with by parents in the home and that only parents can add the values piece of the instruction. She said there are teachers in the school system whose lifestyles include living with others outside marriage and that such a teacher, delivering a message of abstinence, would be providing a "mixed message" at best. "I may sound like a dinosaur, but values have no time limit," Council Member Chenoweth said, adding that there is no clear evidence that oral sex is on the increase, as had been reported by the Family Life Committee. She said that Health Officer Tom Thomas had reported evidence of just one young person below the age of 15 who has been reported with a sexually transmitted disease (STD). She also recommended that adults not share their adult (sexual) experiences with students at school.

Student Representative to the Board Molly P. Harris said the need is definitely there for the

sex education information at an earlier age. "I'm 100 percent in support of this because of the things I hear going on," she said.

Mrs. Haas said no action would be requested at this time and that input from the public will be sought in a variety of ways before the topic is brought before the Board for a decision.

The subject, which is being held over for 30 days, could come to the Board for action as early as its January 27, 2003 meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **APPROVAL OF CHARGES TO CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Acting on a series of motions and seconds by Board Members, the Board unanimously approved charges to four of the five of its Citizen Advisory Committees. The charge to the Family Life Education Committee will be brought back at a time after the Board acts on the current proposal of the group to place Focus Area III instruction in the middle schools.

The Charge to the Career/Technology Education Committee is to develop a comprehensive framework for career and technology education for all comprehensive high schools and the Harford Technical High School. The framework should address both career clusters and pathways for implementation at the school level. Mrs. Rich moved and Lt. Col. Chandler seconded the motion which was approved by a 5 to 0 vote (Mr. Wolkow had left the meeting due to another commitment).

The Charge for the Citizen Advisory Committee on Gifted Education is to coordinate with the Office of Research and Evaluation to conduct a survey regarding the effectiveness of the Gifted Education program; and to establish methods of assessing the impact of instruction provided through the Gifted Education program. The motion to approve was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and was passed 5 to 0.

The Charge to the Safety and Security Committee was to explore the pros and cons of a student identification badge system and to recommend areas of training for parents on school safety and security, including mechanisms for the completion of these trainings.

The Charge to the Special Education Citizen Advisory Committee was to study the organization, materials, training and communication mechanisms presently utilized in the Office of Partners for Success. The committee should also develop recommendations for how the Partners for Success Office can maximize communication with parents of students with disabilities.

Mrs. Troy said a list of the Board Members who serve as liaisons on each of the committees will be developed and shared with the Board and public.

### **APPROVAL OF PRE-AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY**

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Rich and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the superintendent's recommendation that the Board authorize the Supervisor of Purchasing to enter into electric supply agreements that are in the best interest of the Harford County Public School System on January 9, 2003 and present the agreements to the Board for its approval on January 13, 2003. The Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee (BRCPC) is in the process of re-bidding an electric supply agreement. The current agreement expires on March 1, 2003. The City of Baltimore Bureau of Purchases is the lead agency for this procurement and Harford County Government and the Harford County Public Schools are participating in the procurement along with 16 other public agencies and school systems.

### **FY 04 OPERATING BUDGET**

Budget Director John Cox and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services John Markowski joined Mrs. Haas in presenting the FY 2004 Superintendent's recommended operating budget. Mrs. Haas said the budget will be provided on the HCPS web site for public comment and that a series of work sessions will be held by the Board to review the proposals.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO PRESENT NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said he was concerned about the allegation made earlier in the evening by Council Member Chenowith that some teachers discussed alternate lifestyles with their students. He said he hoped that teachers did not engage in such conversation and should, instead, "stick to their lesson plans." Mrs. Haas said the topic would be broached at a future Senior Staff meeting. Mr. Thomas urged that there be "no rush to judgment" on the topic since there had, apparently, been no complaints received by the Senior Staff or Board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Rich and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted 5 to 0 to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board will hold a series of work sessions on the budget and master plan on January 7 (Havre de Grace High Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.), January 11 (North Bend Elementary Cafeteria (9:00 a.m.), January 15 (Fallston High School, 6:30 p.m.); and January 21 (HEAT Center, 6:30 p.m.). The Board will hold its regular business meetings at Edgewood High School for the next quarter – January through February. The January meetings will be on January 13 (7:00 p.m.) and January 27 (6:30 p.m.). For a complete and updated list of future Board meetings, consult the HCPS web site at [www.hcps.k12.md.us](http://www.hcps.k12.md.us).

**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.

**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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