



Board Meeting

March 27, 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

Board President **Karen L. Wolf** called the open meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County to order at 7:15 p.m. The meeting was held in the multipurpose room of Aberdeen Middle School. Mrs. Wolf noted the performance of the Aberdeen Middle School String Ensemble under the direction of **Melissa Haerberle** which performed several numbers leading up to the beginning of the meeting. A performing group has been providing demonstrations of their talents at each of the Board's fourth-Monday meetings during the 1999-2000 school year. The Board Secretary was asked to make a Quorum Roll Call with all Board members being present. Student Representative to the Board **Catherine L. Brodo** was not present. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** moved and Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** seconded that the proposed agenda be adopted as presented with the exception of Item "D" under Information and Discussion Items – Presentation of Curriculum: Joppatowne Elementary School Meadows Project – be moved forward to be considered immediately after the Consent Agenda. The motion was passed 7 to 0 by the Board. Mrs. Wolf asked that Board Member **Eugene C. Chandler** lead those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the Aberdeen Middle School Men's Chorus, under the direction of **Marianne Pastelak**, sang the "National Anthem."

RECOGNITION

Mrs. Wolf, joined by Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas**, presented a series of recognition awards. The first two went to Ms. Haeberle and Ms. Pastelak and their student musical groups. Board Member **Terry R. Troy** then invited Supervisor of Equity and Cultural Diversity **Catherine Price** and Assistant Supervisor of Equity and Cultural Diversity **Rhonda Jones** to come forward and lead the recognition ceremonies for those who had won awards in the African-American History Month Poster/Collage contest, whose theme was "Contributions of Twentieth Century African-Americans/Foundations for the Future." Winners were, first place in the elementary division – **Shannon Kelly**, William S. James Elementary School second grader; first place in the elementary division - **Carol Lee Baker**, high school division, John Archer School; first place in the middle school division -**Stacie Ebersole**, teacher, North Harford Middle School Sixth Grade Rx Class; first place in the high school division – Harford Technical High School's Tenth Grade Cosmetology Students; honorable mention – **Shane Schlisler**, fourth grade, Joppatowne Elementary School; honorable mention – **Alita Credel**, kindergarten teacher, Deerfield Elementary School; and honorable mention – **Patrice Campbell**, twelfth grade, Edgewood High School. Mrs. Price and Mrs. Jones also presented information about some of the programs and activities schools conducted in honoring African-American History Month.

Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Haas next honored members of the Aberdeen High School boys basketball team which won the 2000 MPSSAA State Class 2A Championship with a 50-48 win over Gwynn Park High School on March 11th at Cole Field House on campus at the University of Maryland. Certificates were presented to head coach **Richard Hart** and assistant coaches **Virgil Mullin** and **Steve Davis** along with players **Calvin Kelly, Sterling McKinley, Gary Neal, Allen Holmes, Bill Guy, Teon Edwards, Horatio Henderson, Chuck Faison, Curtis Hill, Tylon Gatling, Chris Gere, and Jai Lewis**. Team managers **Shamika Foust** and **Tasha Facey** also received certificates.

In addition, a certificate was presented to C. Milton Wright High School junior **Cara Wettlaufer** who won the MPSSAA Class 3A-4A indoor track and field state championship in the 1600 meter run on February 22nd at the National Guard Armory in Baltimore.

Mrs. Troy also read the names of the Harford County Public School student athletes who won regional titles during the 1999-2000 winter season. Region winning wrestlers included: **Tom Conlon** of Harford Technical High School (Region 2A/1A North, 119 pounds), **Doug Smith** of Joppatowne High School (Region 2A/1A North, 125 pounds), **Jon Comer** of Harford Technical High School (Region 2A/1A North, 135 pounds), **Charles Angelilli** of North Harford High School (Region 2A/1A North, 140 pounds), **Jon Wainwright** of Bel Air High School (Region 4A/3A North, 171 pounds), **Mike Miller** of Aberdeen High School (Region 2A/1A North, 189 pounds), and **Carter Hugo** of C.

