



Board Meeting

April 23, 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

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County was called to order by Board President **David H. Galbreath** at 7:04 p.m. in the auditorium of North Harford High School. Mr. Galbreath requested a roll call with all Board Members reporting present. Board member **Karen L. Wolf** moved and member **Terry R. Troy** seconded that a series of proposed resolutions be substituted under New Business Action Items in place of the minutes of the April 3 and April 9, 2001 work and business meetings, respectively. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Wolf, with a second from Board Vice President **Eugene C. Chandler**, moved that the amended agenda be approved and the Board voted unanimously to do so. Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION

HCPS EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME

Director of Public Information **Donald R. Morrison** reminded the Board that the Harford County Public School Educator Hall of Fame program had been initiated in October, 2000. He said, each month, two former HCPS educators

with at least 20 years experience in the system, are inducted into the system's Educator Hall of Fame. He said the former educators are selected by the Harford County Retired School Personnel Association. Mr. Morrison added that those selected have their framed pictures placed on a wall of the school system's central office Board Room in Bel Air, each has a feature story written about them in the "Harford Schools" newspaper, and they (or their families) are honored by the Board with a plaque and a certificate at a subsequent Board meeting. Mr. Morrison introduced **Jim Wiley**, son of **Flora Hankins Wiley** who taught for 37 ½ years at schools in the northern part of the county. Mrs. Wiley, an English teacher, displayed a keen wit, a penchant for down-home humor, and a love for all the students fortunate enough to be in her class. She retired from North Harford High School in 1969, wrote seven books or booklets, became renowned for her quilts and dolls, and continued as a treasured member of the Norrisville-area until her death in 1993. Mr. Morrison next introduced **Albert F. Seymour** who was a teacher, counselor, school administrator, supervisor, executive director, and, ultimately, deputy superintendent during an illustrious 38 year career with the Harford County Public Schools. Mr. Seymour, who began as an English teacher at Aberdeen High School, displayed humility and respect for all throughout his tenure, making major contributions that have shaped the course of the school system. Mr. Seymour retired in 1997. Board President Galbreath and Superintendent Haas presented plaques, laminated copies of the feature articles, and certificates to Mr. Wiley and Mr. Seymour. Mr. Wiley said the family had decided to donate the plaque to North Harford High School for display in one of the school's showcases, near where his mother taught for more than 18 years.

GOVERNOR'S CITATION – GIFTED EDUCATION

Coordinator of Gifted Education in the Harford County Public Schools **Madeleine Synnott** said that, during a reception in Annapolis on March 26, Governor **Parris Glendening** issued a proclamation noting April as "Gifted Education Month." Ms. Synnott noted that the local Gifted program had hosted a Parents Academy involving a display of some of the work created by youngsters in the program on April 5. She also noted the Destination Imagination program and the regional tournament held at Bel Air Middle School as well as the state tournament held in Charles County. Ms. Synnott and several other members of the Gifted program in the county presented the Board and senior staff members with framed replicas of the Governor's citation.

OLD BUSINESS

PRESENTATIONS

REPORT FROM THE HARFORD COUNTY EDUCATION

ASSOCIATION

Paul Schatz, president of the Harford County Education Association (HCEA), reported to the Board that negotiations between the association and the Board's representatives had gone to impasse as declared by the State Superintendent. He said that the following Monday evening, a workshop on Interest Based Bargaining was to be presented with representatives from Montgomery, St. Mary's and Anne Arundel counties, where the process is used, to make presentations. He said HCEA is exploring a program called "Cents for Students" in which employees would be invited to donate the pennies above the last full dollar on their paychecks to be used in purchasing school supplies for needy students. He said the program has been used successfully in Portland, Maine. Mr. Schatz said there is a real morale problem with the teaching staff. He suggested that school climate surveys be done and pointed to those available through the National Education Association (NEA). Mr. Schatz said there are identifiable keys to a successful school. He added that Fallston Middle School had done a "high performing" school survey last spring. Mr. Schatz complimented school system Assistant Superintendent for Business Services **John Markowski** in pulling together the health benefits committee to look at health packages. He said the session had been the most productive in the two-year history of the group. He cited the example as proof that HCEA and the school leadership can work effectively together. Mrs. Wolf asked to have a copy of the surveys Mr. Schatz mentioned and requested a list of school systems using one or more of them. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** said morale is an issue in all 24 school systems.

ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

A group of presenters including Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey**, and representatives from Aberdeen Proving Ground **Stephen Clark**, **Linda Holloway**, **Brian Simmons**, and **Dr. Bill Richardson** presented the Educational Specifications for the proposed math/science/technology magnet wing at the new Aberdeen High School. Mr. Ekey discussed the history of the proposal which resulted in the Federal government allocating \$369,000 to begin the planning process for the magnet. He said it began with Dr. Richardson making the inquiry in March, 2000, that resulted in the receipt of the funds to be used for designing a third floor, teacher training, and visitations, available over a five year period. Mr. Ekey said there is no other program of its kind in the United States. He complimented the Educational Specifications Committee which also included Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler. Dr. Richardson told the Board that the project would require \$3.5 million to complete and that it has been requested in the FY 02 Federal budget. Mr. Simmons said Aberdeen Proving Ground is host to many potential high-tech partners who could be involved in the magnet. Mrs. Holloway, school liaison from APG, said there are many scientists, engineers, and mathematicians available to be involved. Board

Member **Robert S. Magee**, former principal at Aberdeen High, complimented the group for its vision. **Christopher Morton** of the school system's construction department said the added space calls for about 10,000 square feet beyond the base AHS building, and that the building is being designed to accommodate a third floor for the magnet. Mr. Ekey said he would like to have members of the Educational Specifications Committee remain active as a steering committee for the magnet, should it come to fruition. Mrs. Haas said that the Educational Specifications for the magnet will be an action item on the May 7 agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

AWARD OF CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR CONTRACT BID PACKAGE 2A NORTH SITE IMPROVEMENTS, ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND BUILDING SITE DEMOLITION AT ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL

Joseph P. Licata, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, told the Board that bid documents for the North Building Site Improvements at Aberdeen High School, along with asbestos abatement, and building and site demolition for the South Building had been advertised in March 2001. The Multiple Prime Construction Management process is being used to bid the project. He said construction funding in the amount of \$32,436,564 is expected to be received over the next three fiscal years from the County and State governments. Mr. Licata said five contractors bid on the package. He said that The Dirt Express Company had submitted the low bid of \$911,963. Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the contract.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted 6 to 0 (Mr. Thomas was not present for the motion) to accept items on the Consent Agenda including proposed resolutions on Salute to School Food & Nutrition Service Personnel, School Psychology Week, Pupil Personnel Worker Week, Teacher Appreciation Week, National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, 2001 Merit Scholastic Awards, and Home and Hospital Teachers Appreciation Day; Award of Contract – Boiler Replacement; Award of Contract Extension – Schmidt Baking Co., Inc.; Award of Contract Extension – Coca-Cola Enterprises; Award of Contract – Floor Covering Replacement at Fallston High School; and Special Education Staffing Plan.

DISCUSSION

NEW BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Wolf said, in connection with the resolution on National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, she and her family had the opportunity the previous week to watch former Joppatowne High School standout **Thori Staples Bryant** play in the new Women's Professional Soccer League on the Bay Area team. Mr. Thomas suggested that President **George W. Bush** be invited for the groundbreaking of the Aberdeen High School replacement building in connection with Mr. Bush's pledge to "leave no child behind" as part of his education plan.

PRESENTATIONS

REQUEST FOR BUDGET TRANSFERS – REQUIRED CONNECTION OF HICKORY FACILITIES

Mr. Licata, joined by Director of Facilities Management **Jeffery Ayers**, presented information concerning the required connection of the school system's facilities in its Hickory complex to public water and sewer. He said the facility is currently served by private well and septic systems. The Facilities Department has experienced continuing problems with the well water there being contaminated. In January, 2001, the school system received an executive order from the county directing that the system immediately connect to public water and sewer. An extension has been granted until August, 2001. The \$130,000 cost for the project is comprised of the physical construction and a water connection fee to be paid to the county. Mr. Licata told the Board that the closed projects have been thoroughly reviewed and the funds in those accounts are available for the project.

PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND INTER-CATEGORICAL TRANSFER

Mr. Markowski presented information regarding the performance audit and inter-categorical transfer. He told the Board if dollars could be reprogrammed, the system could avail itself of ways to improve opportunities for students. He said the most overfunded category in the budget is Instructional salaries. He said a deficit is projected in the area of operations with the rising costs in utilities, particularly in electricity and natural gas as well as the unanticipated expenses for abatement in various facilities. Mr. Markowski said the requested transfer would "see the school system through" until the end of the school year. Mr. Markowski explained that the county had established a \$135,000 appropriation in reserve for performance auditing in the school system. John Miller, supervisor of purchasing, said a request for proposals had been issued and the document would be forwarded to the Board for its review. Mrs. Haas

said the requested transfers would be on the Board's May 7 agenda for action.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas reported to the Board that \$400,000 had been received in "Aging Schools" funds to be used for repairs at older schools. The Superintendent said the Human Resources Department had developed an employee exit interview document to gather information on reasons personnel had decided to leave the system. She said the Maryland State Department of Education has increased its reading requirements for certified staff. She said new teachers employed after January 1, 1999 would be impacted and would be required to have 12 credits rather than the six required before. The Superintendent said Delegate **Dana Dembrow** had provided information on her bill that passed the recent General Assembly repealing the prohibition against portable communication devices in schools. She said the issue will require much discussion before the change is implemented. Mr. Thomas said he sees two possible courses of action: the Superintendent should send a letter to the Governor to see if he has signed the bill; and the Superintendent's Association and the Board of Education should send a letter to the governor urging him to sign the bill. Mrs. Haas reminded the Board she had sent them information about the Maryland Task Force on Principalship for future discussion. The Superintendent added that there is a current problem involving the Board's recently enacted policy on school dances prohibiting any one over the age of 21 to attend with a student. She said questions have been asked if there are circumstances in which the policy should be waived. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler asked if there are surveys that could measure the morale and climate in the schools. Mrs. Haas responded that there is not a survey currently in use, but that many School Improvement Teams keep that type of information as part of their School Improvement Plans.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Galbreath complimented the William S. James tree planting that took place in connection with Earth Day as well as the North Harford High School Environmental Science Class wetland project. Mr. Hess commented on the prom policy. He said, if he were to cast a vote on the proposal today, he would vote against it. He said he does not believe the Board should be in the business of deciding who should attend proms and who should not and should reconsider its stance on the subject. Mr. Magee agreed, saying that the Board should not make policies for exceptions. Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted 7 to 0 to "stay" the policy for this school year (effectively nullifying the policy and allowing schools to make decisions on their own as to the age of those attending the prom as guests of students).

Mr. Magee complimented North Harford High graduate and current Environmental Science teacher at the school **Laura O'Leary** for the wetlands project; and noted the contributions of **Brian Simmons** with the Aberdeen High

magnet school program as a high ranking official at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Mr. Simmons is an alumni of Aberdeen High. Mr. Thomas told the Board about an IRS audit of Cecil County Public Schools in relation to their 403B plans, resulting in five areas of non-compliance. Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Licata for overseeing the sidewalk project between Joppatowne High and the Lohr's Orchard housing development. He said he wished Board Administrative Assistant **Netha Wilmoth** well as she recovers from an illness, adding that she does a "tremendous job" in support of the Board. He issued a public apology to Mrs. Wolf for a disagreement that occurred between the two at a previous Board meeting, adding that he enjoyed working with her. Mrs. Wolf accepted the apology. Mrs. Troy requested the Board e-mail her with any recommendations regarding the Governmental Relations positions as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 7 with the second meeting in May slated for May 22 (a change from the originally scheduled May 21). All Board business meetings in April/May/June will be held at North Harford High School. Board hearings on proposed redistricting policies will be held on May 14 (Edgewood High School) and May 17 (Havre de Grace High School). All the meetings are slated to begin at 7:00 p.m.

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: Drmorrison.gs@hcps.k12.md.us; Or call the HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.

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