

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, MAY 10, 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, May 10, 2021. President Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Board Members Present

All Board members were present in the virtual session for the roll call.

\*Note, Mrs. Karwacki joined meeting after roll call.

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 Ms. Gauthier and approved in a voice vote 8/0. Ms. Bailey was not present for the open session.

Pursuant to 3-305(b), (1)(7) and (9), of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Dr. Mueller, 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  
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 AFSCME bargaining unit.

Reason for Closed Session: To maintain confidentiality of potential parameters, if any, of negotiation with AFSCME bargaining unit and discussions related thereto.

Mr. Jeff Fradel, Director of Staff and Labor Relations, provided the Board with current negotiation updates. Mr. Fradel gave the Board a summary of the AFSCME proposed pay scales. Mr. Fradel reviewed the agreement highlights, answered Board questions, and proposed the Superintendent's recommendation for Bus Attendant and Bus Driver Salary Scales for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

Motion, Second, and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a voice vote 8/0.

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of persons recommended by the Superintendent for the following position: Supervisor of Social Sciences.

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

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

No formal action was taken by the Board.

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.

Topic: Consultation with counsel regarding legal advice.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve attorney-client confidentiality.

Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., General Counsel updated the Board on pending litigation, including discussion of the procedural status of a current case in the US District Court of Maryland and the status of motions regarding the case.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Karwacki, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 6:24 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.

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 limited 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 May 10, 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 Ms. Ricciardi 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 Ms. Ricciardi 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 to be adjusted in accordance with Board policy as shared in the Board notice of public comment participation (number 8 in the public comment participation notice) due to the number of registered speakers. Speakers were informed prior to the meeting of the adjustment via their registered emails. Board members wanted to ensure each registered speaker had an opportunity to speak within the two (2) hour public comment time frame. 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 as follows:

1. Affirmation of Monthly Contracts: April 2021
2. Contract Award: College and Career Planning Software
3. Contract Award: Paraeducator Laptops
4. Contract Award: High School Student Laptop Refresh
5. Contract Award: Elementary Reading Program
6. Contract Award: Repair and Rehabilitation of Various Road and Parking Lots
7. Contract Award: Facility Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO), Industrial & Building Supplies with Related Equipment, Accessories, Supplies and Services
8. Contract Award: Refuse and Recycling Collection Services
9. Contract Award: Parks and Recreation Equipment
10. Executive Salary Schedule Study
  - a. Informational Report for Executive Salary Study
  - b. MGT Recommended Schedule
11. Ratification of Negotiated Agreements:
  - a. Harford County Education Association - Certificated Personnel
  - b. Harford County Education Association - Non-Certificated Personnel
12. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: April 26, 2021

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

Item E. Update on Continuity of Learning

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson shared the strong impact the Covid-19 vaccinations have had in allowing Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) to return to schools. HCPS will continue to encourage people to have the vaccines when they become available to them. However, Dr. Bulson also made it clear that currently HCPS has no intention of requiring the vaccine either for students or for staff. Dr. Bulson stated that should this change, notification will be provided early on, but HCPS does not anticipate this changing. Ms. Mary Nasuta, Supervisor of Health Services and Ms. Katie Ridgway, Supervisor of Risk Management joined Dr. Bulson on updating the community on the work they have been doing.

Please see archived video for full discussion.

Item F. Update on Balancing School Enrollment

The Board received an update on Balancing School Enrollment from Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner, and Ms. Kate Doiron, of FLO Analytics.

Please see archived video for full discussion.

Item G. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

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

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Ms. Erin R. Lange to the position of Supervisor of Social Sciences. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9/0.

Item H. Decision on Change Name for Alternative Education Program at the Center for Educational Opportunity Building

Patrick P. Spicer, Esq., General Counsel led a discussion regarding the adoption of a new name for the Alternative Education Program at the Center for Educational Opportunity (CEO) Building. The name which the Superintendent recommend is, “Swan Creek School.” The following other two names were submitted by the community: Edward Hall and Colonel Eugene Chandler. Mr. Spicer sought the Board’s approval to choose any of the three school names or submit another name of their choosing as the new name for the CEO Building.

