

PUBLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
MINUTES OF MONDAY, MARCH 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>*

Open Session

The Board of Education of Harford County met in open session in hybrid format in person and via video teleconference on Monday, March 27, 2023. President Carol Mueller called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Denise Perry and Ms. Noa Blanken, who were absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold

Motion, Second and Vote

Ms. Bruce 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 Ms. Ricciardi and approved in a voice vote 8-0. Mrs. Perry and Ms. Noa Blanken were absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Mr. Sewell, seconded by Ms. Hahn 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, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Mrs. Denise Perry, Dr. Roy Phillips, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Dr. Carol Mueller

Virtual attendance: Dr. Joyce Herold

Note: Mrs. Denise Perry joined the meeting in-person after roll call was taken

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Chief of Administration

Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel

Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

William Shinoff, Esq., of The Frantz Law Group

Andrew Scott, Esq., of PK Law

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Sean Bulson, Dr. Eric Davis, Ms. Deborah Judd, Kimberly Neal, Esq., Mr. Ben Richardson, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

Virtual attendance: William Shinoff, Esq. and Andrew Scott, Esq.

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

Topic: Discuss status of mass litigation regarding damages related to the opioid epidemic.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve attorney-client privilege.

The Board received a presentation from Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., William Shinoff, Esq., The Frantz Law Group, and Andrew Scott, Esq., PK Law, regarding the status of mass litigation involving JUUL®. Ms. Neal sought a Board decision to accept or decline the presented settlement terms.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Alvarez moved to approve the three (3) counsel’s recommendation that the Board accept the JUUL® mass litigation settlement terms as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Herold and approved in a voice vote 9-0. Ms. Blanken was absent.

Note: William Shinoff, Esq. and Andrew Scott, Esq. were excused from the following discussion

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of persons recommended by the Superintendent for the positions of the following pool assignments:

- Elementary Principal
- Elementary Assistant Principal
- Secondary Principal
- Secondary Assistant Principal
- Pupil Personnel Worker

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 Elementary Principal, Elementary Assistant Principal, Secondary Principal, Secondary Assistant Principal, and Pupil Personnel Worker pool assignments.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, Ms. Alvarez motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Hahn, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:34 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, Ms. Patrice Ricciardi, Ms. Noa Blanken, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Dr. Carol Mueller

##### 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 Ms. Blanken and adopted in a voice vote of 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 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 twenty (20) people registered to provide in-person public comment: David Bauer, Suzie Scott representing the group "Moms for Liberty Harford County", Cheryl Adams, Wendy Morelli, Christy Larkin, Alex Larkin, James J. Ramsey, Charlene Haupt representing the group "Together We Will", Jennifer Selke, Kristen Duracka, Samantha Walton, Amanda Snyder, Jennifer Staab representing the group "Edgewood High School Current National Board Teacher Certification Candidates", Lindsay Greenbaum, Stella Peters, Valerie Simmons, William Martino, Christina M. Lanocha, Jeannine Cannito, and Tanya Tyo. Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications, called on individual speakers who had pre-registered to provide public comments virtually. The following two (2) people registered to provide virtual public comment: Crystal Parks and Jill Ferrara.

#### Item C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report - February 2023
2. Ratification of AHCATSP, AFSCME, AND APSASHC Tentative Agreements:
  - Association of Harford County Administrative, Technical, and Supervisory Professionals (AHCATSP)
  - American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
  - Association of Public School Administrators and Supervisors of Harford County (APSASHC)
3. Contract Award: Chicken Products
4. Contract Award: Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School Chiller Replacement
5. Contract Award: Construction Management Services Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School Replacement
6. Contract Award: Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School Replacement
7. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: February 13, 2023, February 27, 2023, and March 13, 2023

