

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented and actions taken during the above meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County. The video recordings of the Board meetings are the official record of the meetings and can be viewed at: <http://www.hcps.org/boe/livestream/>. Informational reports are located at: <https://www.hcps.org/boe/boardmeetingschedules.aspx>

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice-President Sewell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Dr. Carol Mueller who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Mrs. Denise Perry, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Ms. Noa Blanken, and Mr. Wade Sewell

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold

Adoption of Agenda

Vice-President Sewell called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blanken and adopted in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Patrice Ricciardi led the Pledge of Allegiance

Item A. Board Member Comments and Special Recognition

Vice-President Sewell recognized with a resolution the 2022-23 Student Member to the Board of Education of Harford County, Noa S. Blanken, for her contributions as the student representative to the Board of Education. Ms. Blanken is a graduate of North Harford High School.

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Item B. Consent Agenda

Vice-President Sewell called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Monthly Personnel Report - May 2023
2. Reading and Mathematics Assessment Review Team
3. Middle School Drama Course
4. High School Social Sciences Course Sequence Change
5. United States History Regular Status
6. Social Sciences Grades 1 - 3 Regular Status
7. Expansion of Inner Orbit Science Assessment Platform
8. Appointment of Membership to the Board of Education's Audit Committee
9. Office of Internal Audit: FY2024 Audit Plan
10. Office of Internal Audit: FY2023 Annual Update
11. Contract Award: Purchase of Defibrillators
12. Contract Award: Digital Literacy Program
13. Contract Award: Math Resources

14. Contract Award: Paving and ADA Improvements at Meadowvale Elementary School and Hickory Annex Bus Lot
15. Contract Award: Removal and Replacement of Kitchen Ovens
16. Contract Award: Snacks and Non-Carbonated Beverages
17. Contract Award: Middle and High School Math Resources
18. Contract Award: Special Education Contractual Related Services
19. Contract Award: Seat License Subscription Renewal
20. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: May 22, 2023, June 12, 2023, and June 20, 2023 Budget Meeting

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hahn. Ms. Alvarez requested that item numbers two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6), seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), twelve (12), thirteen (13), seventeen (17), eighteen (18), and nineteen (19), be removed for discussion. The consent agenda was approved with all items except the following numbered items: number 2 “Reading and Mathematics Assessment Review Team”, number 3 “Middle School Drama Course”, number 4 “High School Social Sciences Course Sequence Change, number 5 “United States History Regular Status”, number 6 “Social Sciences Grades 1 - 3 Regular Status”, number 7 “Expansion of Inner Orbit Science Assessment Platform”, number 8 “Appointment of Membership to the Board of Education's Audit Committee”, number 9 “Office of Internal Audit: FY2024 Audit Plan”, number 12 “Contract Award: Digital Literacy Program”, number 13 “Contract Award: Math Resources”, number 17 “Contract Award: Middle and High School Math Resources”, number 18 “Contract Award: Special Education Contractual Related Services”, and number 19 “Contract Award: Seat License Subscription Renewal” in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #2 Reading and Mathematics Assessment Review Team

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez, to approve consent agenda item #2 Reading and Mathematics Assessment Review Team, with an amendment to the presented proposed timeline action step date of “November – December” to read the following: “Seek approval from the Board of Education” replacing the original wording presented to the Board for this action step. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #3 Middle School Drama Course

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Blanken made a motion to approve consent agenda item #3 Middle School Drama Course. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #4 High School Social Sciences Course Sequence Change

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve consent agenda item #4 High School Social Sciences Course Sequence Change. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Items #5 United States History Regular Status, #6 Social Sciences Grades 1 - 3 Regular Status, and #7 Expansion of Inner Orbit Science Assessment Platform

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hahn, to move consent agenda items #5 United States History Regular Status, #6 Social Sciences Grades 1 - 3 Regular Status, and #7 Expansion of Inner Orbit Science Assessment Platform, to be placed on a future agenda for presentation. The motion failed with 2 affirmative and 7 negative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Hahn. Casting the negative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Phillips, Ms. Ricciardi, Ms. Blanken, and Mr. Sewell (Includes 1 preferential negative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #5 United States History Regular Status

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez, to table consent agenda item #5 United States History curriculum, as it does not teach US History. The motion failed with 2 affirmative and 7 negative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Hahn. Casting the negative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Phillips, Ms. Ricciardi, Ms. Blanken, and Mr. Sewell (Includes 1 preferential negative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Second Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Perry, to approve consent agenda item #5 United States History Regular Status. The motion was approved with 7 affirmative and 2 negative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Phillips, Ms. Ricciardi, Ms. Blanken, and Mr. Sewell (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Casting the negative vote: Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Hahn. Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Items #6 Social Sciences Grades 1 - 3 Regular Status, #7 Expansion of Inner Orbit Science Assessment Platform, and #8 Appointment of Membership to the Board of Education's Audit Committee

