

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented and actions taken during the meetings of the Board of Education of Harford County. The video recordings of the 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>

Open Session

The Board of Education of Harford County met in open session via teleconference on Monday, January 11, 2021. President Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Board Members Present

All Board members were present in the virtual session for the roll call with the exception of Ms. Bailey.

Motion, Second and Vote

Dr. Bauer made a motion to waive public comment in its entirety in light of the limited nature of this open session and the present logistical circumstances resulting from the COVID19 crisis. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a voice vote 9/0. Ms. Bailey was not present for the open session.

Pursuant to 3-305(b), (9), of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Dr. Mueller, and in unanimous agreement of the members present, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a virtual fashion.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Bailey.

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent
Eric Davis, Chief of Administration
Eric Clark, Director of Budget
Mary Edmunds, Budget Analyst
Jeff Fradel, Senior Manager Staff and Labor Relations
Deb Judd, Assistant Superintendent Business Services
Bang Tam Miller, Human Resources Staff and Labor Relations Specialist
Drew Moore, Director of Technology
Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., General Counsel
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

The Board of Education met in closed session for the purposes of discussing:

Topic: Discussion and possible decision regarding parameters for negotiations with HCEA bargaining units.

Reason for Closed Session: To maintain confidentiality of potential parameters, if any, of negotiation with HCEA bargaining units and discussions related thereto.

Mr. Fradel led a discussion regarding the Harford County Education Association's (HCEA) compensation study findings and recommendations. A discussion followed with Board members and Mr. Fradel.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Gauthier, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM. Roll call was taken and a quorum of the Board was confirmed. All Board members were present.

Ms. Gauthier read the following statement:

Due to COVID-19, this meeting will be conducted in a virtual fashion, with Board members, required staff and presenters in attendance via teleconference. There is no public access to the A. A. Roberty Building, 102 S. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014. The agenda and materials are available on www.hcps.org under Board of Education meetings. In light of the logistical/technological issues involved with allowing public comment, it is anticipated that the Board will vote to waive the requirement that the Board receive in-person public comment, and that, in substitution for in-person public comment, the Board will receive public comment as more fully described in the public comment notice. The Audio Live Stream is available on HCPS.ORG/BOE/LIVESTREAM.

Adoption of Agenda

President Robinson called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and adopted in a voice vote 10/0.

Item A. Request to Waive, In Part, Provisions of Policy 22-0008-000 - Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to waive, in part, provisions of Policy 22-0008-000 - Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings and to approve the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the same. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a voice vote 10/0.

Item B. Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Item C. Public Comments

Ms. Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments at the Board meeting. Speakers were virtually invited to the meeting to voice their comments into the record. Public comment parameters were approved earlier in the evening (3 minutes per speaker/comment and a total amount of time allotted for public comments at two (2) hours).

Item D. Consent Agenda

President Robinson called for a motion to approve the consent agenda:

1. Affirmation of Monthly Contracts: December 2020
2. Contract Award: Commodity Food Processors

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 10/0.

Item E. Presentation on HCPS Compensation Study

The Board received a presentation from outside consultant, Ms. Sheena Horton of MGT Consulting Group. The presentation included study results, next steps, project objectives, a methodology overview, a pay plan, reclassifications, and benefit findings. The presentation ended with a recap of the next steps and was opened to questions from the Board. No further dialogue was initiated by the Board.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Presentation on Superintendent's Proposed FY 2022 Budget

The Board received a presentation of the FY 2022 proposed budget from Superintendent Bulson, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services and Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget. They presented the budget in four parts: unrestricted, restricted, food service and capital budgets. At the Board meeting scheduled February 8, 2021, the budget will be back on the agenda for a Board vote. If more time is needed, scheduling can be adjusted. The final Board approved budget needs to be at the County Executive's office by March 1, 2021.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Discussion on COVID Response

Superintendent Bulson led a discussion related to HCPS' COVID response. He stated that virtual learning is not where HCPS wants it to be. There are focus groups, data collecting and information gathering taking place. These conversations concern what has been done, what HCPS will be doing, and are ongoing. There is a plan, for reopening but HCPS does not have a schedule to share as dates are variable. In August HCPS received the COVID-19 Guidance for Maryland schools, which was designed in collaboration with Maryland Department of Education, Department of Health, and the Governor's Office. HCPS uses this guidance for making decisions about when students are in person learning and when they are not in person learning. HCPS relies on ongoing conversations with the Health Department and on the guidance received from the Maryland Department of Health. The schedule dates for return to in person instruction have not been chosen because the metrics are what the dates are based on. If the metrics get where they need to be, HCPS will have the ability to be flexible and move back into more in person learning. This topic will remain on the agenda for further discussions.

Item H. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's report was provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM.

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

Jansen M. Robinson, Board President
Board of Education of Harford County