



## Board Meeting

*May 22, 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 7:05 p.m. in the auditorium of North Harford High School. Mr. Galbreath asked for a roll call with all Board members reporting present except **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** who was absent due to a family obligation. Board Member **Karen L. Wolf** moved to adopt the agenda and Board Member **Terry R. Troy** seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously by the Board. Mrs. Wolf led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **RECOGNITION**

#### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD, 2000-01**

The Board honored **Daniel E. Purcell** for his service as Student Representative to the Board of Education during the 2000-01 school year. Mr. Purcell, a graduating senior from Fallston High School, was presented a certificate by Board President Galbreath and Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** noting his diligent service to the Board. The Board wished Mr. Purcell continuing success as he enters the adult world.

#### **FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA PRESENTATION**

The Board recognized the five students from Bel Air High School and one from C. Milton

Wright High School who have qualified for the National Future Business Leaders of American competition to be held in Disney World, Orlando, Florida, June 29 through July 2. The students earned the right to compete in the U.S. event by virtue of their first or second place finish in the Maryland State FBLA Convention held in Hagerstown earlier this spring. Students recognized from Bel Air High School were: **Abhinav Nellore**, senior, Chapter Website, first place; **Ashley Wells**, senior, Impromptu Speaking, first place; **James R. Duvall**, junior, Chapter Website, first place; **Andrea Berry**, sophomore, Introduction to Business Communications, first place; **Christopher Furts**, sophomore, Business Procedures, second place; and, from C. Milton Wright High School was: **Eric Gustafsson**, sophomore, FBLA Principles and Procedures.

### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENIOR OFFICERS**

The Board honored those senior elected leaders of the various high school Student Government Associations for their leadership and service to their fellow students during the 2000-01 school year. Each received a certificate for his/her contributions. Recognized were: from Aberdeen High School – **Reginna Eatman, president; Monique Medina, secretary; Quincy Washington, parliamentarian; and Andrea Davis, student ILB.** From Bel Air High School – **Julia Frieman, president; Joshua Zader, vice president; Christine Guido, secretary; Leann Matta, secretary;** from C. Milton Wright High School – **Dana Angelo, senior delegate;** from Edgewood High School – **Ethan Bailey III, treasurer;** from Fallston High School – **Christopher Bennie, president; Daniel Purcell, senior delegate; and Negin Atri, senior delegate alternate;** from Havre de Grace High School – **Jonathan Jackson, president; Jeffery Berthney, executive board member; Wellington Feliz, executive board member; Stanley Grimes, executive board member; Miranda Powell, executive board member;** from Joppatowne High School – **Suzanne Alkins, events chairperson; Kathleen Armour, secretary and bloodmobile chairperson; Christina Crawley, newsletter editor; Amy Griger, president; and Kateri Jameson, treasurer;** and from North Harford High School – **Lindsey Jakubowski, president; Kristina Herz, vice president; Heather Kirkwood, parliamentarian; and Jennifer Stephens, treasurer.**

### **STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING – DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAYS OF SERVICE CELEBRATION**

During the 2000-01 school year, Harford County Public Schools entered into partnership with a number of agencies in the county to celebrate the life of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Nationally, many of those recognizing Dr. King's accomplishments extended that recognition to include acts of service to others, living up to the slain civil rights leaders' philosophy that "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" As part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration on January 15, 2001, an event was held at the Amoss Center for the Performing Arts at Harford Technical High School including an original play highlighting the importance of the Underground Railroad with the admittance requirement being the bringing in of canned food goods or money to buy those staples, resulting in more than \$500 pounds of food and \$75 being collected. In addition, the Harford County Public Schools and the Harford County Human Relations

Commission joined to recognize those students who have contributed outstanding service learning projects during the school year. Student groups were honored with first, second, third, and honorable mention awards. In addition to checks provided from the county, each group received a Board certificate for their efforts. Awards were presented to the following:

**Elementary Schools: First Place** – Youth’s Benefit Elementary (**Sandy Gorrell**, sponsor), Homeless Helpers; **Second Place** – Youth’s Benefit Elementary (**Sandy Gorrell**, sponsor), Recyclers; **Third Place** – Abingdon Elementary (**Mary Hartley & Paulette Woodford**, sponsors); and **Honorable Mention** – Youth’s Benefit Elementary (**Sandy Gorrell**, sponsor); Kids Helping Kids Tutoring, The Underground Railroad Group, The Nature Group, the Health Group; **Honorable Mention** – Youth’s Benefit Elementary (**Carol Houck**, sponsor); The Gator T.A.S.K. (Terrific Assistance Showing Kindness) Force.

