



## Board Meeting

*March 24, 2003*

Terry R. Troy, *President*  
Robert S. Magee, *Vice President*  
Eugene C. Chandler  
Ruth R. "Robin" Rich  
Robert B. Thomas, Jr.  
Karen L. Wolf  
Mark M. Wolkow  
Molly P. Harris,  
*Student Representative*  
Jacqueline C. Haas, *Superintendent*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

President of the Board of Education of Harford County Terry R. Troy called the regular business meeting of the Board to order at 6:35 p.m. in the auditorium of Edgewood High School. Mrs. Troy directed that a quorum call be conducted which resulted in all Board Members reporting present. Board Member Karen L. Wolf moved and Board Past President Eugene C. Chandler seconded that Items "C" and "D" on the Old Business Action section be reversed with the "Approval of the Schematics Design for the Aberdeen High School Science and Mathematics Academy (former Item "D") being considered directly after Item "B", the Description of the Academy. The Board unanimously approved the change and similarly endorsed the resultant motion by Mrs. Wolf and second by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler to approve the amended agenda. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Mrs. Troy led a moment of silence in memory of those U.S. Troops who had fallen in the opening stages of the Iraqi war.

#### **RECOGNITION**

**HCPS EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME – DOROTHY W. EDWARDS & JOSEPH C. COONEY**

## **MARCH INDUCTEES**

The March 2003 inductees into the Harford County Public School Educator Hall of Fame were recognized posthumously. Inducted were Dorothy W. Edwards and Joseph C. Cooney, Jr. Mrs. Edwards taught elementary school students and sixth graders in Harford County Public Schools for 42 years, starting in one-room schoolhouse in 1930 and ending her illustrious career in 1973 as a fifth grade teacher at Homestead Elementary School. Mrs. Edwards was hailed for her loving instruction provided to students and for her effective mentorship of younger teachers during a career marked by mutual respect and affection among all who came in contact with her. Mr. Cooney, the county school system's first art supervisor, was a teacher and administrator in the school system for 31 years, beginning in 1960 and ending with his retirement in 1991. Mr. Cooney was not only an extraordinary instructor and leader of teachers, but provided the county school leadership with invaluable service in preparing presentations for the superintendent and his staff for a variety of purposes. Awards were presented by Mrs. Troy and Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas to family members of Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Cooney.

## **MARYLAND MARCH OF DIMES YOUTH AMBASSADOR – BENJAMIN A. MAYFORTH**

The Board recognized the contributions of Benjamin A. Mayforth, eight-year-old Ring Factory Elementary School third grader, who has been Maryland's March of Dimes Youth Ambassador for the past three years. Young Mayforth, born with multiple birth defects, has endured 13 surgeries and 20 other medical procedures, overcoming his many challenges to be a productive and well adjusted student and participant in youth league baseball as well as learning to ride his own two-wheeled bicycle. "Ben" attends about 25 functions per year where he speaks in support of funding for research into the causes of birth defects. He has testified both in Annapolis and Washington, D.C. to legislators and will lead those taking part in the April 27, 2003 WalkAmerica event to take place in Forest Hill. Young Mayforth was presented a certificate by Mrs. Troy and Mrs. Haas recognizing his contributions to others.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Karson Langenfelder, president of the senior class at Fallston High School, discussed with the Board his concern over the denial of the use of certain amusement games at the post-prom party being planned for his school this spring. Mr. Langenfelder said the school system's Risk Manager had expressed concerns about inflatable amusement equipment and has prohibited their use for the on-school event. Mr. Langenfelder said similar equipment and events have been conducted during the last several years for the post-prom party and, if they are not allowed, interest in the event will wane and some students may opt for less safe activities off campus.

Wally Price of Fantasy World Entertainment in Prince Frederick (MD), suppliers of the inflatable equipment including sumo wrestling outfits, said his company has an enviable record of safety and carries sufficient liability insurance to cover any problems that might

occur. Mr. Price added that the events are well supervised and participants are provided with information on the safe use of the equipment.

