

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2013

BOARD REACHES AGREEMENT WITH HCESC/MOU WITH FOUR REMAINING UNITS

Agreement results in two paid non-work days for employees this school year

The Board of Education of Harford County and the Harford County Educational Services Council (HCESC), which represents approximately 1,100 Harford County Public Schools employees, including clerical/secretaries, paraeducators, nurses, instructionally-related technicians, transportation specialists and inclusion helpers, among other related instructional support personnel, have reached a tentative agreement between the two organizations.

On September 26, 2013, the tentative agreement was signed by representatives of the school system and HCESC. The one-year contract settlement between the Board of Education and HCESC encompasses the 2013-14 school year, which began July 1, 2013, and will end June 30, 2014. The signed agreement includes a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for two paid non-work days in the 2013-14 contract year. In addition, a MOU has been established with the other four bargaining units to provide the same benefit during the current contract year. This means, all employees whose position falls within the five bargaining units will receive two additional paid days off.

The two-day schedule, per employee group, is outlined below:

- 10-month employees (with the exception of Inclusion Helpers and Bus Drivers/Attendants – sub-bullets below) -- the paid non-work days will be Monday, April 14, 2014, and Tuesday, April 15, 2014. The April dates connect to Spring Break school closures and may be adjusted should those dates be required as inclement weather make-up school days.
 - Inclusion Helpers -- will be scheduled off on Friday, November 1, 2013, and Tuesday, April 15, 2014.
 - Bus Drivers and Attendants -- will be scheduled off based on a schedule that preserves transportation service.
- 12-month employees -- the paid non-work days will be Thursday, December 26, 2013, and Friday, December 27, 2013. The December dates connect to Winter Break closures when both schools and offices are closed. The timing of the December paid non-work days will provide an extended period of energy savings to the school system.

Other specifics of the agreement were shared with members of the Board of Education and with the members of HCESC. The agreement becomes official after ratification by both HCESC and the Board.

Information regarding the collective bargaining process can be found on the school system website at www.hcps.org by clicking on the 'Board' tab.

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