

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, MARCH 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>*

Open Session

The Board of Education of Harford County met in open session via video teleconference on Monday, March 22, 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 Dr. Herold, who had an excused absence.

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 Dr. Herold were not present for the open session.

Pursuant to 3-305(b), (1) and (9), of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Mrs. Karwacki, 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 and Dr. Herold.

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  
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. Jeff Fradel, Director of Staff and Labor Relations, provided the Board with current negotiation updates. Mr. Fradel led a discussion with the Board to adjust the salary scale for Harford County Education Association (HCEA). Mr. Fradel shared the current salary schedule for certified teachers and then presented a proposed schedule. Mr. Fradel stated these adjustments will make the salary scale for HCEA very competitive with our colleagues across the state.

Mr. Fradel and Superintendent Bulson recommended that the Board accept the proposed HCEA 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 7/0.

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of persons recommended by the Superintendent for the position of Director of Human Resources.

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

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 were excused from the closed session during this discussion.

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources led a discussion and presentation regarding the proposed candidate for the position of Director of Human Resources

No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Mueller, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 6:00 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 Dr. Herold, who had an excused absence.

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 22, 2021. The Audio Live Stream is available on [HCPS.ORG/BOE/LIVESTREAM](http://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 Ms. Gauthier and adopted in a voice vote 8/0. Dr. Herold was absent.

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 Ms. Gauthier and approved in a voice vote 8/0. Dr. Herold was absent.

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. Monthly Personnel Report – February 2021
2. Contract Award: Cogent Communications
3. Contract Award: Network Switch Refresh
4. Contract Award: Wi-fi Components
5. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: March 8, 2021

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gauthier and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 8/0. Dr. Herold was absent.

Item E. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent Bulson introduced discussion of major topics for the Continuity of Learning. Dr. Bulson stated the need for children and staff to stay home if they are sick or showing symptoms of being sick so HCPS can continue to bring students and staff back into the classroom. HCPS plans to have elementary students back into schools 4 days per week on March 29, 2021 and secondary students on April 7, 2021.

Topics discussed by HCPS staff, Mr. Mike O'Brien, Executive Director of Middle & High School Performance, Ms. Rebecca Pensero, Grant Coordinator of eLearning and Mr. Robert Deleva, Principal of the Center for Educational Opportunity were: contract with Ripken Stadium to host large group senior graduations and included the updated graduation schedule for each high school; plans for the educational recovery programs that will be available to elementary, middle, and high school levels starting in the spring and into summer and next school year; lastly an update regarding staffing and communication plan was shared regarding continuing the Blended Virtual Program from Home option.

Please see archived video for full discussion.

Item F. 2021 HCPS Teacher of the Year Finalists

Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications announced the five Teacher of the Year finalists: Ms. Kelly Ackley, Southampton Middle School; Ms. Kerrie Bauer, Aberdeen High School; Ms. Lauren Byrd, Hickory Elementary School; Ms. Kimberly Perouty, Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School; and Ms. Sarah Scholl, Havre de Grace Middle School. On behalf of Superintendent Bulson and the Board, Ms. Lader commended the finalists on their achievement. HCPS will hold the 27<sup>th</sup> annual celebration virtually on April 21, 2021 where at the conclusion of the event the winner will be revealed.

Item G. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, sought Board approval of the proposed Director of Human Resources candidate.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Ms. Chantress J. Baptist to the position of Director of Human Resources. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karwacki. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 8/0.

Item H. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent’s report was provided.

Dr. Bulson announced that at our next Board meeting a finalized presentation will be given of the student survey findings regarding racism, inclusive bias, and other forms of discrimination that was conducted at the end of the last school year.

Dr. Bulson announced that the Early Childhood department, is holding a virtual event titled, “Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning” for families with children birth through age 5 on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. Additionally, the second book in HCPS Littles University series is “Grace and Box,”. Dr. Bulson shared the Harford County Education Foundation has a limited number of copies available by signing up on their webpage before the reading on April 8, 2021.

Dr. Bulson shared that with students returning to 4 days/week, the Harford County Health Department will no longer use Patterson Mill Middle/High School as a vaccine clinic. HCPS will now host the Health Department at the Center for Educational Opportunity, in Aberdeen.

Dr. Bulson reminded anyone who utilizes the student meal kits that on Friday, March 26, 2021 they will receive items for 8 days of meals due to spring break. After spring break regular distribution will resume on Friday, April 9 with 5 days of meals per kit.

Dr. Bulson shared that Harford Glen will reopen to the public on weekends from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, beginning on April 3, 2021.

Please see archived video for full report

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:32 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 22, 2021 – 6:30PM

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