



Board Meeting

January 24, 2000

Karen L. Wolf, *President*
David H. Galbreath, *Vice President*
Eugene C. Chandler
Thomas D. Hess
Robert S. Magee
Robert B. Thomas, Jr.
Terry R. Troy
Catherine L. Brodo,
Student Representative
Jacqueline C. Haas, *Superintendent*
Secretary/Treasurer

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education of Harford County met in open session on Monday, January 24, 2000, in the multi-purpose room of Aberdeen Middle School. Board President **Karen L. Wolf** called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Mrs. Wolf welcomed the Aberdeen High School String Ensemble under the direction of **Kevin W. Gardiner**, which had been performing several numbers prior to the Board's convening. Mrs. Wolf asked that the group play one additional number, and then presented Mr. Gardiner and his ensemble with a Board certificate. The Board President asked for a Quorum Call with all Board members being present. Board member **Eugene C. Chandler** moved that the agenda be accepted as printed. Board Member **Terry R. Troy** seconded the motion with the amendment that the agenda be amended to include the proposed resolution on School Nurses' Day be moved to the Recognition portion of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Board Vice President **David H. Galbreath** moved that an action item be added which would have the Board vote to open the Academy of Finance at Edgewood High School and the CISCO program at Joppatowne High School to enrollment by students outside the attendance areas of those two schools. The motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Galbreath was told by Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** that there is no limit on the number of students who can apply for a boundary exception to take part in a program which exists at a particular school, outside their attendance area, so long as there

is room under the capacity at the receiving school. Board member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** added that he does not feel the Board has a sufficient level of information on the potential of such "signature" programs to take action, though he said he shares Mr. Galbreath's interest in signature or magnet programs. Those present were led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by Board Member **Robert S. Magee**. Aberdeen Middle School Principal **Gladys B. Pace**, accompanied by Aberdeen Middle School music teacher **Marianne Pastelak**, presented a rendition of "The Greatest Love." Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Haas gave the two educators a certificate on behalf of the Board in appreciation of the performance.

RECOGNITION

The Board presented certificates to several individuals or groups of students who had made outstanding accomplishments recently. First to be recognized were the Student Pages who have been selected from Harford County to serve in Annapolis during the 2000 session of the General Assembly. The students, who qualified for the assignment through a competitive process that began in September in their home schools, will each serve two non-consecutive weeks during the 90-day session which began in January and ends in April. Recognized as pages to serve in the Maryland State Senate were **Kathryn Rudisill** and **Jason Waskey** of Fallston High School. Receiving certificates in recognition of their assignment to serve in the Maryland House of Delegates were **Michelle Fischette** of Havre de Grace High School, **Matthew Hart** of C. Milton Wright High School, and **Katherine Maddox** of Harford Technical High School. Also honored was **Jessie Reeder** of Bel Air High School, who was selected as an alternate.

Also recognized was **Erik Purpora**, a junior at Bel Air High School, who, through use of the Heimlich Maneuver, saved the life of his friend, **Tim Jasovsky**, while the two were eating lunch at the school on December 14, 1999.

In addition, the Board recognized two teams of students – one from North Harford High School and the other from North Harford Elementary School – each of which had finished first in their division in the Fall 1999 Maryland/DC Stock Market Game. The North Harford High team, coached by Business teacher **Henry Hirschmann**, finished as the top overall team in the region, amassing a total of \$253,101 in mock investments, starting with a fund of \$100,000 and buying, selling, and trading stocks over a ten-week period. Members of the team recognized were **Rodney Nash**, **Jessica Neitzey**, **Scott Phillips**, and **Kristen Reich**.

Meanwhile, in the Elementary School Division, Enrichment Teacher **Janet Adams** and Fifth Grade teacher **Martha E. Barwick** received certificates from the Board as sponsors of the team which won its division and finished fourth among all entrants by turning \$100,000 in mock investment dollars into \$187,629 during the ten-week contest. Presented certificates were team

members **Kristie Bon, Joshua Heilman, Andrew Damyszek, Sarah Schmidt** and **Rodney Walls**.