Cheryl Roettger of Fallston, representing the post prom party parent committee, added her dismay over the stand taken by school officials against the use of the inflatable equipment, requesting that the Board intervene in making it possible for the events to go on as planned.

Joe Schmitz, principal of Edgewood High School, thanked the Board for coming to Edgewood High School to hold its business meetings during the January through March quarter and said he hoped the facilities had met all the Board's requirements. Mrs. Troy thanked Mr. Schmitz and his Edgewood High School staff for the hospitality shown the Board during the six business meetings and closed sessions held at the school during the past quarter.

Roni Chenowith, member of the Harford County Council representing the Fallston area, added her voice to those requesting the Board work to allow the inflatable equipment events to take place at the Fallston High post-prom party. Council Member Chenowith pointed to interscholastic athletic events which, she said, are far more dangerous than the events scheduled for the post-prom party.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Board Member Mark M. Wolkow, the Board voted unanimously to endorse items on the Consent Agenda including Minutes of the January 27 and February 10 Board Business Meetings; the Monthly Report on Personnel; a Proposed Resolution on the Week of the Young Child; Approval of Award of Contract for Floor Covering; Approval of Contract Award for Food Service Non-Carbonated Canned Beverages; Approval of Charge for Family Life Citizen Advisory Committee; and Approval of Citizen Advisory Committee Membership Appointment Calendar.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ACADEMY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Led by Director of Secondary Education David A. Volrath and Supervisor of Science Dennis Kirkwood, a presentation was made on the breadth of instruction that will be provided in the Aberdeen High School Math/Science Academy, anticipated to be part of the new Aberdeen High School due to open in time for the 2004-05 school year. The Academy, which would be housed in a third floor of the replacement Aberdeen High provided funding is achieved for the construction, would offer instruction to about 250 students. A number of

those students would be from Aberdeen High School while those from the other seven comprehensive Harford County Public High Schools would have the opportunity to apply for admittance to the Academy. Joined by Supervisor of Math Sarah Morris, Dr. Kirkwood explained the kinds of material and the nature of the subjects which would be taught in the Academy. Mr. Volrath recognized the influence of US Army Alliance Members Bill Richardson and Bob Johnson in planting the seeds for the unique partnership that would exist between the school system and Aberdeen Proving Ground in providing instruction to students through the Academy. He said the project would never have gotten off the ground without the support and encouragement of the Army Alliance. Mr. Volrath credited Aberdeen High School Principal Tom Szerensits and his students for their hosting of Senator Barbara Mikulski and Representative Dutch Ruppersberger the previous week when Senator Mikulski appeared to make a presentation of almost \$700,000 to be used to purchase equipment for the Academy.

### **APPROVAL OF SCHEMATICS DESIGN FOR THE ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ACADEMY**

Supervisor of Planning and Construction Kathleen Sanner and Construction Manager Christopher Morton along with representative of the Grimm and Parker architectural firm, Scott Eshbaugh presented the Board with the schematic design proposal for the Aberdeen High School third floor Science and Mathematics Academy. Mrs. Sanner said planning funding in the amount of \$369,000 was included in the FY 01 capital budget of the Department of Defense to create the unique mathematics/science/technology magnet program at Aberdeen High. The Board of Education of Harford County had approved the architectural design contract on January 28, 2002, directing that schematics be completed for its review by Grimm and Parker. Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the schematic design submitted by the architect and direct that the design be submitted to the State Interagency Committee for School Construction. The Harford County government has verbally committed to providing its share of construction funding in FY 2004 while the school system has appealed the State's deferment of a request for its share of the construction funding. The building has been designed in such a way that the third floor can be added to the base two-story building when funding becomes available. If funding is received in FY '04, the third floor can be completed in time for the entire building to open for the 2004-05 school year, Mrs. Sanner said.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