Milton Wright High School (Region 3A/4A North, 275 pounds).

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

The minutes from the Work Session of February 21, 2000, the Executive and Business Sessions of February 28, 2000; and the Executive and Business Sessions of March 13, 2000; as well as the Proposed Resolution on the Week of the Young Child, April 9 through 15, 2000, were unanimously approved by the Board following a motion from Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Troy.

AFFIRMATION OF CASE

The Board unanimously endorsed the decisions of its committees on Student Discipline Appeal cases 15-99-00, 16-99-00, and 17-99-00. In each case, the committee's decision had been to uphold the Superintendent's decision.

RATIFICATION OF NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the negotiated agreements with the Association of Public School Administrators and Supervisors of Harford County (APSASHC) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The tentative agreement calls for APSASHC employees to receive a salary increase of five percent and an additional longevity boost of \$333 where it applies. The agreement is for three years, expiring on June 30, 2003 with openers for salary negotiations, insurance, and one substantive nonfiscal article per year. The tentative AFSCME agreement provides for a five percent raise for employees and one step for those who are eligible. The agreement is in the second year of a three-year agreement, expiring on June 30, 2001. The settlement allows for the negotiating of salary and insurance each year and each party may select two substantive nonfiscal items to be negotiated. The Board's approval of the contracts is contingent upon funding.

ELEMENTARY TEACHER PLANNING TIME

During the March 28, 2000 meeting, the Board took up the issue of Elementary Teacher Planning Time. Mr. Hess moved that the Superintendent's recommendation for ten early dismissals (1:00 p.m.) during the 2000-2001 school year be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Troy, and Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and was passed by a 6 to 0 roll call vote. (Mr. Galbreath was not present at the time of the vote.) Morning kindergarten will be held from 9:00 until 10:30 a.m. and afternoon kindergarten will take place from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on the early dismissal days.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Ackerman, principal of Joppatowne High School, told the Board that a

new baseball field had been opened at the school the previous Saturday. He said that funds had been provided by the Kelly Foundation to construct the field and that the school would like to name the field "Mariner Park at Kelly Field" as a "small way of saying thankyou" to the foundation.

Sally B. Cherry, PTSA president at Joppatowne High, said the contribution of the \$30,000 by the Foundation to build the field came after a "lighthearted" comment by Mr. Ackerman in a newsletter soliciting funds for improvements to the athletic complex at the school. She renewed her request for improvements to the lighting in the school parking lot.

Roy Vanderwarten of Joppa Farm Road in Joppatowne said he was in full support of the efforts at Joppatowne High to improve the athletic facilities. Mr. Thomas said that, in order to meet the Board's guidelines of a proposal to name a facility followed by a 60-day waiting period, meaning action could be taken at the Board's last meeting in May, he would make a motion that the baseball field be named "Mariner Park at Kelly Field." Mrs. Troy seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0.

Mr. Thomas added that more than 40 classrooms at the school had been wired for the Internet during the March 25 Tech Weekend, saving the school system some \$100,000. He said that three teachers at the school and about 40 students involved in the Sisco program had been largely responsible for organizing parents and community members in the effort, which included four Board members and County Executive **Jim Harkins**.

David Fentress, senior class president at North Harford High School and co-captain of the 1999 football team, said that his class is proposing the name of the stadium field be the "Larry L. Robinson Vietnam Veteran Memorial Field." He said that Mr. Robinson was a graduate of North Harford High who died while serving in Vietnam. He said Mr. Robinson had saved the life of another North Harford graduate, **Larry Keefer**, while the two were serving together in Vietnam. He said that Mr. Robinson had run across an open field to carry Mr. Keefer to safety and that the Senior Class would like to dedicate the stadium to Mr. Robinson at its May 31, 2000 Senior Awards Assembly to be held on the football field.

Trey Owens, a senior at North Harford and member of the football team, said the move would highlight the "virtues of brotherhood" since Mr. Keefer is white and Mr. Robinson was black.

