

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 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>

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call was taken and a quorum of the Board was confirmed. All Board members were present.

Mrs. 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 22, 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 and adopted in a 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 Dr. Mueller 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. Mary Beth Stapleton, Manager of Family and Community Partnerships, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments at the Board meeting. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, assumed responsibilities of calling on the remaining registered speakers.

Item D. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report – January 2021
2. Purchases of Copyrighted Materials
3. School/Organization Sponsored Project – C. Milton Wright High School Unnamed Tributary to Bynum Run Stream Restoration
4. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: January 11, 2021, January 25, 2021, January 27, 2021

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 Assessing Facility Utilization and Balancing School Enrollment

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction, Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner, Ms. Kate Doiron, FLO Analytics, Ms. McKay Larrabee, FLO Analytics. FLO Analytics has completed a review of the existing facility capacities and is in the process of developing solutions to balance enrollment and meet the growing needs of Harford County Public Schools. The process includes requesting input from parents/guardians, students, staff, community members, County and local municipal planning departments and other stakeholders. FLO Analytics stated they are working on a regional approach to balance enrollment. Next steps include advisory team meetings, survey results and community input forums.

Item F. Decision on Scope Study for Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School

A discussion regarding the scope study and project concept options completed by Banta Campbell Architects was led by Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction, Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner, Mr. Chris Cook, Principal of Homestead Wakefield Elementary School and Mr. Harry Miller, Assistant Supervisor of Planning and Construction-Project Manager. Mr. Michael Campbell of Banta Campbell Architects, Inc. presented the Board with three (3) potential options for the project. Mr. Campbell recommended Option Three (3), which is replacement of current building and provides a gross square footage of 119,600 and State Rated Capacity (SRC) of 1,129. The recommended option provides the most efficient educational facility in the shortest amount of time with the least financial impact. If approved next steps are state submission, planning approval from state and educational specification. If approved, the estimated completion date of Option Three (3) is August of 2024 and occupation of the building in September of 2024.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Herold made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve Option Three (3), with a gross square footage of 119,600 and SRC of 1,129. This option is to completely replace the Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School on the site of the Wakefield building and demolish the existing facilities. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karwacki and approved in a roll call vote of 9/0.

*Note that Dr. Mueller was present but due to connectivity challenges was disconnected from the meeting during the roll call vote. Once she reconnected to the meeting, she was asked for her vote and she voted in the affirmative.

Item G. Recommendation regarding change of name for Alternative Education Program at the Center for Educational Opportunity Building

Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., presented background information regarding the Alternative Education Program (Alt Ed) at the Center for Educational Opportunity (CEO) building and led a discussion regarding the Superintendent’s recommendation to rename the building. A plan has been developed for new programs to be implemented at the building. Mr. Michael O’Brien, Executive Director of Middle and High School Performance, stated that, later in the meeting, when the Continuity of Learning agenda item is discussed he would provide more information on the programs that will be provided in the building. If the Board approves, next steps will include announcement of intent to rename the building currently known as the Alternative Education Program at the CEO. The announcement will be posted on the Harford County Public Schools website and will include notice for interested members of the public to submit proposals for the name of the building.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations as set forth in the Board informational report as follows:

1. Announce its intention at this Board meeting to rename the CEO.
2. Request that the Superintendent post an announcement on the HCPS website of the Board's intention to rename the CEO, and, also as stated, that the procedural requirements as described above, and set forth in Section III.B., of the Board policy, will apply with respect to the renaming of the CEO.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a roll call vote of 9/0.

Item H. Recommendation regarding proposed revisions to the Board's Office of Internal Audit Policy

Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., presented information regarding proposed revisions to the Board's Office of Internal Policy No. 22-0021-000.

No formal action was taken.

Item I. Recommendation regarding proposed revisions to the Charter of Internal Audit's Office

Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., led a discussion regarding the title of Internal Auditor, as set forth in the Charter. It is proposed to be changed to Chief Auditor, as a result of the addition of a second auditor.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board approve the proposed revisions set forth in the document entitled "Proposed Revisions to Office of the Internal Audit's Charter". The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi and approved in a roll call vote of 9/0.

Item J. Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2020

The board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2020 from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. The report included detailed analysis of revenues, expenditures, and projections to year-end.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item K. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent Bulson led discussion on updates to the continuity of learning. Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is looking to move all virtual learning for next year into one setting. Mr. Michael O'Brien, Executive Director of Middle and High School Performance, Mr. Rob DeLeva, Principal, Alternative Education Program, Ms. Rebecca Pensero, Grant Coordinator of eLearning, discussed the blended virtual programs in development that will be implemented. The long-term goal is to go back to in person learning in the fall, however HCPS will continue to offer options to the families that want to remain virtual. Members of the Board requested that moving forward the Continuity of Learning topic be placed as an earlier item on the agenda. Please see archived video for full discussion.

Item L. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's report was provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 10:41 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 22, 2021 – 6:30PM

The Board of Education of Harford County Business Meeting will be held on February 22, 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 22, 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 22, 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.