

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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, November 14, 2022. President Rachel Gauthier called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

Board Members Present

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

In-person attendance: Dr. David Bauer, Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Dr. Carol Mueller and Mrs. Rachel Gauthier

Virtual attendance: Mr. Jansen Robinson

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 Dr. Carol Mueller and approved in a voice vote 7-0. Dr. Joyce Herold, Dr. Roy Phillips, and Ms. Noa Blanken were absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Mueller, seconded by Mrs. Karwacki and 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 and Ms. Noa Blanken who were absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Mr. Jansen Robinson

Note: Dr. Roy Phillips joined the meeting in person after roll-call was taken

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations

Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget

Mrs. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

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, Dr. Mae Alfree, Mrs. Deborah Judd, Kimberly Neal, Esq, Mr. Ben Richardson, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

Virtual attendance: Mr. Eric Clark

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

Topic: Discussion and possible decision regarding parameters for negotiations with bargaining units.

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

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, introduced Ms. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations who reviewed potential bargaining parameters for the Board's consideration. Mr. Richardson, Ms. Alfree, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, were available to answer the Board questions. Ms. Alfree sought the Board's direction and approval to proceed with the recommendations as presented and discussed.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion giving Dr. Alfree approval to proceed with recommendations relating to package options for specific bargaining units. The motion was seconded by Dr. Phillips and approved in a voice vote 8/0. Dr. Herold and Ms. Blanken were absent.

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Bauer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Karwacki, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Dr. Joyce Herold who was absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Mr. Jansen Robinson and Ms. Noa Blanken

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 Mrs. Karwacki and adopted in a voice vote 9-0. Dr. Herold was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Mueller led the Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions

Board of Education Members – Terms Ending, December 5, 2022

Mrs. Rachel Gauthier, Board President

Dr. David Bauer, Board Member

Mrs. Sonja Karwacki, Board Member

Mrs. Ariane Kelly, Board Member

Mr. Jansen Robinson, Board Member

Item A. Public Comments

Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. President Gauthier 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 five (5) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Davina Jones, Tina Graf, Suzie Scott, Cristina Lanocha, and Chloe Gauthier. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. One (1) registered person provided virtual public comment: Crystal Parks.

Item B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Contract Award: Meadowvale Elementary School Chiller Replacement
2. Contract Award: Engineering and Design Services for Paving and ADA Improvements at Various Harford County Public Schools Locations
3. Contract Award: Bakerfield Elementary School Chiller Replacement
4. Contract Award: New Enterprise Resource Planning Software
5. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting: November 7, 2022

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. Dr. Herold was absent.

Item C. Presentation on Proposed Inclement Weather Plan

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration, Mr. Philip Snyder, Supervisor of Accountability, and Ms. Stephanie Wall, Graphic Design/Technical Specialist, provided the Board an update presentation of the proposed Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Virtual Day Instruction Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year. A draft of the plan was first presented to the Board at the October 24, 2022, Board business meeting and then was posted on HCPS.org for public input fourteen (14) days and a total of 371 responses were received. Board approval was sought of the presented updated plan. If approved, the application will then be submitted to the Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE) for their review and approval. If MSDE approves the Inclement Weather Plan, then it will be posted on HCPS.org and an HCPS systemwide communications process will begin.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Karwacki made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation of the proposed inclement weather plan application as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kelly and approved in a roll call vote of 8-1. (and 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Dr. Bauer cast a negative vote and Dr. Herold was absent.

