

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022

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>

Open Session

The Board of Education of Harford County met in open session in hybrid format in person and via video teleconference on Monday, October 24, 2022. Vice-President Carol Mueller called the meeting to order at 5:47 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Mr. Jansen Robinson, and Ms. Noa Blanken who were absent.

In-person attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Ariane Kelly and Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

Motion, Second and Vote

Dr. David Bauer made a motion to waive public comment in its entirety in light of the limited nature of the open session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rachel Gauthier and approved in a voice vote 6-0.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) 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 hybrid fashion.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Dr. Joyce Herold, Mr. Jansen Robinson and Ms. Noa Blanken who were absent.

In-person attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Ariane Kelly and Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel

Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Sean Bulson, Dr. Eric Davis, Kimberly Neal, Esq, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

Virtual attendance: Mr. Ben Richardson

The Board of Education met in closed session for the purposes of discussing:

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of candidate recommended by the Superintendent for the following position: Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

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

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

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Karwacki, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice-President Carol Mueller called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. Jansen Robinson who was absent.

In-person attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Ms. Noa Blanken, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, and Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

Adoption of Agenda

Vice-President Mueller 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. Blanken and adopted in a voice vote 9-0. Mr. Robinson was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Roy Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance

Item A. Board Member Comment

Board member comments were provided

Item B. Public Comments

Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. Vice-President Mueller read a statement regarding protocol for public comments which included a provision that each speaker would have three (3) minutes to speak. 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. The following thirteen (13) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Ben Heiser, Verna White, Jo Riedel, William Martino, Vicki Jones, Catherine Smith, Alex Larkin, Katie York, Emma Peller, Suzie Scott, Nonie Czajka, Tina Lanocha, and Diane Alvarez. There were no virtual public speakers at this meeting.

Note: Registered in-person public speaker, Verna White, did not respond when her name was called. She did not provide a comment.

Item C. Consent Agenda

Vice-President Mueller called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Monthly Personnel Report - September 2022
2. Contract Award: Cleaning Supplies, Equipment and Custodial Related Products, Services and Solutions
3. Contract Award: Elementary Classroom Libraries
4. School/Organization Sponsored Project - Fallston High and Fallston Middle School Stormwater Management and Stream Restoration

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 9-0. Mr. Robinson was absent.

Item D. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, sought Board approval of the Superintendent's nominee for the position of Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Ms. Heather L. Kutcher to the position of Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blanken. The motion was approved in roll call vote of 9-0. Mr. Robinson was absent.

Note: To acknowledge the Student Board Member's vote as preferential the following additional Motion, Second and Vote was done prior to the Superintendent's Report:

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Bauer made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Ms. Heather L. Kutcher to the position of Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Karwacki. The motion was approved in roll call vote of 8-0 (and 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mr. Robinson was absent.

Item E. Recommendation on Revisions and Renaming of Board Policy 08-0005-000, Video Surveillance

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel, and Ms. Julie Uehlein, Supervisor of Risk Management, reported that the Board's current video surveillance policy was adopted in November of 2004. Since 2004, the use of video surveillance has increased and there have been changes to laws and regulations regarding the retention and disclosure of video records. Ms. Neal and Ms. Uehlein, formed a workgroup to review the current policy, establish a procedure, and propose a revised version of the Video Surveillance policy based upon applicable laws and best practices. Included as a part of this workgroup were executive directors, directors, supervisors, and principals. The Board was presented with the revised and renamed proposed policy which now includes a statement of purpose, which the primary function is the management of student safety and that it is maintained in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Procedures will also accompany the new policy in order to provide guidance to staff when requests to access video surveillance are received. The proposed policy will streamline the process and make it consistent across all Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) while protecting students, staff, and privacy rights. Ms. Neal shared that the proposed revised and renamed Board Policy for video surveillance will be posted on the HCPS.org website for public comment for thirty (30) days and then Board approval will be sought at a subsequent Board meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Presentation of FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program – Local Priorities

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Patti Jo Beard, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner provided the Board a fourth presentation for the FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The presentation covered the local only funding needs as identified by Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) stakeholders. The needs include, but are not limited to, technology refresh; necessary renovations and upgrades to facilities to meet the growing special education needs and to comply with special education laws and mandates; the purchase of replacement buses; and projects to meet the most critical compliance, security, facilities, and educational requirements of HCPS. Work will continue with the Board of Education and stakeholders to prioritize the FY 2024 local only CIP needs and align the request with the HCPS operating budget. In December, Board of Education will be sought to approve the FY 2024 CIP for submission to the Harford County local government.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Presentation of Proposed Inclement Weather Plan

