



Board Meeting

February 23, 2003

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 – President of the Board of Education of Harford County Terry R. Troy called the regular business meeting of the Board to order at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Edgewood High School. Mrs. Troy asked for a quorum call which showed that all Board members were present. Board member Ruth R. Rich moved and Board Past President Eugene C. Chandler and Board Member Karen L. Wolf seconded that the agenda be approved as printed. Mrs. Troy led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Britta Nelson of Havre de Grace High School sang The National Anthem, Kirk Bullis of C. Milton Wright High School sang Proud to be an American, and Jeff Tomecek of C. Milton Wright High School played a sonata on the trombone. The performances were in connection with National Music in Our Schools Month, for which a resolution would be passed later in the evening, and as representatives of the student music award winners to be honored later in the program. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler asked for a moment of silence in memory of Reginald Dunn, Maryland State Board of Education Member and the Maryland Board of Education Black Caucus, who had passed away recently.

RECOGNITION

HCPS EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME – MILDRED W. TERRELL/JOSEPH D. BOONE

Each month during the school year beginning in October 2000, the Board of Education of

Harford County has inducted two former Harford County Public School educators into the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame. Those inducted are nominated by the Harford County Retired School Personnel Association (HCRSPA) in recognition of the retired educator having provided extraordinary service to students, colleagues and the community during a period, normally in excess of 20 years. For February, 2003, the Board inducted the late Mildred W. Terrell and Joseph D. Boone into the Hall of Fame. Mrs. Terrell taught for 37 ½ years in the Harford County Public School System over a span of six decades from 1927 through 1974. She was described as a “mother” to every student who ever entered her classroom, teaming with her husband, Bill Terrell, one of the county’s first school bus contractors, to bring students to her home in the Dublin area where she taught for most of her career, often feeding and clothing them. Mrs. Terrell, who passed away in 1997 at the age of 88, taught first graders most of her career, switching to primary special education for the last several years where she developed “individual education plans” for her students long before IEPs were a requirement for special education youngsters. Mr. Boone spent 19 of his 39 years as an educator in the Harford County Public Schools. He was an industrial arts teacher, counselor, vice principal and principal and was the prime mover in the establishment of the Harford Vocational-Technical Center at Harford Community College, the forerunner of Harford Technical High School. Mr. Boone, a native of West Virginia and a combat veteran of World War II, developed an Easter Seals camp for crippled children on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. In retirement, Mr. Boone has been a driving force in the establishment of a mission church in Russia and has helped organize reunions of those who served on landing ships in the South Pacific during WWII. Board President Troy and Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas presented Board certificates and other awards to the family of Mrs. Terrell and to Mr. Boone.

ALL STATE MUSICIANS, ALL EASTERN MUSICIANS, AND AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION MUSIC AWARDS

The Board presented certificates of award to those student-musicians who were named member of the American Choral Director’s Association (ACDA) National Men and Boys Choir. Named were William Morton, Jason Hess and Kirk Bullis. Young Morton and Hess attend North Harford High while young Bullis is a student at C. Milton Wright High. In addition, six Harford County Public School students were selected to either the All Eastern Band, Orchestra or Chorus. Only 30 students statewide earned the honor. Named were William Morton, Katrina Schulz and Randy Doak from North Harford High; Jessi Eisdorfer and Jeffrey Tomecek from C. Milton Wright High; and Andrew Burgess from Edgewood High. In addition, 45 Harford County Public School students were named to the All State Senior or Junior Chorus/Band/Orchestra. Named were: Arati Prakash, Marlana Welsh, Brittany DeBelius, Evelyn Fisher, Caitlin Katrinic, Katie LaBarre, Anna Wallis, Joseph Close, Steve Galbreath, Brendan Kennedy, Jesse Morton, Matt Seiler, Whitney Anderson, Becca Asaki, Shannon Baranowski, Caitlin Swords, Kirk Bullis, Jason Hess, Randy Doak, Billy Morton, Brandon Riley, Alyson Bullock, Adrienne Kilby, Janice Hayward, Britta nelson, Katrina Schulz, Alice Waters, Jennifer Edwards, Erin Hullett, Andrea Jacobs, Michelle Min, Patrick Carter, Henry Hinz, Jessica Liberati, Nicole Dueker, Karyn Wielechowski, Katlyn DeGraw, Cameo Rowe, Jessie Eisdorfer, Enoch Rowe, Jeff

Tomecek, Andrew Burgess, Greg Citro, Robert Harvey, and Sally Roberts.

