

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, MARCH 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, March 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 and Mrs. Karwacki.

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 COVID-19 crisis. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a voice vote 7/0. Ms. Bailey and Mrs. Karwacki were not present for the open session.

Pursuant to 3-305(b), (9) and (10), of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Mrs. Gauthier, by unanimous vote of the Board 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  
Jeff Fradel, Director of Staff & Labor Relations  
Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services  
Eric Clark, Director of Budget  
BangTam Miller, Human Resources Staff and Labor Relations Specialist  
Drew Moore, Director of Technology  
Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Donoven Brooks, Coordinator of Safety and Security  
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. Donovan Brooks, Coordinator of Safety and Security was excused from the closed session during this discussion.

Mr. Jeff Fradel, Director of Staff and Labor Relations, provided the Board with current negotiation updates. Mr. Fradel shared the number of sessions he has held with Harford County Education Association (HCEA) for both Certificated Units and Educational Support Personnel (ESP). Mr. Fradel presented to the Board a proposal to adjust the salary scales for the paraeducators, inclusion helpers and technicians to address reaching the Maryland fifteen dollar (\$15.00) minimum wage by 2024. A discussion followed with the Board members asking for further information.

Mr. Fradel and Superintendent Bulson recommended that the Board enter into an agreement for the HCEA ESP salary scale.

Motion, Second, and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karwacki and approved in a roll call vote of 8/0.

Topic: Format / manner of Board of Education meetings.

Reason for Closed Session: To permit discussions regarding format and manner in which Board of Education meetings occur without compromising security information.

Mr. Jeff Fradel, Director of Staff and Labor Relations, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, Ms. BangTam Miller, Human Resources Staff and Labor Relations Specialist and Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources were excused from the closed session during this discussion.

Mr. Donovan Brooks, Coordinator of Safety and Security, led a discussion with the Board and provided recommendations regarding the current and future format and manner of how the Board of Education Business meetings are conducted.

No formal action was taken.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Herold, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 6:32 PM.

#### Business Meeting

##### Call to Order / Roll Call

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Roll call was taken and a quorum of the Board was confirmed. All Board members were present.

Note: Ms. Ricciardi’s audio was not working during roll call so she sent a message via Microsoft Teams Chat that she was 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](http://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 March 8, 2021. The Audio Live Stream is available on [HCPS.ORG/BOE/LIVESTREAM](https://www.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 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. 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. 2019-2020 Human Resources Recruitment and Retention Report 2/8/2021 – Addendum
2. Affirmation of Monthly Contracts: February 2021
3. Purchase of Florida Virtual School Student Seat Licenses
4. Contract Award: Plexiglass Shields for Student and Teacher Desks
5. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: February 8, 2021, February 22, 2021

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

#### Item E. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent Bulson presented updates to the continuity of learning plan from the document found on the HCPS website. Dr. Bulson highlighted the return of in school learning for elementary students last week and preparing to welcome secondary students to in school learning next week. Dr. Bulson stated that looking ahead to the fall the expectation and planning is for a five (5) day a week in person learning model and a virtual option still available at a centralized location. Safety protocols will be in place for in person learning with multiple safety measures that will work in conjunction to create a safe environment. Please see archived video for full discussion.

#### Item F. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's report was provided. Dr. Bulson congratulated the following:

- The 2021 Teacher of the Year finalists

- Taylor Mason, a senior at North Harford High School, who won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in WJZ-TV's Black History Oratory Competition.
- Andrew Renzulli, Supervisor of Science. Mr. Renzulli will be receiving the Northeastern Maryland Technology Council (NMTC), Visionary Leader Award at the virtual NMTC Visionary Awards Gala on April 22, 2021

Dr. Bulson, recognized our partnership with the Harford County Education Foundation (HCEF), who partnered with Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, and the Littles University to help families with children who have not started school by providing a copy of a children's book each month to families joining Littles University. Over the last year, HCEF has awarded twenty-four (24) innovation grants to educators valued at over thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000.00) reaching over two thousand (2,000) pre-k through grade 12 students in Harford County. Additionally, one hundred seventy (170) teachers shopped with HCEF and distributed close to forty-one thousand dollars (\$41,000.00) worth of supplies, impacting over five thousand (5,000) students in our community. HCEF also distributed ninety-eight (98) laptops and tablets and impacting close to three hundred and fifty (350) students with technology resources for their homes.

Dr. Bulson stated March is National Social Work month and next week is National School Social Work Week.

Dr. Bulson stated that Harford County Government announced that they have entered a partnership with ThinkBig Networks, a private sector internet service provider, to bring broadband service Harford County's rural northern region over the next several years.

Please see archived video for full report.

#### Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

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

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



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

The Board of Education of Harford County Business Meeting will be held on March 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, March 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, March 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.**