

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021

*The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented and actions taken during the above meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County. The video recordings of the Board 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

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson 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.

In-person attendance: Mr. Jansen Robinson, Dr. Carol Mueller, Ms. Kanae Holcomb

Virtual attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Mrs. Rachel Gauthier, Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi

Swearing-In Ceremony, 2021-2022 Student Board Member, Ms. Kanae Holcomb

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson introduced Ms. Kanae Holcomb and conducted the oath to swear her in as the 2021-2022 Student Member to the Board of Education of Harford County.

Election of Board President, Board of Education of Harford County

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson stated that Section 3-6A-03 of the Education Article of the Maryland Annotated Code requires that the Board elect officers at its first business meeting in July if their two terms have expired. Dr. Bulson opened the floor for nominations for the Presidency of the Board of Education of Harford County.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer nominated Mrs. Gauthier for the office of Board President, with a second from Mr. Robinson. Mrs. Gauthier accepted the nomination. Mrs. Gauthier's appointment to the President of the Board of Education of Harford County was approved in a unanimous roll call vote of 10/0.

Election of Board Vice-President, Board of Education of Harford County

Newly elected President Gauthier opened the floor for nominations for the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Education of Harford County.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Herold nominated Dr. Mueller for the office of Board Vice-President, with a second from Mr. Robinson. Dr. Mueller accepted the nomination. Dr. Mueller's appointment to the Vice-President of the Board of Education of Harford County was approved in a unanimous roll call vote of 10/0.

Opening – Rachel Gauthier, Board President

Adoption of Agenda

President Gauthier 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. Herold and adopted in a voice vote 10/0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Mueller led the Pledge of Allegiance

#### Item A. Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

#### Item B. Public Comments

Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either virtually or in-person. The time allotment per speaker was adjusted in accordance with Board policy as shared in the Board notice of public comment participation due to the number of registered speakers. Speakers were informed they would have two (2) minutes per speaker as Board members wanted to ensure each registered speaker had an opportunity to speak. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo, Board of Education Administrative Support Coordinator, called on individual speakers who were in person at the meeting and had registered to speak at the Board meeting.

#### Item C. Consent Agenda

President Gauthier called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Affirmation of Monthly Contracts: June 2021
2. Contract Award: for Copier Machines
3. Contract Award: for Nearpod Subscription
4. Contract Award: Explore Learning Gizmos Site License Renewal
5. Contract Award: for Aruba Wi-Fi Support
6. Contract Award: for Condiments, Sunflower Seeds and Bread Products
7. Havre de Grace High School Surplus Property
8. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: June 21, 2021

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Bauer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karwacki and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 10/0.

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

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson advised the Board that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has adjusted its Covid 19 prevention guidance. Dr. Bulson asked Ms. Mary Nasuta, Supervisor of Health Services and Ms. Katie Ridgway, Supervisor of Risk Management to provide Covid 19 updates. Ms. Nasuta shared that the CDC did release its latest guidance called "Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools" on Friday, July 9, 2021, and Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) staff is diligently reviewing it. Some of the language in the guidance is more restrictive than anticipated so HCPS will work with the local health department to create a plan for HCPS that will be based upon community transmission. Ms. Nasuta reminded the community to consider getting vaccinated. Ms. Ridgway shared that HCPS has released a new operational status document that includes language about opening HCPS facilities to outside groups. Ms. Ridgway shared that HCPS will review and communicate an updated plan which will be based on the updated CDC guidance.

Dr. Bulson introduced Dr. Dyann Mack, Director of Elementary School Instruction and Performance who gave an update on elementary school highlights for the upcoming school year including enrollment numbers and staffing status at the Swan Creek school. She also shared some of the programs being offered for summer school.

Dr. Bulson introduced Mr. Colin Carr, Director of Secondary School Instruction and Performance for his update. He shared the current enrollment numbers; programs being offered and staffing numbers for the Swan Creek school.

Please see archived video for full discussion.