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez, to postpone the vote for consent agenda items #6 Social Sciences Grades 1 - 3 Regular Status, #7 Expansion of Inner Orbit Science Assessment Platform, and #8 Appointment of Membership to the Board of Education's Audit Committee. The motion failed with 2 affirmative and 7 negative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Hahn. Casting the negative votes: Ms. Bruce, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Phillips, Ms. Ricciardi, Ms. Blanken, and Mr. Sewell (Includes 1 preferential negative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #6 Social Sciences Grades 1 - 3 Regular Status

Motion, Second and Vote - Mrs. Hahn made a motion to postpone the vote of consent agenda item #6 Social Sciences Grades 1 - 3 Regular Status, until July 17, 2023. The motion was not seconded for consideration.

Second Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion, seconded by Dr. Herold, to approve consent agenda item #6 Social Sciences Grades 1 - 3 Regular Status. The motion was approved with 8 affirmative and 1 negative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Alvarez, Ms. Bruce, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Phillips, Ms. Ricciardi, Ms. Blanken, and Mr. Sewell (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Casting the negative vote: Mrs. Hahn. Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #7 Expansion of Inner Orbit Science Assessment Platform

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to request that the Science Team do a presentation on the Inner Orbit Platform for the Board. After Board discussion, Mrs. Alvarez withdrew her motion.

Second Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to approve consent agenda item #7 Expansion of Inner Orbit Science Assessment Platform. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #8 Appointment of Membership to the Board of Education's Audit Committee

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to approve consent agenda item #8 Appointment of Membership to the Board of Education's Audit Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Phillips. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #9 Office of Internal Audit: FY2024 Audit Plan

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion to approve consent agenda item #9 Office of Internal Audit: FY2024 Audit Plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #12 Contract Award: Digital Literacy Program

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve consent agenda item #12 Contract Award: Digital Literacy Program. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #13 Contract Award: Math Resources

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Perry made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bruce, to approve consent agenda item #13 Contract Award: Math Resources. The motion was approved with 8 affirmative and 1 negative voice votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Ms. Bruce, Mrs. Hahn, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Phillips, Ms. Ricciardi, Ms. Blanken, and Mr. Sewell (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Casting the negative vote: Mrs. Alvarez. Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #17 Contract Award: Middle and High School Math Resources

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve consent agenda item #17 Contract Award: Middle and High School Math Resources. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #18 Contract Award: Special Education Contractual Related Services

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve consent agenda item #18 Contract Award: Special Education Contractual Related Services. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Consent Item #19 Contract Award: Seat License Subscription Renewal

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve consent agenda item #19 Contract Award: Seat License Subscription Renewal, with an amendment to remove the description presented to the Board that reads “The annual renewal of the seat licenses for this program will continue to be renewed annually until it is terminated by the district”. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Item C. Meeting Break

The Board recessed until they were called back to order by Vice-President Sewell.

Item D. Decision on the Education Specification for the Combination Harford Academy and Elementary School

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction, and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner, presented the Board a high-level summary of the Educational Specifications for the combination Harford Academy and Elementary School. The Educational Specifications must be submitted to the Public-School Construction Program by July 1, 2023, and approved by the State Superintendent of Schools, to be considered for State planning approval in the FY 25 Capital Improvement Program request. The Educational Specifications were presented and discussed thoroughly with the Board at the June 12, 2023 Board meeting. After the presentation Mr. Brown sought the Board’s approval for submission to the State.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation of the Educational Specifications for the Combination Harford Academy and Elementary School Project for submission to the State, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. Board discussion followed. Ms. Ricciardi called for the vote, ending the discussion. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Item E. Decision on the 2023 Educational Facilities Master Plan and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction, and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner, presented the Board a high-level summary of the 2023 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan. The 2023 EFMP includes all the essential elements required by the State and has been reviewed by the appropriate school system personnel. The Capital Improvement Projects proposed in this plan will be the basis for the FY25 Capital Improvement Program. Both plans were presented and discussed thoroughly with the Board at the June 12, 2023 Board meeting. After the presentation Mr. Brown sought the Board’s approval for submission to the State.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation of the 2023 Educational Facilities Master Plan and the 2023 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for submission to the State, as presented. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller was absent.

Item F. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson congratulated the North Harford High School Envirothon team for winning the state competition. The team will next travel to New Brunswick, Canada, to represent the entire state in the next competition.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated Ms. Colleen Sasdelli, Director of Special Education, for being selected as one of three new Board members elected to the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that Ms. Patrice Ricciardi was inducted into the Harford County Chamber Hall of Fame. Patrice served on the Chamber Board, numerous committees, and was described as “a faithful leader in the business community.”

