

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 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, February 8, 2021. President Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 8/0. Ms. Bailey was not present for the open session.

Pursuant to 3-305(b), (1), 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
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: Presentation of background/qualifications of persons recommended by the Superintendent for the following positions: Pupil Personnel Worker Pool and Coordinator of North Star and School Performance Initiatives

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the nominee.

Mr. Richardson led a discussion and presentation regarding the position postings and candidate selection process for the Pupil Personnel Worker Pool and the Coordinator of North Star.

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 5:47 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken and a quorum of the Board was confirmed. All Board members were present, with the exception of Ms. Bailey.

Note: Ms. Bailey did join the meeting after roll call was conducted.

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 attached public comment notice dated February 8, 2021. 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 Mrs. Gauthier.

Amendment, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gauthier, to amend the agenda by removing the number three (3) item on the Consent Agenda: Appointments and Promotions, and adding it to Item E. Presentation on Recruitment and Retention on the agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Original Motion, Second and Vote – The agenda was adopted, as amended, by a unanimous voice vote 9/0.

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 9/0.

Item B. Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Item C. Public Comments

Speakers were virtually invited to the meeting to provide their comments for 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). Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments at the Board meeting.

Item D. Consent Agenda

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

1. Affirmation of Monthly Contracts: January 2021
2. Contract Award: Nasco for Materials of Instruction Supplies

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.

Item E. Presentation on Recruitment and Retention

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Ms. Shannon Hagan, Staff Management Team Leader, Ms. Heather Kutcher, Supervisor of Teacher Preparation and Professional Development and Ms. Sherron Foster-Moore, Diversity, Retention and Recruitment Specialist.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Amended Agenda, Item E.

Earlier in the meeting, the Board approved the following item be added to Item E. for discussion and Board action.

Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments and Promotions

Mr. Ben Richardson sought Board approval of the proposed candidates.

Pupil Personnel Worker Pool: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the following three (3) candidates to be added to the Pupil Personnel Worker pool: Mr. Joseph DiBasilio, Mr. Tracy Hill and Mr. Mark Samara. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9/0.

Coordinator of North Star and School Performance Initiatives: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Sara Saacks to the position of Coordinator of North Star and School Performance Initiatives. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9/0.

Item F. Discussion of House Bill 283 Update

Board member, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, led a discussion updating the Board regarding the new proposed amendments to House Bill (HB) 283 that have drastically been changed from the original bill that was presented at the January 25, 2021 meeting. The Board discussed drafting a new letter which would state the Board no longer supports HB 283 as amended. At the recommendation of Patrick Spicer, Esq., Mr. Robinson requested that the following motion be entered into the record.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to amend the Board’s support of House Bill 283/Senate Bill 382 with a letter to the Harford County Delegation to specify that the Board supports the bill as posted on the Maryland General Assembly website in January and not if it has any substantive amendments. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller.

Amendment, Second and Vote - Dr. Phillips made an additional motion to add the following wording to the letter: We strongly oppose any type of substantive changes that takes away from the original intent of the bill. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karwacki. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote 9/0.

Item G. Decision on Superintendent’s Proposed FY 2022 Operating Budget

Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services provided an overview of the Superintendent’s proposed budget with amendments and the Board took the following action.

Restricted Fund: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Herold to approve the Restricted Fund of “thirty-six million, eight hundred fifty thousand, seventy-six dollars and zero cents” (\$36,850,076.00). The motion passed in a unanimous 9/0 roll call vote.

Food Service Fund: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mueller to approve the Food Service Fund of “eighteen million, six hundred thirty-eight thousand, five hundred seventeen dollars and zero cents” (\$18,638,517.00). The motion passed in a unanimous 9/0 roll call vote.

Capital Projects Fund: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Herold to approve the Capital Projects Fund of “sixty-seven million, seven hundred ninety-three thousand, two hundred sixty-three dollars and zero cents” (\$67,793,263.00). The motion passed in a unanimous 9/0 roll call vote.

Unrestricted Fund: Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mueller to approve the Unrestricted Fund of “five hundred nineteen million, five hundred eighty-seven thousand, five hundred ninety-seven dollars and zero cents” (\$519,587,597.00) with revisions set forth during presentation. The motion passed in a unanimous 9/0 roll call vote.

Item H. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent Bulson led a discussion on updates to the continuity of learning plan and reopening schools in a hybrid format next month. The Board asked questions regarding fall sports and if there is opportunity to hold a season in some capacity. Ms. Deborah Basler, Supervisor of Athletics and Physical Education stated the challenges in making a fall sports a possibility. There are plans to hold a full spring sport season starting next month. Please see archived video for full discussion. This topic will remain on the agenda for further updates.

Item I. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent’s report was provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 11:21 PM.

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

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



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
BUSINESS MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2021 – 6:30PM

The Board of Education of Harford County Business Meeting will be held on February 8, 2021 at 6:30PM with only Board Members, staff, and presenters in attendance virtually. The meeting will be streamed live *and* archived for later viewing on the HCPS [Website](#).

Public Comment Participation Call-In Process

Community members who wish to provide comments during the *Public Comments* segment of the Business meeting are required to register by completing this form [Public Comment Registration Form](#).

Registrations **must** be received by **9:00AM on Monday, February 8, 2021**. All fields on the registration form **must** be completed.

- First and Last name
 - Mailing Address
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
1. Registered speakers will receive an email from HCPS with a Call-in Phone # and a Conference ID #.
 2. Registered speakers are required to call-in and enter the conference ID# at **6:30PM on Monday, February 8, 2021**.
 3. **Important: If you are unable to take your phone off mute, you may need to dial *6.**
 4. All speakers, regardless of affiliation, will receive 3-minutes per speaker. Speakers may be interrupted and be given notice when they have 30 seconds left. When speakers have reached their 3-minute mark, callers will be removed from the meeting.
 5. The Board has allotted two-hours for the *Public Comments* segment of the Business meeting.
 6. If you are admitted from the virtual lobby to the meeting within the two-hour time constraint, you will be placed on hold and greeted by an HCPS staff member when it is time to begin your public comment. Expected hold time 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.**
 7. Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person.
 8. In accordance with Board policy, if the number of speakers impede the ability of the Board to complete scheduled business, the Board reserves the right to reduce the amount of time allotted per speaker, or overall time allotted for public comment.
 9. The Board expects that all comments will be submitted with the decorum and respect appropriate to the conduct of public business.
 10. Topics such as personnel matters, pending appeals, specific student disciplinary matters or which constitute commercial solicitations are not permitted.
 11. Disparaging comments, personal attacks, and inflammatory remarks about specific schools or personnel 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 from the call.
 12. 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.