Erin Mohr, a senior at the school, said there is "a painful legacy" at North Harford High where the school was all white when Mr. Robinson was born in 1950 and "we are still not known for our diversity." She said naming the stadium for Mr. Robinson would be "a chance to live up to" the ideals of brotherhood. Miss Mohr said that the effort would be "more meaningful" if Mr. Robinson's name were attached to it, rather than a generic "Memorial" or "Veterans" identification.

Matt Kineke, a teacher at North Harford High, said that Mr. Keefer had visited the school two years ago and told the story of his having been saved by Mr. Robinson to an assembly which had a profound impact on the students. He said the senior class had voted overwhelmingly to leave a gift in the naming of the

field.

Wayne Shapiro, also a teacher at the school, said he had been unaware of the 60-day waiting period for the naming of a school facility and said he hoped the process could be completed in time for the May 31st senior awards program. The government teacher said his students have been "learning about democracy" in the process of attempting to rename the field.

Janice Grant, president of the Harford County Branch of the NAACP, applauded the students' efforts in the name of brotherhood. She mentioned that the day had already been an historic one in that **Angela Eaves** had been sworn in as Harford's first black district court judge.

Wayne Fentress of Jarrettsville identified himself as a Vietnam veteran. He said that men, black and white, "all bled red" in Vietnam and expressed his support of naming the field for Mr. Robinson.

John Rittenhouse of Glen Burnie said he was a close friend of Mr. Robinson's while attending North Harford High, but that the student's effort misses the point that there were five other North Harford grads who died in Vietnam. He said another of his classmates, **Donald Osborne**, who was among those killed in the war, was no less worthy of having the field named for him. Mr. Rittenhouse said that all veterans should be honored if the field is to be renamed.

Richard Lowe of Forest Hill said he was a 1951 graduate of North Harford and had served in Korea. He said that "every man who serves on the battlefield is a hero," and that the naming of the field for one individual would "let down all others who served."

Pat Wallace of Forest Hill, also a graduate of North Harford High and member of the Alumni Association, said the students' effort was a worthy project, but one which needs more thought in honoring all veterans. She said "Veterans" or "Memorial" would be a much better name, and pledged the support of the Alumni Association in helping with the project. Mrs. Wallace said a better plan might be to hold the ceremony for the field renaming in October during homecoming noting the fiftieth anniversary of the school.

Rick Anderson of Pylesville, a 1970 graduate of North Harford High, said his brother had been wounded twice in Vietnam and added he feels it would "be an injustice to name the field for just one person – it should honor all veterans, not just one."

Rev. Eric King of Belcamp said, as the son and brother of those who had served on the battlefield and as a former teacher, he saluted the efforts of the students. He said he was impressed at how the students had been impacted by the life of one person and suggested that "adults should step aside and let the children step forward" in the process.

Mrs. Wolf said the presentations had represented a "wonderful discussion."

Mr. Galbreath moved and Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler seconded that the Board begin the 60-day process that could lead to the field being named the Larry L. Robinson Vietnam Veterans Field. He made a second motion that was seconded by Mr. Thomas that the proposal be laid over for the 60 days. That motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Vickie Adams of Aberdeen said she wanted to address the Board about an issue

involving a bus driver, but Mrs. Wolf said discussions concerning personnel are not proper topics for public presentations.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

PRESENTATION ON CURRICULUM – JOPPATOWNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEADOWS PROJECT

Joppatowne Elementary School Principal **Kathleen A. Burr** appeared with students **Jonathan Candelaria** and **Kyle Powell** and fifth grade teacher **Andrew Smith** to discuss the proposed meadow project at the school. Mrs. Burr explained that the School Improvement Team had identified that boys at the school were falling behind girls in results on the MSPAP testing program. She said the group chose problem-based learning as a way to bring about improvement in the boys' mastery of reading, writing, and math skills. At risk students in grades four and five were chosen to participate in the activity. Fifteen of the youngsters were selected. Mr. Smith proposed the creation of a meadow on school property to support the school's science program and attract a variety of wildlife. Joppatowne Enrichment teacher **Peggy Konopka** worked with the group in planning real-life applications of academic skills in researching meadows, conducting surveys, analyzing data, and engaging in a letter writing campaign to gain support for the meadow project. The school PTA committed to assist in buying plantings. Mrs. Burr said the students would like to begin breaking ground to create the meadow in the spring. Having written to Mrs. Haas, the group became aware that Board approval would be needed to create the meadow. Mr. Thomas moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the project be approved. The Board voted unanimously to endorse the motion.

