



Board Meeting

September 8, 2003

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

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

President of the Board of Education of Harford County Robert S. Magee called the regular business meeting of the Board to order on September 8, 2003 at 7:15 p.m. in the gymnasium of Fallston Middle School. Mr. Magee asked for a quorum call of Board members which showed that Past President Terry R. Troy and member Karen L. Wolf were not present. The absence of each was excused due to unavoidable conflicts. Acting on the motion of Board Member Eugene C. Chandler and the second of Board Member Mark M. Wolkow, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda as submitted. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler then led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Wolkow, the Board voted unanimously to approve items on the Consent Agenda as submitted. Items approved included Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards, Minutes from the July 21 and August 11, 2003 Board Business Meetings, Revised 2004 Graduation Times and Dates, and the Award of a Contract for Fuel Oil. The action on the 2004 graduation times and dates involved an accommodation for the three schools which use the Towson Center – C. Milton

Wright, Bel Air, and Fallston high schools – to be able to use than venue on the only date the facility is available for 2004, June 1. Originally, Bel Air High had been scheduled to hold its commencement exercises at the Towson Center on the evening of June 1, with C. Milton Wright High to do so on June 2, and Fallston on June 3. The Board action will have C. Milton Wright holding its commencement at approximately 10:30 a.m. on June 1; Bel Air High at approximately 2:30 p.m.; and Fallston High at approximately 6:30 p.m. In addition, North Harford and Havre de Grace high schools, originally scheduled to hold commencements for their seniors on June 1, will have their exercises moved to June 2 and June 3, respectively.

PRESENTATIONS

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ACADEMY AT ABERDEEN LOGO

Donna Clem, coordinator of the Science and Math Academy to be located as the third floor of the replacement Aberdeen High School (to open in time for the 2004-05 school year), Aberdeen High School Principal Tom Szerensits, and Harford County Public School Supervisor of Science Dennis Kirkwood unveiled the logo which has been developed for the academy. The logo, designed by a local public relations company and approved by the steering committee for the Academy, contains the letters “SMA” and the words “Science and Math Academy” in the Aberdeen High School colors of royal blue and gold with a flying eagle (Aberdeen High School’s mascot) above the letters. Mrs. Clem said the logo will be featured during a visit by Governor Robert B. Ehrlich, Jr. to Aberdeen High School on September 16 during a celebration of State funding for the Academy. In answer to a question by Board Vice President Robert B. Thomas, Jr., Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas told the Board that it does not have to officially approve school logos or mascots and the presentation was intended to make them aware of the design prior to it being presented during the Governor’s visit. Mrs. Clem said, by October, criteria will be established for the admission of students to the magnet program which will have students applying from the eight comprehensive public high schools in the county for admission to Aberdeen High as part of the Science and Math Academy.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Lou Taylor of Rock Ridge Road told the Board he had a concern about the safety of his child’s bus stop at Rock Ridge and Rush roads. He reported he had not been successful in making contact with the appropriate officials at the school system’s Transportation Office. Mrs. Haas told Mr. Taylor that HCPS Director of Transportation Norman Seidel was present at the meeting and directed Mr. Seidel to meet with Mr. Taylor in another part of the building following completion of Mr. Taylor’s remarks to arrange for a review of the bus stop situation.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE FY 2005 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Kathleen Sanner, supervisor of planning and construction for the school system, presented the Board with the proposed FY 05 Capital Improvement Program. The proposal has been before the Board for two months and had been reviewed at previous Board meetings. Mrs. Sanner said that several adjustments had been made to the program since it was first introduced to the Board at a June 16, 2003 work session. She listed the deletion of funding associated with a new school system administration building, the addition of site acquisition as a line item to create an educational land bank for future growth, the identification of target expenditures for a music refresh program, identification of final budget issues for the North Harford High School modernization, revision of air conditioning and HVAC renovation projects to reflect scope studies including a temporary solution for Joppatowne Elementary School, revision of Technology requests to reflect software enhancements, revision of budgets for the proposed middle/high school at Patterson Mill, as well as a future elementary school to reflect additional State information received recently. The total FY 05 request is for \$50,822,592 including \$21,357,000 in state money and \$29,465,592 in county funds. The lions share of the request is for the new Patterson Mill Road middle/high school — \$16,206,523 for Phase one of the project; and \$12,119,864 for the modernization project at North Harford High School. Other projects listed are: relocatable classrooms; capacity projects at Fallston Middle, Prospect Mill Elementary and Bel Air High schools; full day kindergarten capacity projects; site acquisition; Aberdeen North building; NHMS wastewater treatment project; HVAC replacement; roofing replacement; fire alarm & ER communications; environmental compliance; air condition projects; technology infrastructure; equipment and furniture; athletic fields repair/renovations; technology education labs; bus acquisition; vehicle acquisition; music refresh program; security cameras; SWM, erosion, sediment control; paving; and backflow prevention. Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Board Member Ruth R. Rich, the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2005 proposal which will now be sent to State and County officials for their consideration.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