#### Item E. Update on Assessing Facility Utilization and Balancing School Enrollment

The Board received an update on assessing facility utilization and balancing school enrollment from Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner. They summarized the

status of the Harford County Public Schools balancing enrollment overall process. The advisory committee is developing a plan to hold in-person sessions for the Superintendent to obtain public input regarding the redistricting process. Communications will be sent to the public regarding these sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to allow the Superintendent to listen and consider further public input before he makes his final recommendations regarding redistricting to the Board.

Please see archived video for full discussion

#### Item F. Presentation of FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program

The Board received its first presentation of the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) from Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner. They discussed capital investment expenses, funding sources, and the CIP process. The Board will receive a second presentation regarding this topic at the August 16, 2021, Board meeting.

Please see archived video for full presentation.

#### Item G. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bulson's report was provided as follows:

- Dr. Bulson shared an update on Harford County Public School's Littles University. The next book reading addition comes out tomorrow, Tuesday, July 13, 2021, he reminded the community which follows these readings to make sure they join.
- Dr. Bulson gave an update on the distribution of summer meal kits program. The meal kits are available on Thursdays during the summer at twelve locations throughout Harford County. Please visit the [www.HCPS.com](http://www.HCPS.com) website for a list of pick-up times and locations.
- Dr. Bulson gave a summary of the summer school programs that are being offered and available for elementary, middle, and high school students. There are approximately six thousand students enrolled for these programs, which is a significantly larger number that Harford County Public Schools has had in the past for summer school.
- Dr. Bulson shared that this is the time of year he does school visits and meets with principals. He has completed some already and he is doing them in person. He gave a summary of the discussions had and shared that there are a lot of lessons learned from Covid that he does not want to lose sight of.
- Dr. Bulson acknowledged Harford County Councilman Robert Wagner's attendance at the meeting and shared that he meets regularly with Harford County Council members as their work is linked to Harford County Public Schools and it is important to have that engagement.
- Dr. Bulson congratulated new student Board member, Ms. Kanae Holcomb, and the newly elected Board officers: Mrs. Rachel Gauthier as President and Dr. Carol Mueller as Vice-President. Dr. Bulson also recognized Mr. Jansen Robinson for his service and leadership with the Board as the most recent past Board President.
- Dr. Bulson acknowledged this was our first return to in-person hybrid Board meeting and Harford County Public Schools will continue to tweak the process in anticipation of the next Board meeting in August.

Please see archived video for full report.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:51 PM.

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

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Rachel Gauthier, Board President  
Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION  
BUSINESS MEETING – MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 – 6:30 PM

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a hybrid Business Meeting on Monday, July 12, 2021, at 6:30 PM in the Board Room of the A.A. Roberty Building with Board Members, staff, and presenters in attendance both virtually and in-person. A limited 50-seat capacity will be available to the public. Seats will be available on a first come-first served basis. 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 virtually 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 9:00 AM on Monday, July 12, 2021. All fields on the registration form must be completed.

1. First and Last name
2. Mailing Address
3. Email Address
4. Phone Number

- Registered speakers will receive an email from HCPS with a Call-in Phone # and a Conference ID #.
- Registered speakers are required to call-in and enter the conference ID# at 6:30 PM on Monday, July 12, 2021.
- **Important: If you are unable to take your phone off mute, you may need to dial \*6.**
- If you are admitted from the virtual lobby to the meeting within the two-hour time constraint, you will be greeted by an HCPS staff member when it is time to begin your public comment. Expected hold time in the virtual lobby 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.

**Public Comment Participation In-Person Process**

Persons who are attending the meeting in person, as provided above, may make in-person public comment. Board Comment cards will be available for Board meeting attendees in the Board Room prior to the Board Meeting for sign-up. Board Comment Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person.

- Doors will open at 6:00 PM and the meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. Masks will be optional in the Board room.

**The Board has authorized public comment as follows:**

- All speakers, regardless of affiliation, will receive 3-minutes per speaker.
- The Board has allotted two-hours for the *Public Comments* segment of the Business meeting.
- The Board will receive virtual public comment first and in-person public comment second.
- 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.
- The Board expects that all comments will be submitted with the decorum and respect appropriate to the conduct of public business.
- Topics such as personnel matters, pending appeals, specific student disciplinary matters or which constitute commercial solicitations are not permitted.
- 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.
- 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.**