Facilitator of Governmental Relations Kathryn Carmello presented the Board with a summary of the activities of the Maryland State Legislature to the March 24 (76th day) of the State Legislature. Mrs. Carmello said the "Crossover Date" for the House of Delegates and Senate to send each other bills it intends to pass favorably was March 24. She said the 2003 legislation count has reached 774 bills and 12 joint resolutions in the Senate and 1182 bills and 18 joint resolutions in the House. Of those, 113 are related to education, Mrs. Carmello said. She added that 13 bills had passed the House, 15 had passed the Senate, and 12 bills were pending further action after receiving a favorable report from their respective

committees. Mrs. Carmello said that 34 bills had died in committee, 12 bills had been withdrawn from committee, and 25 bills currently remain in committee with no action taken as of March 24. She said the 83rd day (March 31) is the Maryland Constitutional deadline for approval of the budget. If not, the Governor is mandated to issue a proclamation extending the session beyond the 90th day, if necessary, to pass the budget. Mrs. Carmello provided a summary of the bills impacting education that have passed both houses (for a complete list, consult the HCPS web site at [www.hcps.k12.md.us](http://www.hcps.k12.md.us)).

## **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL FACILITIES USE POLICY FOR PUBLICATION AND COMMENT**

Assistant Superintendent for Operations Joseph P. Licata presented the Board with a review of proposed changes in the School Facilities Use Policy. Mr. Licata had presented the proposed changes at the March 10, 2003 meeting. The Superintendent was seeking approval from the Board to publicize the proposed changes along with the Board's intention to take action on the package at its April 28, 2003 meeting. Mr. Licata said he had received five comments from the public following presentation of the proposed changes March 10 (the new policy proposal has been on the HCPS web site since that date). Mr. Licata said, contrary to some expressions of belief, there is no proposed limit on the HCPS facilities by the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation. He said there would be a one-time application fee for the Department's various uses of the buildings. Mr. Licata said the purpose of the policy changes is to allow the school system to more equitably recover the costs involved in outside groups use of the school buildings. Acting on motions made by Mr. Wolkow (seconded by Mrs. Wolf) and Board Member Robert B. Thomas, Jr. (seconded by Mrs. Wolf), the Board voted 6 to 1 in both cases (Board Vice President Robert S. Magee dissenting in each case) to adjust the draft policy ending time for activities from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the beginning time on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Wolkow, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the advertising of the proposed policy and the solicitation of public comment, anticipating possible action on the issue at the April 28 meeting (Havre de Grace Middle School cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED 2004-05 HCPS CALENDAR**

During the spring of each school year, the Board of Education directs that it receive the proposal of its Advisory Committee on the School Calendar a recommendation for a schedule for the school year two years hence. The purpose is to have a school calendar reflecting not only the coming school year but the one after that approved to facilitate planning by school personnel and the public. The Board has a policy and the school system has a prescribed procedure for the formation of the committee and the presentation of the proposed schedule. In addition, the Board had approved the membership of the 2004-05 Advisory Committee and had provided parameters for the group during the Board's February 24, 2003 meeting. Director of Public Information, Donald R. Morrison, who facilitates the committee's operation, reported to the Board that the Advisory Committee

had met on March 5, 2003 and had reached consensus on a proposed 2004-05 proposed calendar. Mr. Morrison introduced the Student Representative-Elect to the Board of Education, Michael Morey, a member of the 2004-05 Advisory Calendar Committee, who presented the Board with the committee's proposal. The proposal calls for the 2004-05 school year to begin for students on Monday, August 30, 2004 (the week before Labor Day) and end on Friday, June 17, 2005 with six inclement weather days built in (any or all of those days would be dropped at the end of the school year if not necessary to make up missed days, meaning the last day for students could be as early as June 9, 2005). Mr. Morey told the Board that two additional days – April 11 and the combination of April 7 and 8 – have been identified as possible seventh and eighth inclement weather makeup days should they be needed. The Student Representative-Elect said the committee is proposing there be a closing of half of the school system's attendance areas for students on April 7 followed by the closing of the other half of the system for students on April 8 to allow for a visitation by those teachers whose schools are closed to those of sister schools whose school is open. Mr. Morey said the model used this school year of having two-day blocks of staff development at the end of each of the first, second, and third quarters is recommended to be continued. The Board has directed that the school system seek comment on the proposed 2004-05 calendar with the aim of the proposal coming up for a vote by the Board at its April 28, 2003 meeting (Havre de Grace Middle School, 6:30 p.m.). A complete listing of the proposed calendar can be found on the HCPS web site ([www.hcps.k12.md.us](http://www.hcps.k12.md.us)).

