



# In The Loop

**The Board of Education of Harford County met in an open business session on Monday, December 3, 2007, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the HCPS A.A. Roberty Building. In the absence of Board President Thomas L. Fidler, Jr., Board Vice President Salina M. Williams presided. The Board took the following actions, received the following presentations, or had the following discussions:**

## Board Comments –

Board Member R. Robin Rich, Board liaison to the Comprehensive Secondary School Reform Plan (CSSRP) mentioned the Board has approved an external evaluation group to do the first phase review on the implementation of CSSRP, noting the results will not be published on the HCPS website until the evaluation is finished. Board Past President Mark M. Wolkow complimented the new Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness signature program which began this school year at Joppatowne High School, noting the program had a public grand opening the prior week. Student Representative to the Board Chase J. Jackson acknowledged students who had come to the Board meeting to show their interest. Mrs. Williams complimented the editor of the *Harford Schools* newspaper on the publication having won a regional award from the Chesapeake Regional Association of the National School Public Relations Association (CHESPRRA). She said she had also attended a parent-involvement event at Aberdeen High School recently and urged all parents to support their child's education.

## In Old Business –

- approved items on the Consent Agenda including Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards; approved the award of Playground Equipment at Edgewood Elementary School; and approved the concepts and programs of the Natural Resources & Agricultural Sciences Magnet Program at North Harford High School, a halftime Natural Resources & Agricultural Sciences Magnet Program Coordinator to be included in the FY09 Board Operating Budget request, and directing the Superintendent to instruct the Steering Committee to develop a curriculum and materials task list and timeline for consideration at a future Board meeting.
- approved changes in the Board Policy involving Use of Tobacco Products by students, offering the opportunity for students to have the period of their suspension for violating the policy upon completion of any approved tobacco cessation classes; and to transfer the policy from the Safety/Security section to the District Management section of the Policy manual.

## In New Business –

- received a report on Leadership Succession Planning in which the Board was told there is a significant number of upper and mid-level management in the school

system at or approaching retirement age; that steps have already been taken to prepare future leaders; and that a committee has been formed to make recommendations for further steps.

- received the Superintendent's Report in which Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas told the Board:
  - a group of HCPS administrators had made it's appeal to the Interagency Committee for School Construction (IAC) earlier that day as the first step of review for the proposed Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for FY 2009; noting that the group has recommended \$6.5 million in state funding for the remainder of the Joppatowne Elementary project, \$187,000 for the Jarrettsville Elementary heating/ventilation/air conditioning project, \$913,000 for Fallston High's roof project, and shifted \$3 million from the Bel Air High replacement building project to the Deerfield Elementary replacement project;
  - noted that State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick was due to visit Harford County for the December 5<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting of the Learn, Explore and Play (LEAP) science program at the Edgewood Branch of the Harford County Public Library;
  - noted that ten schools in Massachusetts have adopted a longer (from six to eight or nine hours) school day at a cost of \$20 million, adding reading, writing, mathematics extra instruction;
  - pointed out an article that had appeared in the December 2<sup>nd</sup> *Washington Post* about the addition to the Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) the teaching of students in Maryland about the need to receive security clearance for many jobs which also includes financial literacy/personal resource management to avoid debt that would damage their security clearance, noting the instruction is already part of the Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness curriculum;
  - congratulated three Edgewood High students who won the first three places in the VFW Regional 'Voice of Democracy' essay contest recently;
  - noted that HCPS employees had given or pledged \$54,000 to the United Way campaign to once again rank as Harford's top giving agency;
  - pointed to this Saturday's Trumpet Day at Bel Air High School;
  - displayed a pocket 'Facts' brochure with pertinent information about the Harford County Public Schools just published by the school system;
  - reported on her recent meeting with the Student Advisory group during which student uniforms (a wide variety of opinions) and the no-E's extra curricular policy (unanimous in support) issues were discussed.

With no further action to be taken, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.