Acting on the motion of Thomas and the second of Wolkow, the Board unanimously approved changes to its policy on Meetings of the Board of Education (02.01.065; and Hearings Before the Board of Education of Harford County or the Hearing Examiner (02.01.170). The Board's attorney, Patrick Spicer, brought the proposals to the Board, reflecting the recommendation of the Board's Policy Review Committee. The change in the meetings policy reflects start times for Board Business meetings – generally 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month and 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. The hearings change provides the Board with the discretion of conducting documentary hearings when allowable by law rather than holding full evidentiary hearings (permitting some hearings to be conducted by parties submitting written positions rather than representatives from the two sides appearing in person before Board members).

DISCUSSION

PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING UPDATE

Director of Facilities Management Jeffery Ayers and representative of the Johnson Controls Company John Cavanaugh appeared before the Board to provide an update on Performance Contracting as it relates to energy consumption at eight schools which had been approved to be part of the program. Guaranteed energy savings had been promised for the eight schools in Phase I as well as 14 additional schools in Phase II. The scope of work – involving the installation of energy saving equipment and practices – had been completed in the Phase I schools in August 2002, Mr. Ayers reported. Mr. Cavanaugh reported that a total savings at the eight schools identified from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 was \$359,786 — \$6,318 above that which had been promised by the company. Promised energy savings are being used to pay for the cost of the improvements made in the utilities at the schools. Had the actual savings not equaled the projected savings, Johnson Controls would have reimbursed the school system for the difference, Mr. Cavanaugh said. Schools involved in Phase I include Bel Air, Fallston, and Joppatowne highs; Magnolia and Southampton middles; and Homestead, Magnolia, and Riverside elementaries. Mr. Ayers reported that the scope work for Phase II schools is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2004 with the guarantee period to commence following those completions.

ACTION ITEMS

COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN

As required by the State's Public School Construction Program Administrative Procedures Guide, Mr. Ayers presented the Board with the annual Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the 2003-04 school year, listing projects which will be undertaken on school facilities during the upcoming year. The plan is established to develop, maintain, and/or improve the maintenance program of the Harford County Public School System to support the delivery of educational programs and services and to provide a safe and healthy environment as effectively and efficiently as possible, Mr. Ayers said. State regulations require the Board to officially adopt the plan which it did on a unanimous vote in support of the motion by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Wolkow.

CONTRACT FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE NEW MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL AT PATTERSON MILL

Mrs. Sanner presented the Board with a proposal to hire an architectural and engineering firm to plan the new middle/high school to be located off Patterson Mill Road near Bel Air. Mrs. Sanner told the Board that 21 firms submitted proposals to design the building, planned as a 1600-student combination middle/high school with sufficient land left on the 80-acre plot to locate a separate middle school there if future developments warrant the original building being converted to strictly a high school. Mrs. Sanner provided the Board with the Superintendent's recommendation that the Fairfax, Virginia-based firm of Cochran, Stephenson & Donkervoet, Inc./Fanning Howey be awarded the contract for a lump sum price of \$2,560,000. Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of

Mrs. Rich, the Board voted unanimously to award the contract to the recommended firm.

PRESENTATIONS

CHARTER SCHOOL POLICY

Kathryn Carmello, the school system's coordinator of governmental relations, provided the Board with a first reading of a proposed policy on Public Charter Schools as mandated by a law passed by the Maryland General Assembly this past session. The policy, which will be laid over until the October 13 Board meeting to allow for public comment, provides the framework for the granting of a charter to an organization which applies to organize such a school under the oversight of the local Board of Education. The policy, which will be followed by a set of procedures to be in place by the November 1, 2003 deadline set by the General Assembly, provides a definition for Public Charter Schools as being nonsectarian, one to which parents may choose to send their children and open to all students on a lottery basis if more students apply than can be accommodated, one provides a full program of elementary or secondary education (or both), one which is subject to federal and state anti-discrimination laws, one which is in compliance with all applicable health and safety laws, and one created in accordance with state laws/regulations. A full listing of the proposed policy can be found on the Harford County Public School web site (www.hcps.org).