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to rename the CEO to Swan Creek School. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and approved in a roll call vote of 9/0.

\*Note, Item H. was moved to after Item J, due to Mr. Spicer having technical difficulties.

Item I. Decision on Funding the MABE OPEB Investment Trust

Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, led a discussion asking the Board to reconsider a decision that was made in December of 2007 of using the verbiage of “monies in excess of funding requirements in the Harford County Health Care Consortium Rate Stabilization accounts, Medicare Part D reimbursements, and unspent funds from the Harford County Public Schools’ flexible spending plan are to be transferred to the MABE OPEB Investment Trust as they become available and will be designated for this purpose in the future.”

Ms. Judd sought Board approval to change this language and approve the Superintendent’s recommended following language: “Funding the MABE OPEB Investment Trust will be established, annually, as part of the operating budget. Any surplus beyond the funding requirements in the Harford County Health Care Consortium Rate Stabilization accounts will be brought before the Board of Education after each annual reconciliation and settlement. The Superintendent will recommend a spending plan for use of any available funds which will include but not be limited to transferring funds to the MABE OPEB Investment Trust.”

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the change and accept the Superintendent’s recommended language. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9/0.

Item J. Presentation on Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending March 31, 2021

The Board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending March 31, 2021, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. The report included detailed analysis of revenues, expenditures, and projections to year-end. Highlights shared by Ms. Judd were as follows:

- Revenues – Total revenue received to-date is as expected at 80.70% of budget.
  - Healthcare surplus from rate stabilization fund is \$15.0 million.
- Expenditures – Total expenditures are 67.30% of the appropriation.
  - Significant savings, \$21.7 million, are projected due to the extended closure and reduced operations during the year.
  - Fund Balance – Projected fiscal year surplus as of 3/31/21 is \$35.2 million which results in a projected Unassigned Fund Balance of \$37.6 million. Assignments include the following:
    - \$3.0 million in the FY22 budget.
    - \$1.0 million for emergency fuel
    - \$4.0 million for device leases
    - \$1.2 million for food and nutrition

Please see archived video for full presentation

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item K. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

Dr. Bulson shared he is looking forward to working with our new Board of Education member, Ms. Ariane Grubb Kelly, whom the Harford County Council identified as the person to fill the seat vacated by prior Board Member, Ms. Tamera Rush.

Dr. Bulson shared HCPS is very proud to announce two of the three state finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, are our very own. Dr. Bulson extended congratulations to Dr. Judith Glover, of Patterson Mill High School and Mr. Tom Smith, of Magnolia Middle School. Their names have been submitted to the White House for consideration as a Maryland state winner.

Dr. Bulson reminded the community that pre-K, kindergarten, and early entrance applications are now available. HCPS is asking the community to help get this information to families who may not be connected to HCPS to ensure all students eligible to start school are ready and registered as soon as possible for this fall.

Dr. Bulson shared that Harford County has announced a bike camp week which gives individuals with differing abilities ages eight and over the opportunity to learn and experience the thrill of riding a bike. Registration is open for this popular summer camp. Volunteer spotters, ages 15 and older, are needed to assist and no experience is necessary.

Dr. Bulson acknowledged Home Depot for their recent donation of supplies to HCPS.

Dr. Bulson shared that Nurse’s Appreciation Day is this Wednesday, May 12, 2021, and this week is also Pupil Personnel Worker Recognition Week.

Dr. Bulson congratulated the graduating class of 2021 and personally acknowledged the Board's Student Member, Ms. Phoebe Bailey for all that she and the Class of 2021 have accomplished this year.

Please see archived video for full report.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 10:29 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 – May 10, 2021 – 6:30PM

The Board of Education of Harford County Business Meeting will be held on May 10, 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, May 10, 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, May 10, 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.**