

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 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>

Work Session

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Roll call was taken and a quorum of the Board was confirmed. All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Gauthier and Mrs. Karwacki, who was having connectivity issues.

*Note, both Mrs. Gauthier and Mrs. Karwacki were able to join the meeting after roll call.

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
Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent Business Services
Bang Tam Miller, Human Resources Staff and Labor Relations Specialist
Drew Moore, Director of Technology
Benjamin Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., General Counsel
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

President Robinson 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. Herold and approved in a voice vote 10/0.

Item B. Discussion on Superintendent's Proposed FY 2022 Budget

Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent Business Services, lead the discussion and presented the Board with the Superintendent's proposed fiscal year 2022 budget. Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, added to the discussion by reviewing budgetary line items in more detail.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item C. Public Comments Received for Budget Only

Ms. Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments at the Board work session. 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).

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Herold, and with Board consensus, the work session adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 Mrs. Gauthier and approved in a voice vote 10/0.

Item B. Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided. Ms. Tamera Rush announced she has moved out of her elected jurisdiction of District D. She formally resigned from her position on the Board effective this meeting date of January 25, 2021.

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. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: December 21, 2020

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gauthier and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 9/0.

*Note that Ms. Tamera Rush was present but resigned during meeting and abstained from voting.

Item E. Special Discussion with Dr. David Bishai, Harford County Health Officer

Superintendent Bulson introduced Harford County's new Health Officer, Dr. David Bishai. Dr. Bishai led a discussion on the recent trends of the Covid-19 epidemic in the county and discussed the role of the Health Department as a shared partnership in balancing between getting our schools to function and educate our children while preventing death and disease. Dr. Bishai made it clear that the Health Department does not dictate the policies of Harford County Public Schools, the Board does that. His role is to be a resource of data, knowledge, and experience in public health.

Item F. Discussion of House Bill 283 regarding Harford County Board of Education Terms of Appointed Members

Board member, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, led a discussion and presented the Board with the proposed amendments to House Bill 283.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to support the Harford County Delegation Bill, HB 283 – Terms of Appointed Members, as written and amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a voice vote of 9/0.

*Note that Ms. Tamera Rush was present but resigned during meeting and abstained from voting.

Item G. Presentation Regarding Request to Waive Parts of Financial Disclosure “Long Form”

The Board received a presentation from Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., and sought approval for the Harford County Public Schools Board of Education's Ethics policy be revised to require school-based administrators complete the “short form” financial disclosure statement in place of the “long form”.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to waive the requirement that school-based administrators submit the long form for calendar year 2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Karwacki and approved in a voice vote of 9/0.

*Note that Ms. Tamera Rush was present but resigned during meeting and abstained from voting.

Item H. Discussion on COVID Response

Superintendent Bulson led a discussion related to HCPS COVID response. He addressed the latest continuity of learning plan that was emailed to the community and the latest guidance from Governor Hogan's press conference

on January 21, 2021. Dr. Bulson made clear that families still have the opportunity to remain virtual if they choose to. He discussed how students will be reintroduced to in person in school learning. Core elements will include wellness, restoring and building relationships, reacclimating to buildings and accessing and addressing learning gaps. Please see archived video for full discussion.

Item H. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's report was provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 12:03 AM.

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

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