## **REVIEW OF STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ian Hull, president of the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils (HCRASC), urged the Board to put off taking action on the renewal of the Student Dress Code Policy which had been passed at the end of last school year. Mr. Hull pointed out that the Board had directed there be a review of the policy one year after it went into effect. He said the spring months will provide answers to how well the new policy which prohibits tank tops, bare mid-riffs, and unsecured-heel shoes will be accepted by students and how well it can be enforced. He said HCRASC supports the policy but has recommended waiting until the end of the school year for a review.

Diana Taylor of Fallston provided her support to the policy as written, pointing out that clothing that is too revealing is distracting to the purpose of students being in school which is to learn the curriculum that is being taught. She said baggy clothing is also an important issue.

### **REVIEW OF POLICY**

Stephen Lentowski, director of student services for the school system, said that there has been little comment from the public about the new policy implemented at the outset of the current school year, adding that students seem to have, by and large, accepted and conformed to the requirements. He said there may have been some inconsistency from school to school in the application of the policy at the outset, but those problems have been

worked out. He said the Policy Review Committee had examined the Dress Code and has recommended that it be reaffirmed by the Board. Mr. Thomas said the major issue spawned by implementation of the policy has surrounded the attached-heel section of the school system's Administrative Procedures, which are not part of the policy. Molly P. Harris, student representative to the Board, said she supports the view of HCRASC that there be a full year under the new policies before they are reviewed. Mr. Thomas disagreed with that stand while Mrs. Wolf expressed her support for the point of view. Several secondary principals who were present for the meeting were polled as to how the policy had been received in their buildings. Nancy Reynolds, Bel Air Middle School principal, said it had been "easy for us and I welcomed it," pointing out that it provided Board backing for what the school had been attempting to do on its own. Bel Air High School Principal Kevin Fleming agreed, saying the implementation had been "relatively easy and the definitions clear." William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School Principal Franklin Tull said the policy had been a "non-issue" for his school. Michael Thatcher, North Harford High School principal, said he had experienced difficulty providing a rationale for the secured-heel provision of the Administrative Guidelines. Ken Cook, chair of the Board's Safety and Security Citizen Advisory Committee, said his group is more concerned with there being a better definition of "baggy clothing" which would address the safety issue of students being able to conceal weapons in loose-fitting clothing. Mrs. Haas said the school system is obtaining information from safety consultant Michael Dorn who had presented information to the Board two years ago, in part, sparking changes in the dress code policy. Board Member Robin R. Rich said she would not like to see the Board Policy delve into the area of Administrative Guidelines. Mrs. Wolf made a motion that the policy be referred back to the Policy Review Committee but the motion died for lack of a second. Unless the Board directs otherwise, the policy would come back before the group for renewal at its April 28 meeting (Havre de Grace Middle School, 6:30 p.m.).

## **DISCUSSION**

### **USE OF GARRETT WANDS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Due to the lateness of the meeting (past the 10:00 p.m. curfew), Mrs. Troy said discussion of the issue of possible use of Garrett Wand metal detectors at athletic events will be postponed to the March 31 Board meeting (subsequently rescheduled to April 1).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Rich and the seconds of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and Mr. Thomas, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board will hold its fourth quarter 2002-03 business meetings in the cafeteria at Havre de Grace Middle School. The April meetings will be held on April 14 (7:00 p.m.) and April 28 (6:30 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](mailto:drmorrison.gs@hcps.k12.md.us); Or call the HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.

In addition, for those who would like to receive emergency or other important school announcements automatically at their e-mail address(es), check the schools-out.com initiative on the home page of the HCPS web site.

**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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