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

#### Item D. Recognition of the 2023 Harford County Public Schools Teacher of the Year Finalists

Dr. Peter Carpenter, Director of Organizational Development, and Dr. Paula Stanton, Supervisor of Equity and Cultural Proficiency led a recognition presentation to the Board of the 2023 Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Teacher of the Year finalists. Each year beginning in November, candidate nominations are sought from the community for the following school year. This year, the process was enhanced to include a school-nominated teacher from all of HCPS 54 schools. Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Stanton introduced the following Top Five Finalist who joined them in person and were recognized by the Board: Ms. Michele Barrie, Aberdeen Middle School; Mr. Michael Brogley, C. Milton Wright High School; Ms. Traci Frey, Jarrettsville Elementary School; Ms. Susan Hoy, Edgewood High School; and Mr. Joshua Weeks, Bel Air High School. On April 12, 2023, the school system will name its 29th Teacher of the Year during the "Celebration of Excellence in Education" event. At the conclusion of the event, the HCPS 2023 Teacher of the Year will be revealed and will enter the competition for the Maryland Teacher of the Year, the winner to be announced at the Maryland State Teacher of the Year Gala later this year.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### Item E. Presentation on Stop Arm Camera Enforcement Program

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Ms. Cathy Bendis, Director of Transportation, and Mr. Erik Robey, Harford County Sheriff's Office Director of Legislative and Community Affairs led a presentation of the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) and the Harford County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) partnership with the Stop Arm Camera Enforcement Program. HCPS participates in the annual National Stop Arm Survey issued by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation (NASDPTS). Through this survey NASDPTS highlights the danger of passing school buses. The data collected through this survey reflected an increase in stop arm violations on various

HCPS student transportation routes in Harford County. The data was shared with the Harford County Traffic Safety Advisory Board and upon their review of the data, they recommended moving forward with a program for stop arm enforcement and a pilot program was implemented. In January 2023, HCPS installed stop arm camera systems on one hundred (100) buses. The HCSO began citing drivers on February 15, 2023 and the average number of citations has been twenty-one (21) per day. The program will be reviewed in January of 2024 to determine if expansion is needed for additional buses.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

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

Principal Pool: Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to approve the following three (3) candidates to be added to the Principal Pool: Ms. Stacey L. McCord for elementary schools, Ms. Laura R. Silk for secondary schools, and Mr. Parfait Awono for elementary and secondary schools. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ricciardi. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 10-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Assistant Principal Pool: Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to approve the following fifteen (15) candidates to be added to the Assistant Principal Pool: Mr. Christopher S. Frickmann, Ms. Asley N. Gereli, Ms. Nicole M. Osborne, Ms. Elizabeth P. Perlak, Ms. Michelle G. Williamson, for elementary schools, Mr. James E. Blackwell, III, Ms. Tymeerah Butts Grandy, Mr. Glen Haas, Ms. April L. Kenney, Ms. Andrea K. Marra, Mr. Devin J. Rosenberger, Mr. Lawrence R. Rowe, Mr. Tom R. Smith, Ms. Kristine E. Snyder, and Ms. Rachael L. Stumpf for secondary schools. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Alvarez. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 10-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Pupil Personnel Worker Pool: Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to approve the following two (2) candidates to be added to the Pupil Personnel Worker Pool: Mr. Matthew P. Koester and Ms. Jennifer R. Myers. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 10-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item G. Harford County Public Schools Academic Performance Review for 2021 - 2022

The Board received a review of the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) 2021-2022 Academic Performance results from Ms. Heather Kutcher, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mr. Phillip Snyder, Supervisor of Accountability, Mr. Andrew Renzulli, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Ms. Kristine Scarry, Supervisor of English/Language Arts, Ms. Erin Lange, Supervisor of Social Sciences, Ms. Joanne McCord, Supervisor of Mathematics, and Mr. Howard Eakes, Assistant Supervisor Outdoor Education. The presentation included student performance data from state assessments in the areas of English/Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The following measures were presented:

- MCAP English/Language Arts historical proficiency rates and a comparison to other districts
- MCAP mathematics historical proficiency rates and a comparison to other districts
- Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) Science historical proficiency rates
- American Government historical proficiency rates

Strategies that HCPS is taking to improve student performance were shared by the presenters for all core content areas.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item H. Presentation on Proposed Revisions and Renaming of Board Policy 20-0037-000 Wellness

Kimberly H. Neal, Esq., General Counsel, Mr. Joseph Harbert, Director of Health and Wellness, and Ms. Kristen Sudzina, Supervisor of Food and Nutrition presented information regarding Board Policy 20-0037-000 Wellness. As a result of Mr. Harbert's and Ms. Sudzina's recent review of the current policy and system updates to sport activities and

nutrition standards, they proposed specific revisions and a re-naming of the policy to include the word “Health”, making the full name “Health and Wellness Policy”. The proposed revised policy will be posted on HCPS.org for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. Board approval of the recommended proposed revisions will then be sought at a future Board meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item I. Discussion of House Bill 119 / Senate Bill 199 - County Boards of Education - Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study - Requirements

