



## Board Meeting

*March 19, 2001*

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

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board President **David H. Galbreath** called the regular business meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County to order at 7:00 p.m. in the front gymnasium of Bel Air Middle School. Mr. Galbreath requested a roll call of Board Members with all responding as present except **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** who arrived at 7:05 p.m. Past President **Karen L. Wolf** moved and Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** seconded that Item "C" be deleted from the agenda. The Board voted 6 to 0 to support the motion. Board Member **Terry R. Troy** moved and Mr. Hess seconded that the amended agenda be approved and the Board voted 6 to 0 to support the motion. Mr. Galbreath asked that Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** lead those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **RECOGNITION**

#### **HCPS EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME**

Beginning in October 2000, the Board of Education has been inducting two retired Harford County Public School educators into the HCPS Hall of Fame. The former educators, each of whom must have contributed at least 20 years of service to the local school system, are selected by the Harford County Retired

School Personnel Association (HCRSPA) based on the extraordinary contributions of the retired teachers/administrators. Director of Public Information **Donald R. Morrison** introduced the selectees for March, 2001: **James E. Pickard** and **Marita W. Watts**. Mr. Pickard spent 33 years teaching Social Studies/English in the Harford County Public Schools, serving at Edgewood High, Edgewood Middle, Joppatowne High, Havre de Grace Middle, and Bel Air High School. He began his career in 1963, retiring in 1997 from Bel Air High where he rejuvenated the school's Student Government Association. Mr. Pickard incorporated dramatic productions into his teaching and was an organizer of the program for gifted students. He also began a mentoring program for bright students who were not achieving at a level commensurate with their ability. Mrs. Watts concluded a 36-year career in the Harford County Public Schools as a teacher, principal, and supervisor in 1982. She began as an elementary teacher in 1946, helping to organize a credit union for employees and serving as president of the Harford County Education Association. She served as principal of the old Aberdeen Elementary School from 1958 through 1964, moving on to be supervisor of elementary schools from 1964 through her retirement. She was active in establishing a written curriculum for elementary schools and pioneered the identification of children with learning difficulties in kindergarten through eighth grade. She also helped develop the modern kindergarten program for the Harford County Public Schools. Mr. Galbreath and Mrs. Haas presented each of the Hall of Famers with a plaque and certificate commemorating their induction. Mr. Pickard's and Mrs. Watts' portraits have been added to the "Wall of Fame" at the school system's central office in Bel Air.

## **WINTER SEASON ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS**

At the conclusion of each interscholastic sports season, the Board of Education honors those student-athletes and HCPS athletic teams which have earned Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA) championships, inviting them to a Board meeting where they are presented with a Board certificate. In addition, the Board honors those who won regional championships and those who won county titles where there is no competition beyond the local level. One athlete – **Steve Conrad** of North Harford High School, won the MPSSAA state Class 1A/2A championship in the 103-pound wrestling class. His certificate was accepted by North Harford High wrestling coach **Dean Petty**. Student Representative to the Board **Daniel E. Purcell** presented the Board with the names of regional champions – all in wrestling: **Brian Owens** of Harford Technical High School at 135 pounds; **James Brown** of Harford Technical High School at 140 pounds; **Phil Parrow** of Joppatowne High School at 145 pounds; **Shane Farmer** of Aberdeen High School at 171 pounds; and **Matt Edie** of North Harford High School at the heavyweight spot. In addition, Mr. Purcell noted that C. Milton Wright High School's girls and boys swimming teams won the County title in that sport, giving the school the overall swim title. There is no regional/state competition in swimming. Mr.

