



In The Loop

The following actions were taken and discussions conducted by the Board of Education of Harford County at its Monday, October 22, 2007 meeting:

Board Members made the following comments:

Board Past President Mark M. Wolkow refuted published reports of students at Homestead/Wakefield being denied access to restrooms during a recent water outage at the school. Mr. Wolkow also thanked the HarCo Federal Credit Union for agreeing to sponsor the telecast of the upcoming Board budget hearings. He noted the recently held third annual Greater Edgewood Education Foundation (GEEF) 'Everyday Heroes' dinner/fundraiser which raised \$6,500 for use in the Edgewood-area schools and during which the new 'College Pathways' video, produced by the Harford Cable Network, was unveiled.

Student Representative to the Board Chase J. Jackson disclosed results of an informal survey done among students by the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils on gangs and on elected school boards.

Board President Thomas L. Fidler, Jr. congratulated Social Studies Supervisor George Toepfer and Youth's Benefit Elementary teacher Jan Truzzolino for winning Maryland Council for the Social Studies 'Distinguished Educator' awards. He noted Patterson Mill Middle-High School was to be dedicated on October 28th, and that the HCPS United Way campaign was to commence next week, urging all school employees to contribute.

Board actions included:

- unanimously approving items on the Consent Agenda including the minutes of the September 17 work session and September 24 business meeting; passing of proposed resolutions on American Education Week, National Educational Support Personnel Day, National Family Week, Impact Area Aid Assistance, and American Patriotism in Harford County Public Schools.
- Unanimously approved changes to the Board Policy on Student Discipline.

The Board discussed:

- the location and nature of graduation ceremonies for the 2008-09 school year and beyond, taking into consideration dates for the ceremonies, sizes of facilities needed, and other factors with the consideration of possible changes in the current format pending.

The Board received the following presentations:

- An “unqualified” (positive) opinion from the firm commissioned to audit HCPS funds for the year ending June 30, 2006.
- A report from the HCPS Human Resources office reflecting on teacher recruitment and retention for the 2007-08 school year.
- A report on the Legislative Platform previously approved by the Board to reflect its positions on key issues which may be raised during the 2008 Maryland General Assembly.
- A preliminary report from the Superintendent’s Technical Advisory Committee on Balancing Enrollments (including September 30, 2007 enrollment figures and projections).
- An update on grading and reporting by the Ad Hoc Committee set up to look at student grading practices employed in the Harford County Public Schools.
- A presentation on the motivational survey done among students recently.
- A presentation of the quarterly report from the HCPS Planning and Construction Office.