



In The Loop

The Board of Education of Harford County took the following actions or were involved in the following discussions during the September 10, 2007 Board meeting which took place in the HCPS A.A. Roberty Building.

- Conducted a renaming ceremony for the former Harford County Public Schools Administration Building – which was renamed the Harford County Public Schools A.A. Roberty Building as a result of action taken by the Board at its July 9, 2007 meeting.
- Voted to pass items on the Consent Agenda including: Affirmation of monthly contract awards; Purchase of new computer server hardware, Contract award on commercial mowers; and Contract award on video surveillance camera system service for secondary schools and the HCPS A.A. Roberty Building.
- Awarded the contract for the two-story, 12 classroom addition for Aberdeen High School.
- Awarded the contract for the modernization of Joppatowne Elementary School.
- Awarded the contract for the construction of the Vale Road Elementary School.
- Received a report on the fourth quarter (2006-07) eligibility for high school students.
- Adopted the FY 2009 HCPS Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for submission to the County government's consideration.
- Took the following positions on the High School Assessments (HSA's):
 - Support the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) and the Public School Superintendents Association (PSSAM) to have HSA tests be used to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Maryland School Assessments (MSAs) instead of putting students at risk of not receiving a Maryland High School diploma.
 - Support an initiative to reduce the time for results being delivered from nine to two weeks.
 - Support the need for more flexibility in the format and options for testing as it applies to students with disabilities, English language learners, and other students with special challenges.
 - Support the providing of sub-score information when releasing scores to the local school systems, so that schools and curriculum developers can target areas for improvement and conduct analyses that would identify and prioritize areas where improvement efforts should be directed.
 - Took no position on ensuring the adoption of rigorous, high stakes testing program matched with the full funding required to implement intervention programs.
 - Voted 6 to 1 (Past President Mark M. Wolkow dissenting) to oppose a “white paper” presented recently by the Montgomery County Public Schools on the HSA's.
 - Support a review of out-of-state transfers to make sure they qualify for graduation based on the HSA requirements.
 - Non-support of the MSDE initiative of providing an alternative method project for HSA's.
- Received a report on proposed changes to Board Policy regarding student discipline, acts of student misconduct (removal), student suspension of ten days (removal) based on the policy being redundant to state law.
- Received a quarterly financial report for the period ending June 30, 2007.