Purcell said that the CMW boys team is coached by **Bill Long** and the girls team is coached by **Larry Ashman**.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Jonathan Jackson** of Havre de Grace High School, the president of the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils (HCRASC), urged the Board to discuss the question of full voting rights for the student representative to the Board of Education. Mrs. Wolf asked Mr. Galbreath to have the question placed on the April 9, 2001 Board meeting agenda.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **UPDATE ON TRAINING/IMPLEMENTATION OF PENTAMATION DATABASE**

**Director of Secondary Education William Ekey**, Director of Elementary Education **Patricia Skebeck**, and Director of the Office of Technology and Information (OTIS), presented the Board with an update on the "Pentamation" student database system. Mr. Ekey said the Board had approved the purchase of the program and that a training schedule has been instituted which will teach school clerical staff, guidance counselors, and administrators to use the system which will be implemented in time for the start of school next September.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Haas asked Mr. Morrison to discuss a new recently instituted series of half-hour programs on the Harford Cable Network (HCN) concerning Harford County Public School programs. Mr. Morrison said the series will feature programs about which the public doesn't have a clear view. He said the television shows, which appear on Comcast Channel 3 and Clearview Channel 7 each Thursday night at 8:30 p.m., are produced by the system's Information Office and are provided free of charge by HCN to the system. Mr. Morrison showed the Board a clip from the first of the series, "Cooperative Work Experience," which is being telecast during the month of March. The second in the series, "Early Childhood Education," will be shown in April. Other programs planned include "Outdoor Education," "English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)," and "Service Learning."

Mrs. Haas told the Board that **Bruce Hart** has been selected as the new chair of the school system's Ethics Panel. The Superintendent also told the Board that she had received a letter from the Town of Bel Air indicating that the Town would not be able to supply crossing guards at critical spots in Bel Air where students cross on their way to school. She said that the Town has requested the State Highways office to improve crosswalks by installing raised medians at

high traffic areas. Mrs. Wolf asked that the parents and others who had brought the issue of safety for walkers be apprised of the Town's information. Mrs. Troy, who represents the Bel Air area, said she was not happy about the Town's stance on the issue, though she understood the reasoning behind it. She said she would make sure the parents are aware of the proposals, including a move by the Town to seek flashing lights at the crosswalks.

Mrs. Haas said the system has now used four inclement weather days, equal to the number which had been placed in the calendar, meaning that the last day for students in the 2000-01 school year would be Wednesday, June 13, 2001. She said the 2002-03 calendar committee remains on hold pending decisions on staff development days and other issues.

Mrs. Haas discussed the recently released volume of "School Profiles." She asked Mr. Morrison to provide additional information on the "Profiles." He said this is the fourth edition of the product, which provides more than 300 pages of information about the school system and the 50 individual schools. He said the "Profiles" are listed in full on the Harford County Public School web site. He said copies are provided to each school, to the Harford County Realtors Association, and to each of the public library branches. In addition, full copies or specific school sections are sent to the public on request. Mr. Morrison said a group of parents, educators, and community members had been convened by Supervisor of Research, Testing and Evaluation Carolyn Wood four years ago to ask what information the public wanted to know about the school system, how to obtain it, and how it could be presented. Mr. Morrison said Dr. Wood and others in the system are going to meet to review the contents of the book and see if there is a need to revise it.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **GRADUAL ENTRANCE FOR SIXTH/NINTH GRADE STUDENTS**

Mrs. Haas and Mr. Ekey presented the Board with a series of options for gradual entry programs to begin the 2001-02 school year. The six options provided variations on either a 180 or 181 day schedule for students. Those with the 181-day option provided for sixth and ninth graders to report on the first day of school with students in the other secondary grades reporting on the second day of school. Other options called for students in schools using the gradual entry option who were other than sixth or ninth graders to go 179 days, meaning a waiver would have to be sought for those not attending 180 days. Mrs. Haas told the Board, as chief education officer for the school system, she would prefer a schedule that would have all students going to school 180 days. Acting on the motion of Board Member **Robert S. Magee** and the second of Mr. Thomas (Mrs. Troy had seconded the motion and then withdrew her second), the Board voted 5 to 2 (Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Troy dissenting) to support Option One, which will have all students go to school 180 days and effective orientation programs

being incorporated into the first day of school. The Board emphasized that orientation programs must be conducted for all students. Mrs. Wolf moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that those schools who want to do a half-day orientation for their sixth and ninth graders be allowed to do so while other students were not in school. The motion failed 2 to 5.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PROMOTIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the seconds of Mrs. Troy and Board Vice President **Eugene C. Chandler**, the Board voted unanimously to appoint **Douglas A. Kukucka** as Assistant Supervisor in Facilities Management. There had been 51 applicants for the vacancy. Mr. Kukucka owns a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Maryland. His job will involve energy management and other heating/ventilating/air conditioning programs.