Under the Nurses' Day recognition, HCPS Nursing Coordinator **Margaret Schueler** and several members of the school system's school nursing team accepted a certificate from the Board recognizing January 26, 2000 as School Nurse's Day in the county schools. The 56 Registered Nurses, three Licensed Practical Nurses, and two Certified Health Technicians in the county school system were recognized for having provided service to more than 4,300 students last year who received 371,578 doses of medication; and 542,409 student health room visits, all during the 1998-99 school year.

ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Magee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 5 and 8, 2000; and the Executive and Business sessions of January 10, 2000. Also, acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed resolutions on School Nurses' Day -- January 26, 2000; National School Counseling Week -- February 7-11, 2000; and Career & Technical Education Week -- February 13-19, 2000.

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of its committees in student discipline appeal cases -- 11-99-00, 12-99-00, and 13-99-00.

Also, the Board approved the motion of Mr. Thomas and second of Mr. Hess to accept the recommendation to change the 2000-01 school calendar, correcting an error which had occurred in the scheduling of the Maryland State Teachers Association (MSTA) Convention holiday. The calendar had listed the date as Friday, October 27, 2000. The date should have been listed as Friday, October 20, 2000.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas reported that she had attended the first formal meeting of the Harford County Delegation in Annapolis on January 21. She said the Governor's FY 2001 budget stressed a strong fiscal position and continuing support for the use of state funds in school construction. She said the system was due to appeal three projects before the Board of Public Works on January 26 -- the Abingdon Elementary addition in which the system is seeking approval for a 270 student addition rather than the approved 200 student addition; the number of seats in the Meadowvale Elementary School modernization from the approved 536 to 586; and the new replacement building for Aberdeen High School. Mrs. Haas

said the Governor has proposed \$8 million for telephones in the classroom, but has not appropriated funds for phone lines or the monthly charges associated with the use of the phones. She said the Governor's support of paying prevailing wages to workers involved with school construction projects would increase construction costs by 15 to 20 percent. She said that, while Gov. Glendenning had expressed support for teacher pay increases in his State of the State message, he has not put any money in the budget for that purpose. In addition, she said he has not appropriated any money for "bridge" funding which would provide additional money to local school systems in advance of an anticipated change in the state funding formula due to be considered during the 2001 General Assembly. Mrs. Haas said she is developing a chart which will provide the Board with updated information on the progress of legislation as well as a booklet showing the positions taken by the state's Superintendent's Association. Mrs. Haas said that County Executive **Jim Harkins** had appeared before the Delegation at their January 21 meeting and expressed significant concerns about county funds over the next few years. Mr. Thomas said that there are two bills which will have an impact on the county school system – HB 24 and SB 112 – which relate to the sharing of information about the medical treatment of juveniles. Mrs. Haas said there are 21 education-related bills which have been filed in the General Assembly. Mr. Thomas asked if the Board could spend ten minutes at the start of its February 2nd meeting on School Redistricting to take positions on bills impacting education.

PRESENTATION – BOARD POLICY PROPOSALS

Acting Deputy Superintendent **Robert C. Williams**, accompanied by Director of Secondary Education **William M. Ekey** and Assistant Supervisor of Equity and Diversity **Rhonda Jones**, provided the Board with information on several proposed Board policies which had been remanded to the Board Policy Review Committee. Mr. Williams said in August, the Maryland State Board of Education had voted not to include language about anti-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in its hate-bias policies; and that the proposed language had been stricken from the local Board's policies on Student Rights and Activities. Mr. Thomas asked if the local policy mirrored the State's policies and Mr. Williams said that it did. Mr. Thomas' motion was supported unanimously by the Board to accept the proposed policy as written.

