

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023

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

President Mueller called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

*Note: Ms. Noa Blanken joined the meeting virtually but due to technical difficulties was unable to respond when her name was called during roll-call.

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

Virtual attendance: Ms. Noa Blanken

Adoption of Agenda

President Mueller called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Bruce made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and adopted in a voice vote 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

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 and speakers representing a group would have five (5) 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 seventeen (17) people registered to provide in-person public comment: Jennifer Arthur, Cassandra Beverley representing the group “Harford County Caucus of African-American Leaders”, Renee De Biase, Wendy Morelli, William Martino, Suzie Scott representing the group “Moms for Liberty Harford County”, Nonie Czajka, Ben Heiser, Charles Hicks, Lori Sappington, Jennifer Selke, Betsy Steinen, Jeannine Cannito, Tanya Tyo, Tina Lanocha, Gary Johnson, and Ruth Oswald. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following four (4) people registered to provide virtual public comment: Christy Larkin, Crystal Parks, Angela Richards, and Fatimah Walee.

Item C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - January 2023
2. Contract Award: Copyrighted Materials
3. Contract Award: Classroom Libraries

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to approve the consent agenda with items two (2) and three (3) removed for discussion. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and the consent agenda was approved with items 2 and 3 removed in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Consent Items #2 and #3 Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Perry made a motion to approve consent agenda items “2. Contract Award: Copyrighted Materials” and “3. Contract Award: Classroom Libraries.” The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and approved in a roll call vote of 7-3. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Bruce, Dr. Herold, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Phillips, Ms. Blanken, Mr. Sewell, and Dr. Mueller. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Casting the negative votes: Mrs. Alvarez, Mrs. Hahn, and Ms. Ricciardi.

Item D. Decision on Harford County Public Schools Bus Contract Renewal

The Board received a presentation for the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) school bus contract from Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Cathy Bendis, Director of Transportation, and Ms. Danielle Bedsaul, Supervisor of Transportation. The current contract between HCPS and the Harford County School Bus Contractors Association will expire on June 30, 2023. The new agreement is proposed to begin on July 1, 2023, and expire on June 30, 2028. Mr. Brown sought Board approval to renew the current twenty-nine (29) HCPS approved school bus contractors’ contract and table of rates.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to renew the current twenty-nine (29) HCPS approved school bus contractors’ contract and table of rates as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hahn and approved in a roll call vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item E. Presentation on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 14-0007-000 Assault Leave

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel, Ms. Julie Uehlein, Supervisor of Risk Management, and Ms. Elizabeth Miller, Supervisor of Benefits, presented information regarding proposed revisions to Board Policy 14-0007-000 Assault Leave. This policy was last reaffirmed on May 20, 2002. To ensure alignment between the policy and the applicable assault leave statute, the Education Article of the Maryland Code, § 6-111, updates to the policy were presented to the Board for consideration. 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 14-0007-000 Assault Leave will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Special Education Continuum Presentation

The Board received a presentation of the Special Education Continuum from Ms. Colleen Sasdelli, Director of Special Education, Ms. Kim Manzo, Coordinator of Low Incidence Disabilities, Ms. Robin Meyer, Coordinator of Interagency Supports and Non-Public Placements, and Ms. Melissa Romano, Coordinator of Birth to Five Programs. Special Education in Harford County Public Schools is a collaborative effort involving schools, families and community agencies working together to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to all children with disabilities, birth through age twenty-one (21). The overview shared included information related to the following:

- Federal and State Special Education Laws
- Current Special Education staffing
- Data related to the placement of HCPS students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment.
- Description of specialized regional programs available to Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams as placement options when a student’s needs supersede the supports that can be provided in a student’s school of residence.
- Goals for future expansion of the Special Education continuum.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item G. Presentation on Comprehensive English/Language Arts Curricular Program