RANJIT KORAH – JASON XIV PROJECT

Ranjit Korah, a 14-year-old, ninth grader at Fallston High School, was named as one of 28 13/14-year-olds nationwide chosen to be part of the Jason XIV project for 2003. Students chosen for the project were transported to the Channel Islands area off the coast of southern California where they spent two weeks researching animal and plant life. Founded by Robert Ballard, discoverer of the wreck of the Titanic, the project allows young “Argonauts” to explore areas of the natural sea world. Young Korah is a straight ‘A’ student who is in line to earn his Eagle Scout award at age 15. He completed his adventure during the period from January 21 through February 2.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. Chandler and the second of Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Rich, the Board voted unanimously to endorse items on the Consent Agenda including Board minutes from the January 13 business meeting, the January 15 budget work session, and the January 21 work session; the February monthly report on personnel reflecting those who have been hired or who have left the system; and Proposed Resolutions on National Music in Our Schools and Youth Art Month and Maryland Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT’S REAPPOINTMENT CONTRACT

Superintendent Haas was named Harford County Public School Interim Superintendent in April 1998 and was named Superintendent the following November to fill out that fiscal year. Prior to July 1, 1999, she was named by the Board of Education of Harford County to a full, four-year term as Superintendent of the Harford County Public Schools. After a year-long evaluation process, acting on the motion of Board Vice President Robert S. Magee and the seconds of the remaining six Board members, the Board voted unanimously (including the preferential positive vote of Student Representative to the Board Molly P. Harris) to reappoint Mrs. Haas to a four-year term beginning July 1, 2003 and extending through June 30, 2007. Mr. Magee mentioned many of the accomplishments of Mrs. Haas during her previous term as superintendent, citing her work in developing the budget and mission/vision/goals of the school system as “living documents,” as well as her work with the master plan. He mentioned the system’s Affirmative Action plan and the many regional and national recognitions which have been extended to Mrs. Haas. Mr. Magee mentioned Mrs. Haas’ effective working relationship with the Board, various levels of County/State government, and the public; and said that her “clear focus” on doing what is “best for

children” has been one of her key strengths. Mrs. Haas said her work is challenging but credited her “talented staff” with making the work exciting. She said that major changes will have to be made to meet the mandates of new Federal/State legislation, but pledged to work hard to help make the school system as good as it can be. Terms of Mrs. Haas’ contract were to have been released later in the week.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION

The Board of Education of Harford County took action on several bills pending before the Maryland State Legislature in the 2003 General Assembly. The Board voted 5 to 2 (Mrs. Wolf and Mr. Magee dissenting) to reverse an earlier position and take no position on SB 388 (the Governor-backed Charter School Bill) and all other charter bills being considered.

The Board voted unanimously to support HB 22, stipends for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards for Library Media Specialists, Speech-Language pathologists, Audiologists, and other professionally certified Education Specialists.

The Board voted unanimously to support HB 153/SB 151, the Resident Teacher Corps Pilot Program.

The Board voted unanimously to support SB 370 which would increase penalties for those failing to stop for a school vehicle with activated flashing lights.

The Board voted unanimously to oppose HB 307 which would establish procedures for gifted programs in the public schools of Maryland (infringe on local Board prerogative).

The Board voted unanimously to oppose HB 345 which would prevent harassment and intimidation in public schools of Maryland (infringe on local board prerogative).

The Board voted unanimously to support HB 870 which would permit the principal to designate a representative to be in charge during school sponsored trips.

The Board voted unanimously to oppose SB 395 which would require local boards of education to develop and adopt policies related to marketing and advertising in public schools (infringe on local board prerogative).

APPOINTMENT OF 2004-05 CALENDAR COMMITTEE

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. Chandler and the second of Mrs. Rich, the Board voted unanimously to appoint members of the 2004-05 Calendar Committee as recommended by the Superintendent. Appointed to the committee were: Barbara Koeneke, Amy/Jeff Schoenberger, Cynthia Warner, Cathi Peters, Cindy Mumby, Jennifer Handlin, Chris Scholz, Mike Burnham, Jody Simpson, Joe Mascari, Dave Cooper, Kaye Bloome, Connie Tucker, Dennis Kirkwood, Steve Morse, Mike Morey, Gerry Scarborough, Pat Skebeck, and Dave Volrath. Board Member Mark Wolkow will act as Board Liaison and Don Morrison, school system director of public information, will facilitate the group which was due to have

met on March 5 to make recommendations for the 2004-05 school calendar.

In addition, the Board provided a number of parameters to be considered by the Calendar Committee during its deliberations. Mrs. Wolf suggested the committee build additional days into the calendar as potential snow makeup days. She also recommended the half day on the day prior to Thanksgiving (two hours) early dismissal be continued and that the current arrangement for supplying staff development days, two each, after the first, second and third quarters be continued. She also suggested that the consideration be given not to schedule two-hour early dismissals for elementary teacher planning time in the same week or the week prior/after staff development days or other holidays. Mr. Wolkow reiterated the need to provide additional inclement weather days and to communicate that listing with the public. Ms. Harris suggested keeping the staff development days as currently constituted and to communicate with the public why those days are important and why they were placed where they were in the calendar. Mrs. Troy reiterated the need for additional inclement weather makeup days.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2002-03 INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE UP DAYS

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Board Member Robert B. Thomas, Jr., the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to seek a four-day waiver from the State Superintendent and State Board of Education in recognition of the four days lost to inclement weather, February 18 through 21, during which a state of emergency had been declared by the Governor due to a record snow storm. Acting on a second motion by Mr. Thomas and second by Mrs. Wolf, Mrs. Rich, and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to use the two scheduled staff development days of Friday, April 4 and Monday, April 7 to make up inclement weather days beyond the three which had been placed in the schedule. The action, combined with the four state-day state waiver (if granted) would mean the school year could end on Friday, June 13, 2003 as originally scheduled, provided there were no more inclement weather days used. If additional days were to be lost, they would be made up beginning on Monday, June 16.

