

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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, December 19, 2022. President Carol Mueller called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

Board Members Present

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

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Mrs. Carol Bruce, Ms. Melissa Hahn, Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Ms. Patrice Ricciardi

Motion, Second and Vote

Ms. Patrice Ricciardi 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. Denise Perry and approved in a voice vote 8-0. Dr. Roy Phillips and Ms. Noa Blanken were absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Ms. Ricciardi, seconded by Dr. Herold 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 Ms. Noa Blanken who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Mrs. Carol Bruce, Ms. Melissa Hahn, Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Denise Perry, Dr. Roy Phillips, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Ms. Patrice Ricciardi

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

John E. Burke, Esq., Deputy 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, John Burke, Esq, Mr. Ben Richardson, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of candidate nominated by the Superintendent of the following positions: Secondary School Principal pool assignments.

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 candidates for the Secondary Principal pool assignments.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Ms. Bruce motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Herold, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Mueller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Dr. Joyce Herold, Mrs. Denise Perry, Dr. Roy Phillips, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Ms. Patrice Ricciardi and Ms. Noa Blanken

Adoption of Agenda

President Mueller called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Perry made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hahn and adopted in a voice vote 10-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Sewell 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 in-person or virtually. 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 seven (7) people registered to provide in-person public comment: William Martino, Richard Wilson, Suzie Scott, Councilman Dion Guthrie, Tina Lanocha, DeLane Lewis, and Cindy Poper. Ms. Lindsay Bilodeau, Communications Specialist, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following one (1) registered person provided virtual public comment: Crystal Parks.

Note: Registered in-person public speaker, Mr. Richard Wilson, passed on his turn to speak and did not provide any comments.

Item C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - November 2022
2. Contract Award: Online Tutoring Services
3. Contract Award: Extension for Consulting, Training, and Special Education Programs
4. Contract Award: Chromebook Repair Parts
5. Contract Award: Public Address System Replacements

6. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: November 14, 2022 and December 5, 2022

Motion, Second and Vote - Dr. Herold made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce and the consent agenda was approved in a voice vote of 10-0.

Item D. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

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

Secondary Principal Pool: Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve the following three (3) candidates to be added to the Secondary Principal pool assignments: Ms. Erin M. Mock, Mr. Jason R. Redmond, and Ms. Monisha J. Thomas. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item E. Decision on Proposed 2023-2024 Harford County Public Schools Calendar

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications on the proposed 2023-2024 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) calendar. Ms. Lader reviewed the school calendar requirements that must be met during each school year as follows:

- Schools must be open for 180 days for students
- Schools must be open for 190 days for teachers
- Official Holidays per Negotiated Agreements
 - Labor Day
 - Primary & General Election Days
 - Thanksgiving Day & Thanksgiving Friday
 - Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
 - New Year's Day
 - Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
 - President's Day
 - Good Friday
 - Memorial Day
- Board Observances
 - Rosh Hashanah
 - Yom Kippur
 - Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) Convention Day
 - Veteran's Day – early dismissal for all schools and offices
 - Easter Monday – state observed
 - Juneteenth
- Professional Development (PD) Best Practices
 - 3 or more PD days before the start of school
 - 2 additional PD days for new teachers
 - 10 PD days in total during the school year
 - PD day scheduled for end of 1st quarter
 - 8-10 Early Dismissal days
- Board Policy - Minimum of 6 inclement weather days included

Ms. Lader shared a survey that was created for the public to track public comment and suggested changes. Responses were gathered and shared with members of the Board. Ms. Lader was joined by Dr. Peter Carpenter, Director of Organizational Development and Continuous Learning, for further discussion of the proposed calendar and to address Board questions regarding the 2023-2024 HCPS calendar. A final school calendar option was presented to the Board for a decision. The proposal has a pre-Labor Day school start date of Monday, August 28, 2023. The Board took the following action on the proposed 2023-2024 HCPS School Calendar option:

August 28, 2022 HCPS School Start Date: Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Herold to approve the pre-Labor Day 2023-2024 HCPS School Calendar start date of Monday, August 28, 2023, as presented. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 6-3. (and 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Alvarez, Ms. Hahn, and Ms. Ricciardi cast a negative vote.

Item F. Decision on FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program

The Board received a sixth presentation for FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program from Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction, and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner. They reviewed the prioritized needs and budget requirements comprising of the FY 2024 proposed budget request. The current FY 2024 preliminary budget request includes the State request of twenty million, fifty-five thousand, one hundred twenty-five dollars and zero cents (\$20,055,125.00) with a local match of thirty-six million, six hundred eighty-nine thousand and zero cents (\$36,689,000.00), (the Board approved on September 19, 2022, and amended on November 14, 2022) and the local only request is thirty-seven million, eight hundred thirty-six thousand, six hundred dollars and zero cents (\$37,836,600.00) for a total FY 2024 CIP budget of ninety-four million, five hundred eighty thousand, seven hundred twenty-five dollars and zero cents (\$94,580,725.00). Board approval was sought for the local FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program budget request in the amount of thirty-seven million, eight hundred thirty-six thousand, six hundred dollars and zero cents (\$37,836,600.00) for submission to Harford County government.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Herold made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the local FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program budget request in the amount of thirty-seven million, eight hundred thirty-six thousand, six hundred dollars and zero cents (\$37,836,600.00) for submission to Harford County government. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sewell and approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (and 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item G. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson shared that Ms. Ashley Gereli, current Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Teacher of the Year, visited the White House last week and reminded the community that now is the time to submit nominations of a favorite teacher via HCPS.org. Nominations are due by January 4, 2023, schools will review and choose their representative to move forward in the application process.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware the 2023 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Bus Driver and Bus Attendant of the Year nomination window is open and accessible on HCPS.org.

Superintendent Bulson shared that Harford Academy’s Jessica Willson has been selected as the Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year for the SHAPE – Eastern District. Ms. Willson is now eligible for the national title. Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Device Protection Plan is still available for each student’s device. The price is \$50 now through January 31, 2023 and will cover the cost of accidental damage to the device. Student Mobile Device Protection Plan details are available on HCPS.org.

Superintendent Bulson encouraged the community to review the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) new webpage with details on what asynchronous virtual learning will look like in the case of inclement weather. There will be a systemwide “practice” January 9, 2023. If we have inclement weather before then, it will be a “traditional” inclement weather announcement without virtual instruction.

Superintendent Bulson shared that on December 7, 2022, fifty (50) students in the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Program at Joppatowne High School attended a field trip to the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York City

Superintendent Bulson shared that six (6) high school seniors were selected to serve as student pages for the 2023 Maryland General Assembly, including Matthew Botteon and Braelyn Howard of C. Milton Wright High School; Grace Callwood of Edgewood High School; Sara King of Fallston High School; Molly Martin of Havre de Grace High School; and Mark Matysek of Patterson Mill High School. The pages will serve in the 2023 legislative session that will begin in early January and continue through April. They will spend two, non-consecutive weeks with host families in Annapolis while serving in either the House of Delegates or the Maryland Senate.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated Ms. Kay Malone, Supervisor of School Counseling, and Mr. Craig Malone, Pupil Personnel Worker, on their retirement. Together, they have a combined 63 years of service with Harford County Public Schools (HCPS).

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

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

Dr. Carol L. Mueller, Board President
Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

OPEN SESSION: 5:30 PM – 5:35 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: 5:35 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, December 19, 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, December 19, 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, December 19, 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.