The Board received a presentation on Comprehensive English/Language Arts Curricular Program from Ms. Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Andrew Renzulli, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Ms. Kristine Scarry, Supervisor of English/Language Arts, Mr. Gideon Twigg, Curriculum

Specialist, and Mr. Phil Snyder, Supervisor of Accountability. The presentation addressed the following regarding the purchase of decodable books and classroom library materials for elementary schools:

- The importance and use of decodable books and robust classroom libraries within the larger context of the Harford County Public Schools comprehensive reading instructional program.
- The student achievement and proficiency data connected to reading that supports the positive impact decodables and classroom libraries have on literacy skills.
- Additional details regarding the specific items being requested for purchase.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Presentation on Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2022

The Board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2022 from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. The report included a detailed analysis of revenues, expenditures, and projections to year-end. The following highlights of the financial information were presented:

- Revenues – Total revenue received to-date is as expected at 49.81% of budget.
- Expenditures – Total expenditures are 45.24% of the appropriation.
- Fund Balance – FY2023 projected surplus as of 12/31/22 is \$12.7 million.
 - \$11.9 million is related to fixed charges.
 - After subtracting all assignments and allocations, the resulting projected unassigned fund balance is \$55.6 million, or 9.6% of the unrestricted budget. Note: Fund Balance assignments may change based on the final approval of the FY2024 budget.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item I. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson's report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson congratulated the following Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) top five (5) Teachers of the Year nominees: Ms. Michele Barrie, science teacher at Aberdeen Middle School, Mr. Michael Brogley, social sciences teacher at C. Milton Wright High School, Ms. Traci Frey, fifth grade teacher at Jarrettsville Elementary School, Ms. Susan Hoy, science teacher at Edgewood High School, and Mr. Joshua Weeks, science teacher at Bel Air High School.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated Ms. Deanna Burch, of Havre de Grace High School, she has been awarded the Community Service Award from Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Maryland. The Maryland winners will be competing with other state winners for the national ACTE awards that will be presented at the ACTE Vision conference in Phoenix, Arizona this coming December.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware of Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) partners at the Harford County Sheriff's Office have shared that in the first four (4) days of buses with stop arm cameras, there have been over fifty (50) violations.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that the nomination window for the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Bus Driver and Attendant of the year closes February 28, 2023.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated Ms. Abby Juhls, school counselor at the Swan Creek School for receiving the Student Services Standout Award on February 22, 2023, for her work in the area of school counseling, serving the elementary virtual students at Swan Creek.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated all of the student athletes who participated in both the high school and middle school Sports for Life bowling tournaments that were recently held at the Forest Hill Lanes Bowling Alley. The Harford

County Public Schools (HCPS) Sports for Life program provides an opportunity for students with disabilities to compete alongside peer helpers in three seasons of competition.

Superintendent Bulson reminded the community that March 5 – 11, 2023, is National School Social Work week. Superintendent Bulson recognized all of the work Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) social workers do every day for the students and families in Harford County.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) high school theater productions have been announced. Information can be found on HCPS.org.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 11:02 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, FEBRUARY 27, 2023

ATTACHMENT

~~OPEN SESSION: 5:00 PM—5:05 PM- *Open/Closed Session are moved to March 27, 2023~~

~~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—6:15 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, February 27, 2023, 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 groups recognized by Harford County Public Schools (i.e. – PTAs, unions, and other school system stakeholders) 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, February 27, 2023. 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, February 27, 2023.
- 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.

The Board has authorized public comment in accord with its policy [Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings](#) and as summarized below:

- Each speaker shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes and five (5) minutes for individuals representing groups. Speakers must state his or her name, and, if representing a group, must identify the group he or she represents. If a speaker identifies themselves as a representative of a group, then only one (1) representative from the group may provide comment for the identified group.
- The Board presiding officer may reduce the amount of time allocated to each speaker if allocating 3 minutes to each speaker will impede the Board's ability to complete scheduled business.
- 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.**

***Updated February 22, 2023**