Board President, Dr. Carol Mueller led a discussion regarding House bill 119 (HB119), cross-filed with Senate bill 199 (SB199). The amended bill requires each county board of education in Maryland to follow the policy and guidelines for all program instruction for public schools established by the Maryland State Board of Education. This removes local control of curriculum. Dr. Mueller presented the Board with the proposed letter to be sent to state legislators to share the Board’s feedback and position to oppose this bill.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Ricciardi made a motion to approve the Board of Education of Harford County’s drafted letter opposing House bill 119, cross filed with Senate bill 199 (copy of letter attached) to be sent as written and presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hahn and approved in a voice vote of 10-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item J. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bulson’s report was provided as follows:

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) submitted the Blueprint plan on March 15, 2023.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated the five (5) Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Teacher of the Year Finalists. Dr. Bulson reminded the community that on April 12, 2023, the Teacher of the Year will be announced.

Superintendent Bulson congratulated Ms. Ana Sans, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) Teacher Academy of Maryland/IB student at Edgewood High School for being awarded a full scholarship to the University of Maryland Honors College, to study Elementary Education.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that next month, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. To create awareness, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) has teamed up with the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program of Harford County to plant blue pinwheels in front of the Board of Education building.

Superintendent Bulson shared that seven (7) Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) students have been named new Carson Scholars for 2023. Additionally, twenty-two (22) students have renewed their Carson Scholars. These students were selected in a nationwide search and are granted a one-thousand-dollar (\$1,000.00) college scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to students who embrace a high level of academic excellence, community service and are in 4th-11th grade.

Superintendent Bulson made the community aware that Citizen Advisory Committee applications are on the Board’s page on HCPS.org. Descriptions of the committees are listed for review on the website.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 10:06 PM.

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

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



Sean W. Bulson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
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**Board of Education of Harford County**  
Dr. Carol Mueller, Board President  
410-588-5347 • Carol.Mueller@hcps.org

March 27, 2023

Dear Delegate/Senator:

As members of the Board of Education of Harford County, we are contacting you to share our strong opposition to House bill 119 (HB119), cross-filed with Senate bill 199 (SB199). This bill was introduced to require local school systems to adopt a state mandated health curriculum. As written, the bill caused grave concerns at the local level. The bill has been amended and with the amendments, would place local school systems in a dire position. HB119, as passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee, is a total Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) takeover of all curriculum frameworks, standards, and even instructional materials-removing any local oversight of curriculum development. We urge you to oppose HB119/SB199.

This bill mandates that local school systems follow, "every element of the policy and guidelines for the program of instruction" for public schools established by MSDE. The bill also mandates that, "all curriculum guides, courses of study, resource materials and other teaching aids," shall be in accordance with the MSDE policy and program of instruction adopted by the Maryland State Board of Education.



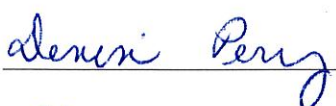







In these alarming and unprecedented ways, HB119 reaches into the boardroom and the classroom, severely limiting decision making of local boards, superintendents, department chairs, and, most importantly, teachers in the classroom.

We are further troubled by HB119 as it empowers the State Superintendent of Schools to enforce local compliance by withholding massive amounts of state funding. HB119 grants absolute authority to the State Superintendent to decide if a local school system is not following every detail of the state standards and then instruct the state comptroller to withhold millions of dollars in state funding from the local school system.

As members of the Board of Education of Harford County, we hope that you agree with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) and will support efforts to ensure continued local decision-making authority in developing curriculum, assessments, grading policies, and instructional programs. The adoption of statewide laws and regulations that reflect a commitment to local governance, professional judgment of local educators, and community engagement, is essential to the success of public school systems. HB119 fails this test.

For these reasons, we ask for your commitment to oppose HB119/SB199 becoming law. We thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely, we the undersigned Board of Education of Harford County Members,





BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION  
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

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 – 6:15 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, March 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](mailto:publiccomment@hcps.org) or calling 410-588-5347.

Call-In Registrations must be received by 12:00 PM on Monday, March 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, March 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.**