Item D. Presentation of Harford County Public Schools Graduation Requirements

Mr. Mike O'Brien, Executive Director of Secondary Ed Services, Ms. Katie Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Ms. Sara Saacks, Coordinator of North Star & School Performance, Mr. Rob Limpert, Supervisor of Magnate & CTE Programs, and Ms. Kay Malone, Supervisor of School Counseling, provided the Board a presentation on Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) graduation requirements. Background information was given on the recommended amendments to credits on the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) for Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland. Conducted analysis shows that the local graduation requirements prohibit some students from taking advantage of the programs that have been developed to help with preparation for college and careers. The recommendation was made to shift HCPS graduation requirements in order to increase opportunities for students, reduce barriers for students, and shift requirements to add flexibility for early college, apprenticeships, non-credit dual enrollment programs, and workforce development for all interested students. The proposal has been brought to High School Principals, High School Counselors, Blueprint North Star Sub Committee, Harford Business Education Roundtable, HCPS Executive Leadership & Senior Staff, and Parent Advisory Members before this presentation to the

Board. The proposed shift for HCPS graduation requirements will now be posted on HCPS.org for public input for thirty (30) days.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Decision on Capital Improvement Program Amendments and Presentation on FY 2024 CIP

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 presented the Board proposed amendments to the FY 2024 Capital Budget due to unprecedented inflation, recent third-party project estimates, and the trends across Maryland, which has seen a steady increase in the construction cost due to supply chain bottlenecks, transportation issues, component shortages and rising fuel costs. Board approval was sought for the proposed amendments totaling six million, four hundred sixty-eight thousand, one hundred twenty-five dollars and zero cents (\$6,468,125.00) to the Maryland State eligible FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program for submission to the Interagency Commission (IAC) before November 30, 2022.

Motion, Second, Vote - Dr. Bauer moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of the six million, four hundred sixty-eight thousand, one hundred twenty-five dollars and zero cents (\$6,468,125.00) to the Maryland State eligible FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program as presented for submission to the Interagency Commission (IAC). 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). Dr. Herold was absent.

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 fifth 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 approval will be sought to approve the FY 2024 CIP for submission to the Harford County local government.

Item F. Presentation on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 02-0001-000 Student Attendance

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel and Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Executive Director of Student Support Services presented information regarding proposed revisions to Board Policy 02-0001-000 Student Attendance. Ms. Neal shared that the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requires schools to have systems of information regarding student attendance. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provides the Maryland Student Records System Manual that includes instruction to local school systems regarding the collection of this information. MSDE has provided instruction to local school systems regarding changes to the collection of student attendance information resulting in required revision to the Board's current Student Attendance policy. Language has been included to address attendance collection with regard to mental health absences and make-up work requirements. The proposed revised policy will be posted to the HCPS website for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. Following the 30 days, Board approval of the recommended proposed revisions to Board Policy 02-0001-000 Student Attendance will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board

Item G. Presentation of Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2022

The Board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending September 30, 2022, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services. Ms. Judd gave a narrative analysis of the presented financial reports. She provided details on the object level for each category, the object level for the Unrestricted Fund as a whole, and the allocated account balances for each office and school. Ms. Judd also provided details for the Food

Service Fund and Capital Projects Fund. Ms. Judd reported that all budget accounts are within reasonable parameters at this time and do not require any action. Ms. Judd shared that projections are not calculated after the first quarter, as the first quarter review typically focuses on outliers and comparing to recent years for line items and categories. Revenues and expenditures are in line for a typical first quarter analysis.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided

Item F. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Family Friendly School Award voting is now open through November 17, 2022 and encouraged the community to submit their votes for their schools.

Superintendent Bulson shared that Nominations for the 2023 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Teacher of the Year will open in December. Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that if they have a teacher who they want to nominate, nomination information is being shared soon on HCPS.org and social media. HCPS will also honor three (3) retired educators who will be inducted in the Educator Hall of Fame. This Celebration will take place at Harford Technical High School in the spring of 2023.

Superintendent Bulson thanked the outgoing Board of Education Members for their service on the Board and shared that on December 5, 2022 the newly elected Board Members will be sworn in prior to the Board Business meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Sean W. Bulson, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer

Carol L. Mueller, Ed. D., Board President

Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Attachment

OPEN SESSION: 5:00 PM – 5:05 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: 5:05 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, November 14, 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, November 14, 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. Agenda item or subject your Public Comment pertains to
6. Will you provide in-person *or* virtual Public Comment
7. Registration forms are limited to one (1) per person

****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, November 14, 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.