**Middle Schools: First Place (tie)** – Havre de Grace Middle (**Cynthia Laurie**, sponsor), Magnolia Middle School (**Pauline Frantz**, sponsor).

**High Schools: First Place** – Aberdeen High School (**Tekemia Dorsey**, sponsor); Aberdeen High School Peer-on-Peer Help Group; **Second Place** – North Harford High School (**Chris Fellenbaum**, sponsor); **Third Place** – Fallston High School (**Saskia de Melker**, ninth grade; **Sarah McCullough**, sponsor).

#### **HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND FINALISTS – 2001-02**

The Board of Education presented certificates to the ten finalists for the 2001-02 Teacher of the Year award in the county and to the teacher who was named Teacher of the Year for the coming school year. Recognized as Teacher of the Year was **Alberta C. Porter**, Riverside Elementary School third grade teacher who was presented with a Board certificate as well as an engraved gold watch, an engraved bell, and a proclamation from the County Executive/County Council, as well as the plaque which had been presented to her earlier in the day by the Maryland State Board of Education and State Superintendent. In addition, the Board presented certificates to the following finalists for the Harford Teacher of the Year: **Shirley B. Berends**, Forest Hill Elementary, second grade; **Stuart I. “Stu” Chapman**, Harford Technical High, science; **Laura F. Copeland**, Aberdeen Middle School, alternative education; **Sandra D. Guzewich**, Bel Air High School, mathematics; **M. Susan Humphries**, Prospect Mill Elementary School, kindergarten; **Beverley J. Lampke**, Bel Air Middle School, science; **Alberta C. Porter**, Riverside Elementary School, third grade; **Jane A. Rodano**, Bel Air Elementary School, pre-kindergarten; **Thomas M. Trafton**, Fallston High School, environmental science; and **Michael J. Weaver**, Joppatowne High School, computer science.

#### **PRESENTATION BY HARFORD BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION TO J. PATRICK WHITEHURST**

The Board of Education joined with the Harford Bar Association Foundation in presenting Fallston High School Government teacher **J. Patrick Whitehurst** with a certificate

honoring Mr. Whitehurst's having been chosen as one of 30 teachers nationwide to be chosen to work with the U.S. Supreme Court this summer in a teacher in-service program. Mr. Whitehurst was joined by Harford Administrative Judge **William O. Carr** and Bar Foundation President **John Gessner** along with Harford Social Studies Supervisor **Gerald E. Scarborough** in the presentation. Mr. Whitehurst will spend the week of June 21 through 26 working with Georgetown Law School professors, Supreme Court solicitors, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice **David Souter** in the program.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Paul S. Schatz**, president of the Harford County Education Association (HCEA), spoke to the Board, recognizing the teachers from Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School who were in the audience, and discussing with the Board his views on outcome based education.

**J. Patrick Whitehurst** talked to the Board about his recent potentially life-threatening illness and the fact that the health insurance he carries through the school system covered the vast majority of the costs involved. He urged the Board not to change the options it offers employees in health insurance.

**Cindy Mumbry, Dawn Arruda** and **Mary Almasy** spoke on behalf of the parents of Ring Factory Elementary School, urging the Board to ease the overcrowding conditions in the school by denying boundary exception requests for day care reasons.

**Josh Zappola**, a first year teacher at C. Milton Wright High School, talked to the Board about his views on the future of the school system.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **BALANCING ENROLLMENT**

Mrs. Haas presented the Board with a summary of the history of the efforts to balance enrollments with school capacities over the last two years. She said the effort had begun in June 1999 and that the Board and staff had looked at many options in solving the imbalance between enrollments and capacities that exists in many areas of the county. She said options such as year-round schools, schools-within-a-school, split shifts, added capacities, etc. had been examined. She said, last year, a series of redistricting proposals had been presented to the Board which would have sent secondary students from Southampton Middle/C. Milton Wright High School to Bel Air Middle and North Harford middle/high schools. The proposals were not implemented. Mrs. Haas said that, beginning this past fall at the direction of the Board, the creation of a policy on balancing enrollments has been under development. She reminded the Board that a consultant had made a presentation to them this past fall and that a staff committee, under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata**, has been holding public meetings in preparation for developing the policy which was being presented to the Board as a "first reading." The

Board received public comment on the proposed policy.