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD – APRIL 1 THROUGH 7, 2001**

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the seconds of Mrs. Troy and Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to support the Proposed Resolution on the Week of the Young Child – April 1-7, 2001. The resolution calls on personnel in the elementary schools to conduct study and learning activities during that week, reflecting the purposes of and commitments to the Week of the Young Child.

### **APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING FOR FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to table until its April 9, 2001 meeting consideration of a proposal to award a \$96,678 contract to Johnson Controls, Inc. for Phase I of a Project Development Agreement in the selection of an Energy Service Company (ESCO) which would allow for the reduction of energy costs through energy savings realized in the installation of new mechanical systems. The program would have the new systems paid for out of energy savings accumulated at the various schools involved. Director of Facilities Management **Jeffrey Ayers** told the Board the first schools to be involved would be Magnolia Elementary, Magnolia Middle, Joppatowne High, Fallston High, Southampton Middle, Riverside Elementary, and Homestead Elementary schools. Mr. Ayers said those schools offered the greatest opportunity for the maximum amount of savings. He said schools recently renovated, or which are in line for modernization would not be involved in the program. Mr. Ayers said the Harford schools rank at or near the bottom among

the 24 Maryland sub-divisions in energy consumption per building, largely because of the inefficient heating/ventilating/air conditioning systems in the schools and the local system's inability to fund the upgrade of those systems. He said Harford's high energy consumption in its schools is also traceable to the use of the buildings by outside agencies during non-school hours. Mr. Ayers said employment of the ESCO would be expected from 90 to 120 days following the award of the contract to Johnson Controls. He added the process could begin sooner and that the process is currently being used in Baltimore City and Carroll counties.

## **REVIEW OF LEGISLATION**

Mr. Thomas told the Board the Collective Bargaining bill was entering a critical stage of consideration in the General Assembly. He urged those who have an opinion on the bill to write the Legislature soon since the 83<sup>rd</sup> day of the session, on which the 2001-02 budget is to be finalized, is fast approaching.

**HB 1072** – Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mrs. Hess, the Board voted 6 to 0 (Mrs. Wolf was not present for the vote) to oppose the bill which would permit students being home schooled to participate in extra-curricular activities.

**SB 713** – Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. Chandler and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board voted 7 to 0 to support the bill which would permit school systems to share certain discipline information on students who are transferring from one system to the other.

Mr. Thomas said the bill which would have banned advertising products in schools has been withdrawn.

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted 7 to 0 to support U.S. Senate Bill 466 which would have the Federal government spend \$2.5 billion over the next six years in the area of special education. Mr. Thomas said that, when the original Federal government special education bill was passed 26 years ago, the U.S. government was to pay 40 percent of the cost of its implementation. He said the Federal government has never paid more than 12 percent of the cost.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Galbreath said the workshop during which the Board would hear information from the Harford County Sheriff's Office on the issue of heroin, scheduled for April 5, has been cancelled because several Board members would not be present for the presentation. However, the display of projects by the Gifted Education Students at Harford Community College's Chesapeake Center would go on at 7:00 p.m. and he urged those Board members available to

attend. The heroin presentation will be rescheduled. The regular Board business meetings will take place at North Harford High School during the April through June quarter.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next regular business meeting of the Board of Education will take place on April 9, 2001, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of North Harford High School.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

The school system is attempting to prevent duplications and reduce production/mailing costs of the printed versions of B-Line. Those who are able to access B-Line on line and who would like their copy of the printed version of the document discontinued should e-mail the Director of Public Information: [Drmmorrison.gs@hcps.k12.md.us](mailto:Drmmorrison.gs@hcps.k12.md.us); Or call the HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.

**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 HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.**

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