



The following actions and discussions took place at the Board of Education of Harford County meeting held on Monday, November 5th, in the HCPS/A.A. Roberty Building:

- Accepted comments from former Board Members/Board Presidents Thomas Hess, Robert Thomas, and Geoffrey Close praising the selection of HCPS Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas as Maryland Superintendent of the Year for 2007-08. Mr. Hess wondered aloud, "why did it take them so long," to recognize the tenth year Superintendent for her excellence as a school leader.
- Board Members made the following statements during the Board Comments portion of the agenda:
 - Board Past President Mark M. Wolkow pointed to a recent editorial in the local newspaper which inappropriately criticized Board President Thomas L. Fidler, Jr. for his leadership in the area of the acquisition of property for school construction, pointing out that Mr. Fidler's actions provided just the leadership the newspaper had previously editorialized had been lacking by the Board. Mr. Wolkow also pointed to the 'College Pathways' video debuted recently by the Greater Edgewood Education Foundation (GEEF) and to the recent kickoff of the Edgewood Learning Community (ELC), as well as the Gang Summit which had taken place in Edgewood. In addition, he pointed to the announcement during the previous week in Ocean City (MD) of Dr. Haas as Maryland Superintendent of the Year.
 - Student Representative to the Board Chase J. Jackson discussed the recent Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) meeting and its call for open communications with the State Board of Education.
 - Board Vice President Salina M. Williams applauded Sheriff Jesse Bane for his role in the Gang Summit, especially for his efforts in bringing faith-based groups together to support anti-gang efforts. She urged parents to become involved in their children's education.
 - Mr. Fidler congratulated Dr. Haas on being named Superintendent of the Year. He pointed to the Harford County Public Library's gala event the previous weekend, discussed the County government's award of \$1,000 bonuses to the first 100 HCPS teachers who signed contracts to teach in "critical areas," mentioned the impending attempt by William Paca Elementary students to be part of a world-record setting attempt in number of students involved in speedstacking during a single day, and pointed to the second annual 'Driven to Read' reading promotion at Hickory Elementary School coming up on November 10th. Mr. Fidler also "categorically denied" the *Aegis* editorial's assertion that he had "ulterior motives" in attempting to get public water extended to Forest Hill Elementary School, calling the allegations "a badge of honor" and "a slap in the face." He noted that if Board members can't become involved in being advocates for improvement "none of us can get where we need to be."
- Took action to approve items on the Consent Agenda including:
 - affirmation of monthly contract awards; approval of General Legislative Positions; approval of a school/organization sponsored project (Riverside Elementary School playground replacement); appointment/reappointment of members of the Audit Committee -- Blaise Sedney, Joseph Lambdin, and Fred Fickert; and minutes of September 25th Board Work Session.
- Took action to appoint Joseph P. Licata as Chief of Administration (Mr. Licata had been serving as Acting Chief for six months as well as continuing his role as Assistant Superintendent for Operations).
- Awarded the contract to provide architectural and engineering services for the replacement school project at Youth's Benefit Elementary School to Gilbert Architects for \$1,962,013.
- Awarded the contract to provide Package 9B of the Joppatowne Elementary School Modernization and Additions (Tile) - to Lach Tile & Marble Inc. in the amount of \$106,041.
- Received a presentation from Mr. Licata and Director of Facilities Management Patti Jo Beard on the Work Order Process [Click here to access Work Order Presentation Powerpoint](#)

- Received a presentation from Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Gerald E. Scarborough on Comprehensive Secondary School Reform Program (CSSRP) parameters [Click here to access the CSSRP Powerpoint Presentation](#)
- Received the Superintendent's Report during which Dr. Haas:
 - discussed a State Board of Education action taken the previous week in the area of High School Assessments (HSAs), during which they approved the "Bridge Plan" to allow students who had been unsuccessful in passing one or more of the HSAs despite numerous attempts to, instead, submit a state-approved project; while eliminating the "minimum score" provision of the tests given in Biology, Government, English II, and Algebra as required for a graduation prerequisite beginning with the Class of 2009.
 - provided information on developments during the first week of the Special Session being held by the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis including the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) and the Geographical Cost of Education (GCE) index.
 - provided information on HB 50 which would require the state's contributions to the cost of school system employee retirements to be frozen.
 - provided information on a move that would lessen state contribution to the cost of non-public school placements (adding information about how the Thornton Commission funding came to be placed in the Maryland budget due to a lack of adequate contribution by the state government in its constitutionally required support of public schools).
 - mentioned that there would be a two-hour early dismissal for day school employees on the day prior to Thanksgiving (November 21st).
 - pointed to the sending out of 60,000 surveys to students in grades eight through 12 asking parents to respond to the question about school uniforms and seeking a response by November 26th.
 - complimented the HCPS Public Information Office for its role in organizing the Communications Audit conducted by members of the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) the previous week, mentioning that she had received a "debriefing" that day from the lead auditor and looked forward to recommendations "sometime next month" that would enable the school system to be more "proactive" in the providing information to the public.

With no more business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.