**Neil Epstein** told the Board that, first and foremost, the policy should include a stipulation on “educational welfare” of students as a pre-requisite for any redistricting.

**Karen Redding**, who said she has children in both Southampton Middle School and Bel Air High School, said she had heard rumors that the timeline for moving students out of those two overcrowded schools would be extended beyond the originally scheduled September 2002 date. She reminded the Board that there were a total of 23 relocatable classrooms at the two schools and that any delay in the relocation of students would have a negative impact on their education.

**Diane Davis** of the Overview Manor I development asked why additional schools could not be built. She said that her son is a member of the JV baseball team at Bel Air High School and would be very unhappy if he were to be redistricted out of the school.

The Board discussed the issues involved with the proposed balancing enrollment policy at length. Mrs. Wolf urged that the redistricting option be separated out from the remainder of the policy. Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** suggested that there should be three separate policies – one for new schools, one when enrollment reaches 60 percent of capacity, and a third to balance enrollment not related to the opening of new schools. He said there should be an overarching balancing enrollment policy. Board Member **Robert S. Magee** said that balancing enrollment options should be listed from the least to the most intrusive, and that redistricting should be used only when all other means have been exhausted. Mr. Hess said terms involved in the process should be identified as a part of the policy. Acting on the motion of Board Vice President **Eugene C. Chandler** and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously that property values should not be included as a portion of the policy. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Board Member **Terry R. Troy**, the Board voted unanimously to include school performance as a part of the policy. By consensus, the Board directed that the educational welfare of students be include in the overarching part of the policy. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said the Board needs to take a look at the impact of boundary exceptions on balancing enrollments.

## **SUSPENSION OF RULES**

Action on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted unanimously to suspend its rules prohibiting the consideration of business items beyond the 10:00 p.m. curfew established in its by-laws. Mr. Hess moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the agenda be adjusted, considering the late hour, to delete items H, I, J, and K, while completing items B, C, D, E, F, G, and L. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **FUND BALANCE POLICY**

Mr. Hess moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the Board approve the proposed practice on

“Current Expense Fund Budgetary Basis – Undesignated Fund Balance Policy.” The proposal calls for the use of fund balance for one-time costs such as transfers to capital project accounts, equipment purchases, and new program start-up costs.

## **CAPITALIZATION OF FIXED ASSETS POLICY**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed policy on Capitalization of Fixed Assets. The policy sets the capitalization threshold for assets at \$5,000 with a useful life of at least two years from the date of acquisition.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to accept items listed on the Consent Agenda including: minutes of the April 3, 2001 work session, a proposed resolution on Daniel E. Purcell as the Student Representative to the Board of Education for 2000-01, the monthly report on personnel, and the appointment of members to the Family Life and Human Development Citizens Advisory Committee.

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

### **BOUNDARY EXCEPTION PROCESS**

Mrs. Haas told the Board that, over the past 15 years, the number of boundary exceptions permitted by the school system has increased by 40 percent with the largest percentage of the increase related to childcare needs. She said that schools with nearby day care facilities have shown the largest increase in students attending that school from outside their district. Current school utilization figures show 13 of the elementary schools with student enrollments over 100 percent of capacity. Mrs. Haas recommended that the Board support the modification of the Administrative Guidelines on Boundary Exceptions to include a provision that requests for boundary exceptions to a school where the enrollment is in excess of 100 percent of rated capacity will be denied regardless of class size or other factors; and that, in the event that a requested school is under the defined capacity cap but the grade level class size enrollment is equal to or exceeds the Board’s class size policy, boundary exceptions to that grade level will not be approved. Mr. Galbreath said he would be interested in seeing an exception be made to permit boundary exceptions for day care reasons where the service is provided by a family member. The issue will be on the June 11 Board agenda.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Magee moved and Mrs. Wolf seconded that the Board pursue the proposal by HCEA to

have training in the area of Interest Based Bargaining. The Board passed the motion unanimously.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 p.m.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

In addition to its June 11 and June 25 regular business meetings at North Harford High School (7:00 p.m., auditorium), the Board will hold a work session at North Harford Middle School on June 18 (lecture hall, 7:00 p.m.) on the Board's advisory committees.

## **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](mailto: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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