Superintendent Bulson thanked the outgoing Board of Education Members, Ms. Noa Blanken, Dr. Joyce Herold, Dr. Roy Phillips, and Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, for their service on the Board.

Item G. Public Comments

Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. Vice-President Sewell read a statement regarding protocol for public comments which included a provision that each speaker would have three (3) minutes to speak and speakers representing a group would have five (5) minutes to speak. Mrs. Yvonne Rallo, Board of Education Administrative Support Coordinator, called on individual speakers who were in person at the meeting and had registered to speak at the Board meeting. The following seven (7) people registered and provided in-person public comment: Jodi Frey, Cheryl Adams, Cristina Lanocha, Rachel DeLaughter, Cathy Kowalewski, Jeannine Cannito, and Suzie Scott representing the group “Moms for Liberty Harford County”. No registered virtual speakers called into the meeting to provide public comment. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following three (3) people registered and provided virtual public comment: Jen Arthur, Crystal Parks, and Aravinda Pillalamarri.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Sean W. Bulson, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer

Aaron S. Poynton, D.P.A.
Board President, Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023

OPEN SESSION: 5:30 PM – 5:35 PM

~~This meeting will be conducted virtually with no public attendance due to the brief nature of this meeting and the logistical issues regarding allowing public attendance in advance of the 6:30 PM meeting.~~

~~*The only item the Board will consider during this open meeting is consideration of meeting in a closed session.~~

CLOSED SESSION: 5:35 PM – 6:15 PM

BUSINESS MEETING: 6:30 PM – ADJOURNMENT

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid fashion and public attendance will be permitted as explained below:

DOORS WILL OPEN AT 6:20 PM AND THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 PM

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a hybrid Business Meeting on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM in the Board Room of the A.A. Roberty Building with Board Members, staff, and presenters in attendance both virtually and in-person. Seats will be available on a first come-first served basis. The meeting will be streamed live and archived for later viewing on the HCPS [Website](#).

The Board will receive public comment as the last item on the agenda right before adjournment.

Public Comment Participation Call-In and In-Person Process

Individuals or groups recognized by Harford County Public Schools (i.e. – PTAs, unions, and other school system stakeholders) wishing to speak on an agenda item or to comment on an education-related matter not on the agenda may request to do so by sending an email to publiccomment@hcps.org or calling 410-588-5347.

Call-In Registrations must be received by 12:00 PM on Monday, June 26, 2023. All fields on the registration form must be completed.

1. First and Last name / if speaker is a Group Representative, then please state the name of the Group
2. Local Address
3. Email Address
4. Phone Number
5. Agenda item or subject your Public Comment pertains to
6. Will you provide in-person **or** virtual Public Comment
7. Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person

****Failure to provide complete information as required above will void the request to provide Public Comment.***

- Registered virtual speakers will receive an email from HCPS with a Call-in Phone # and a Conference ID #.
- Registered speakers are required to call-in and enter the conference ID# at 6:30 PM on Monday, June 26, 2023.
- **Important: If you are unable to take your phone off mute, you may need to dial *6.**
- If you are admitted from the virtual lobby to the meeting, you will be greeted by an HCPS staff member when it is time to begin your public comment. Expected hold time in the virtual lobby may vary based on number of registered speakers. The maximum wait time in the lobby is 30 minutes; should you be disconnected please call back.
- "Request to Appear Before the Board" cards will be available for in-person attendees prior to the Board Meeting for sign-up and must be submitted prior to the opening of the meeting.

The Board has authorized public comment in accord with its policy [Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings](#) and as summarized below:

- Each speaker shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes and five (5) minutes for individuals representing groups. Speakers must state his or her name, and, if representing a group, must identify the group he or she represents. If a speaker identifies themselves as a representative of a group, then only one (1) representative from the group may provide comment for the identified group.
- The Board presiding officer may reduce the amount of time allocated to each speaker if allocating 3 minutes to each speaker will impede the Board's ability to complete scheduled business.
- The Board will receive in-person public comment first and virtual public comment second. The Board expects that all comments will be submitted with the decorum and respect appropriate to the conduct of public business.
- Topics such as personnel matters, pending appeals, specific student disciplinary matters or which constitute commercial solicitations are not permitted.
- Disparaging comments, personal attacks, and inflammatory remarks about specific schools, personnel, any person, or group are not permitted. Speakers who engage in these comments will be reminded of the rules and the Board reserves the right to remove the speaker. In addition, public comment is an opportunity for members of the community to address the Board of Education. Please direct your comments to the Board and not to other members of the public in the audience.
- All public comments submitted will be part of the records maintained by the Board office.

Speakers are reminded that public comments are considered public information and, as such, are subject to the Maryland Public Information Act.