PRESENTATION – TRANSFER OF SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTS

Director of Transportation **Norman Seidel** presented a proposal to the Board that it authorize school bus contractors to transfer a contract to another contractor without coming to the Board for approval. Such an authorization would require the Board to amend its General Administration 02.09.039 policy. Mr. Seidel said his department and the Board would maintain oversight of all bus routes and the change would simply expedite the right of private business people to sell or purchase bus contracts. The Board laid over consideration of the proposal to a future meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas presented the Board with a chart providing the relative cost of programs offered in the Harford County Public Schools. She said, if the proposed operating budget has to be trimmed, as expected once County revenues are identified, the Board will be faced with tough choices in determining how to balance its budget.

Next, Mrs. Haas called on several people including Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey** to make a presentation on a possible magnet school at

Aberdeen High School. Among those presenting were **Tom Baine** of the Northeast Maryland Technology Center, **Bill Richardson** and **Joe Brooks** of the Army Alliance, and **Dave Volrath**, Aberdeen High principal. Mr. Richardson said there is a chance a prototype magnet school, using funding from the U.S. Department of Education, could be placed at Aberdeen High in connection with the Department of Defense's Aberdeen Proving Ground. He said \$4.5 million is being requested in FY 2001 to convert a portion of the high school into a magnet for math and science. Mr. Richardson said there are more than 5,000 technical personnel holding 600 doctorates, 1,800 masters degrees and 2,500 bachelors degrees at APG, most oriented toward math and science. He said \$1 million in education system funding would be needed to be earmarked each year through the life of the magnet. Mr. Richardson said there are many "tortuous steps" to be accomplished through the Federal bureaucracy to make the magnet a reality, but that the rewards would be overwhelming. Mr. Baine said the NMTC is behind the effort and Mr. Volrath said, even though he just learned of the proposal three weeks ago, he has had no dissent from the faculty and feedback from a PTO meeting the week before had been positive. Mr. Brooks said it would be a "good fit" to have the math/science magnet in the "technical corridor" being foreseen by County Executive Harkins. Mr. Volrath said, if the plan is to become a reality, it would require the adding of six high-tech classrooms. Mr. Ekey said the architect on the Aberdeen High School replacement building has been asked to design the structure in such a way that six to ten classrooms could be easily added. Mr. Richardson said he sees the effort as a five to ten-year project. Mr. Magee said he commended the Army Alliance and NMTC because the effort is "exactly what we have been talking about" in the area of magnet schools, adding that the school "sits right next to the finest materiel laboratory" in the world. Mr. Magee moved and Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler seconded that the Board provide its approval to the idea of the magnet being explored by the Army Alliance and others interested in seeing it become a reality. The Board voted 7 to 0 to endorse the motion.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

With the 10:00 p.m. Board curfew for considering new agenda items approaching, Mr. Thomas moved and was supported by the Board that it address only Items E, F, and G on the remainder of the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mr. Galbreath, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 p.m. with the agreement that the remaining items on the agenda would be taken up during the Board's work session on Managing Growth and Balancing Enrollment, to be held the next evening, March 28, 2000, at Aberdeen Middle School. The Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the motion.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Due to the lateness of the evening, the Board was not able to discuss legislative issues.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County will be held on Monday, April 10, 2000, in the Fallston High School Theater, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The second business meeting of April will be held at the same location and time on April 17, 2000. (The meeting date has been changed because schools are closed for students and faculty on Monday, April 24, 2000 due to the spring break.).

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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