The next policy to be considered by the Board was one involving metal detectors. Mr. Ekey said, at the urging of former Board member **Richard W. Daub, Jr.** and Mr. Hess, the Policy Review Committee was asked to craft a policy using "reasonable basis" as the threshold for a principal requesting a scan by a police officer with a metal detector. Mr. Thomas said he is concerned that the proposed policy is "still too broad" and that a portion of the proposal opens the search up to more than just weapons. Mr. Magee said he is fearful the language of the policy would take away some of the discretion of the principal

in a search, forcing him to have "probable cause" rather than "reasonable suspicion" to conduct a search. Mr. Hess said the intent is to help, not hinder, the principal by giving him another avenue in a search. Mr. Thomas said he thinks there may be Fourth Amendment problems with the policy as written. Mr. Galbreath, seconded by Mr. Hess, moved that the proposal be tabled and remanded to the Policy Review Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

A third proposed policy, this one involving students' carrying and the use of backpacks, was discussed. The Board had directed that a policy be developed which would allow each school to make its own determination involving backpacks. However, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Galbreath said they feel the policy should be a more consistent one. Mr. Hess moved that the policy be approved as presented, permitting each school to make its own procedure on the issue. Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler seconded the motion which passed by a 4 to 3 vote (Mrs. Wolf, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Galbreath dissenting).

The next proposed policy, which was presented by **Patricia Skebeck**, director of elementary education, involved dress codes. The Board had directed that a separate dress code be developed for students in elementary, middle and high schools. Mrs. Skebeck said the committee had realized there were more commonalities in a proposal for appropriate dress than differences. The proposed policy would have had two dress codes – one for elementary school and one for secondary school students. Mr. Galbreath said he feels there should be a consistent code throughout the school system. Mr. Hess said the policy should call for three dress codes and it would be up to the school system administration to determine how the policy would be implemented. The Board voted unanimously to support Mr. Galbreath's motion to remand the policy back to the Policy Review Committee.

Another policy under consideration by the Board involved participation in extra-curricular activities. Mr. Hess said that Mr. Daub, who had suggested review of the policy, had done so in order to take a look at those students involved in home schooling and their ability to take part in extra curricular activities. Mr. Hess moved that the policy be worded to say that only those students who are officially registered and physically attending a Harford County public school could take part in extra-curricular activities. Mr. Galbreath seconded the motion which was approved by 4 to 2 (Mr. Magee and Mr. Thomas dissenting) with one abstention (Mrs. Troy).

The final of the policies reviewed by the Board concerned attendance at proms by those over 21 years of age. Mr. Thomas moved that the policy be approved as proposed. Mrs. Troy suggested an amendment that the policy cover "school sponsored dances." Mr. Thomas and Mr. Galbreath, who had seconded the motion, agreed to the amendment and the policy was passed by a 6 to 1 vote (Mr. Magee dissenting).

PROMOTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Haas presented the Board with the name of **Margaret D. Goodson** to be appointed Supervisor of Human Resources. Mrs. Goodson is the current principal of Emmorton Elementary School. The Board approved the appointment unanimously. The Board also endorsed the appointment of **Margaret Y. Kirk**, who was an approved member of the elementary school principal's pool, to take over for Mrs. Goodson as Principal of Emmorton Elementary.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Wolf noted the presence of **Lance Miller**, County Council Member and Education Liaison from that group to the Board of Education; as well as **Terry Weaver**, Education Liaison from the County Executive. She also mentioned the "absolutely wonderful – terrific display" of those in support of the education budget at Edgewood High School during the County Executive's Budget hearing on January 19. She credited principal's for their willingness to "shuffle activities" allowing all those interested in attending the hearing to do so. Mrs. Wolf added that she had received "hundreds of letters" on the proposed redistricting, both for Forest Hill Elementary School, and the possible secondary redistricting involving students being taken from Southampton Middle and C. Milton Wright high schools. Some, she said, were very "professionally done," while others were "downright rude." She said she wanted to go on record that no redistricting proposals have been acted on.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular business meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County will be held on Monday, February 14, 2000, at Aberdeen Middle School, in the multi-purpose room, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Board meetings or other matters affecting the Harford County Public Schools, contact the system's Director of Public Information, 410-588-5203; or call the system's Customer Relations Action Line, 410-638-0022 (which can also be used as a 24-hour-a-day tip line for safety concerns).

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