NEW BUSINESS

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT – END OF SECOND QUARTER

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services John Markowski presented the Board with an accounting of the school system's financial standing at the end of the second quarter of FY 03 (December 31, 2002). Mr. Markowski said that poor performance by investments due to low interest rates as well as higher than budgeted expenses in special education, operations and fixed charges has resulted in a precarious financial situation at mid-year for FY 03. Mr. Markowski projected a \$416,842 excess of revenues over expenditures – just 0.2 percent. He said that unexpected expenses could easily wipe out that modest fund balance. Mr. Markowski said the Superintendent is recommending a restricted hiring and equipment purchase freeze until the financial picture becomes more stable. Mr. Markowski also said results after two quarters in the pilot of block grants being provided to schools permitting them more spending flexibility within the limits of the grant has been

inconclusive at this point. "This requires a proactive approach," Mr. Markowski said, suggesting that longterm substitutes be used in the classroom rather than hiring fulltime teachers in the short run. While Mr. Markowski said no action is required on the part of the Board in acting to conserve funds, Mrs. Wolf said she feels if the Board approved a position, it should be the Board which acts to restrict its being filled or not. The Board reached consensus that some positions could remain unfilled but that classroom positions should be filled as candidates become available. Mrs. Haas said the school Business Office would continue monitoring closely the revenue/expenditure picture and report back to the Board on progress being made.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas called on Supervisor of Construction Kathleen Sanner to report on the situation involving the ceiling of the Aberdeen High School gymnasium, now being constructed as part of the replacement project. Mrs. Sanner said that 24 feet is the accepted standard for the height of a gymnasium ceiling (the Aberdeen High gym ceiling was being constructed with a 20 feet floor to lowest girder height). Mrs. Sanner said the architectural firm involved, Grimm and Parker, has been working with the school system since the problem came to light in early February. She said that several solutions have been suggested but the school system believes the acceptable action is to raise the entire length of the gym ceiling (an auxiliary gymnasium is included in the project as a continuous space) to the 24 foot height. She called the omission "embarrassing" to both the architect and the school system. Mrs. Sanner said the good news is that the action to remedy the situation should not delay the project's completion beyond the scheduled spring of 2004 since the gymnasium is one of the last parts of the facility scheduled to be finished. She said the school system will not accept the raising of a portion of the ceiling. Mr. Thomas and other Board members expressed their doubt that "trimming the trusses" as a way of increasing the height from floor to ceiling is not an acceptable remedy. Mr. Magee said he applauds Grimm and Parker for taking responsibility for the need to correct the situation. Mrs. Haas said she expects a "positive resolution" and added her plaudits to Grimm and Parker.

Mrs. Haas said the Federal government's increasing of the threat level recently involving homeland security has caused the school system to consider what the situation means to local schools/school offices. She said that Security Coordinator Robert Benedetto pulled a group of local emergency/police officials to review and discuss what actions should be taken by the schools. She said a letter was going home to parents through their children explaining the actions taken by the school system relative to the threat of terrorist activity. She said the letter will be published on the school system web tomorrow (Tuesday, February 25). Mr. Thomas said there is the need to balance the public's need to know with the need for a level of confidentiality.

BOARD BUSINESS

Mr. Wolkow reminded those present that the Permanent Nominating Caucus deadline for individuals to identify themselves as candidates for Board of Education and Harford Community College Board of Trustee positions coming open this July (Board Bel Air and

Aberdeen/HCC Districts C and E) is March 6. He said that Mrs. Troy and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler are eligible for and have expressed an interest in being reappointed to the Bel Air and Aberdeen Board positions, respectively. Mr. Wolkow complimented those students who took part in the All State Chorus performance. Mr. Magee said he had had the opportunity to hear the American Choral Directors Association performance in New York City and that the students put forth an outstanding performance.

Mrs. Troy credited Bel Air Middle School's recent performance in the Hoops for Heart fundraiser, noting that the "Memory Walk" was very near its goal of \$20,000 in contributions.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mr. Wolkow and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board will continue its regular business meetings for the month of March at Edgewood High School, meeting on March 10 and March 24 in the school auditorium (7:00 and 6:30 p.m., respectively). The Board will then move to Havre de Grace Middle School for its April through June business meetings. The Board will hold a work session at the HEAT Center in Aberdeen beginning at 7:00 p.m. on March 17.

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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