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

John Markowski, chief financial officer of the public school system, provided a quarterly financial report to the Board detailing activities for the quarter which ended June 30, 2003. Mr. Markowski told the Board the Harford County Public School System ended FY 03 with a positive variance (fund balance) of \$912,885 or 0.35 percent of the \$260,833,008 general fund operating budget. He said the fund balance is the smallest both in dollars and percent of the budget in recent years, down from a \$4.3 million (2.06 percent) fund balance in the FY 99 budget. Mr. Markowski said the decrease reflects an effort to use funds where they will benefit students the most, but does mean the system does not have the built-in flexibility to address unanticipated expenditures for emergencies of varying kinds. The CFO has provided the Board with quarterly updates of the school system's financial standing for the past three years.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas told the Board that four school systems out of 24 in the state started their 2003-04 school year after Labor Day. She said several who started the same August 25 as did Harford list ending dates well before Harford's June 11, but noted the local calendar includes six potential inclement weather makeup days (with three more if the school year were to be extended through June 16 as the calendar allows). She said Talbot County, which lists its last student day as June 1, includes very few non-student days in its calendar and likely has none or a limited number of inclement weather days. She also noted that some school systems (Baltimore City – 182 and Montgomery County – 184) have more than the minimum 180 days in the student calendar, which may become a growing trend as

efforts are made to address the mandates of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Mr. Thomas said the Board may be forced soon to take action on a form of the year-round calendar due to interventions that may be necessary to meet NCLB

Mrs. Haas also discussed with the Board the implications of Blood Lead Testing and Reporting as required by HB 221 which was passed in the 2001 General Assembly.

In addition, she told the Board that, while Harford County students did relatively well on the first Maryland School Assessments as a whole, requirements of the new testing program mandate that all sub-groups identified (racial/ethnic minorities, those receiving free/reduced priced meals, special education, and others) meet standards. She said that several Harford County Public Schools' special education sub-group did not meet standards. Mrs. Haas noted that the Functional Tests, a staple of high school graduation requirements for more than a decade, are being phased out with only seniors needing to pass the exams this year. She added that the State Board of Education has voted to delay implementation of High School Assessments (HSAs) as graduation requirements for at least an additional two years, but students still must take the exams, currently offered in four subject areas.

DISCUSSION

ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES TASK FORCE/COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AND BILLS

Acting on a motion made by Mr. Wolkow, a member of the County's Adequate Public Facilities Task Force, the Board voted 4 to 1 (Lt. Col. Ret. Chandler dissenting) to pass a resolution supporting the Board's desire to achieve the optimum goal of having no school above 100 percent of its student capacity, but noting that schools can temporarily support a student population of between 110 and 115 percent of capacity. Mr. Wolkow noted that the County Council is preparing to take action on a new proposed Adequate Public Facilities (APF) law as it impacts school capacity and the Task Force has completed its work. He said he felt it was incumbent upon the Board to take an official stance as the oversight body for the public education system in the county. Mr. Thomas noted that the Task Force recommendations did not include the identification of new funding sources which will be needed to address the issue of having sufficient school capacity to meet the county's growing population.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Board voted unanimously to support the motion and second of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Rich, respectively, and adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Magee noted that, following the September 22 meeting at Fallston Middle School (4:30 p.m. for a work session and 7:15 p.m. for the beginning of the business meeting), Board

business sessions would revert to their 7:00 p.m. (second Monday) and 6:30 p.m. (fourth Monday) schedule. He added that Board meetings would move to Magnolia Middle School for the October through December quarter (beginning on October 13); but would then move to Bel Air Middle School for the remainder of the school year beginning in January. He said the January meetings would include the 4: 30 work session format.

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: don.morrison@hcps.org; 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.

The Harford County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. Inquiries related to the policies of the Board of Education of Harford County should be directed to the Director of Public Information at 410-588-5203.