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration, Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Executive Director of Student Services, and Ms. Heather Kutcher, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment provided the Board a presentation of the proposed Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) draft of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Virtual Day Instruction Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year. School systems may apply to repurpose certain days as virtual school days. A total of eight (8) days may be considered for inclement weather days as a virtual school

day and the days may be synchronous or asynchronous, however, no more than three of the eight days may be used as an asynchronous day. HCPS' proposed plan will be to apply to MSDE to use three (3) asynchronous days in the event of inclement weather during the 2022-2023 school year. If approved, this will allow asynchronous virtual instruction on three of the six designated inclement weather make-up days. This will result in the final possible day of instruction (with three (3) "traditional" inclement weather days) being Tuesday, June 20, 2022. Currently, with six "traditional" inclement weather days built into the calendar, the final instructional day is scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2022. The proposed MSDE Virtual Day Instruction Plan application will be posted on the HCPS.org website for public input for fourteen (14) days and then Board approval of the plan will be sought at a subsequent Board meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:30 pm a Budget Input Meeting will be held at Patterson Mill Middle/High School where he will share a state of the school system presentation, Capital Budget, along with Blueprint and North Star initiatives, and other school system updates. After the presentation, the public is invited to share their feedback and ask questions. The meeting is open to anyone who wants to attend.

Superintendent Bulson shared that last week was National School Bus Safety Week and Harford County Public Schools bus drivers were celebrated through spirit days and social media posts.

Superintendent Bulson shared that November is Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) safety and security month. Information about safety and security in HCPS Schools will be shared through HCPS social media channels and videos.

Superintendent Bulson shared that the Harford Business Roundtable (HBRT) hosted a fall breakfast meeting last week. Dr. Bulson and Ms. Katie Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives for Harford County Public, presented information on the Blueprint initiative and what it means for Harford County.

Superintendent Bulson shared that the Harford County Education Foundation hosted their annual Excellence in Education Showcase and Awards breakfast last week. The event highlighted music and performing arts from students at different Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). Following the awards recognition of education leaders of Harford County, there was an opportunity for attendees to meet students from across HCPS magnet programs.

Superintendent Bulson shared Harford County Public Schools has expanded a partnership with the Harford Community Action Agency, who will be providing food pantries to support families in community schools.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

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

Rachel Gauthier, Board President
Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022

OPEN SESSION: 5:45 PM – 5:50 PM

This meeting will be conducted virtually with no public attendance due to the brief nature of this meeting and the logistical issues regarding allowing public attendance in advance of the 6:30 PM meeting.

**The only item the Board will consider during this open meeting is consideration of meeting in a closed session.*

CLOSED SESSION: 5:50 PM – 6:00 PM

BUSINESS MEETING: 6:30 PM – ADJOURNMENT

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid fashion and public attendance will be permitted as explained below:

DOORS WILL OPEN AT 6:20 PM AND THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 PM

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a hybrid Business Meeting on Monday, October 24, 2022, 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. 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 and In-Person Process

Individuals or recognized groups wishing to speak on an agenda item or to comment on an education-related matter not on the agenda may request to do so by sending an email to publiccomment@hcps.org or calling 410-588-5347.

Call-In Registrations must be received by 12:00 PM on Monday, October 24, 2022. All fields on the registration form must be completed.

1. First and Last name / if speaker is a Group Representative, then please state the name of the Group
2. Local Address
3. Email Address
4. Phone Number
5. Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person
6. Agenda item or subject your Public Comment pertains to
7. Will you provide in-person or virtual Public Comment

****Failure to provide complete information as required above will void the request to provide Public Comment.***

- Registered virtual 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, October 24, 2022.
- **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, 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.
- "Request to Appear Before the Board" cards will be available for in-person attendees prior to the Board Meeting for sign-up and must be submitted prior to the opening of the meeting.
- Board Comment Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person.

The Board has authorized public comment as follows:

- Each speaker shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes and five (5) minutes for individuals representing groups.
- The Board will receive in-person public comment first and virtual public comment second. 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, personnel, any person or group 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. In addition, public comment is an opportunity for members of the community to address the Board of Education. Please direct your comments to the Board and not to other members of the public in the audience.
- 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.