

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024

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 Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Carol Bruce, Dr. Carol Mueller, Miss Sasha Pazoki, Mrs. Denise Perry, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Terri Kocher and Mr. Wade Sewell

Adoption of Agenda

President Poynton called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Melissa Hahn led the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Speakers were invited to the meeting to provide their comments for the record either in-person or virtually. President Poynton 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 thirteen (13) people registered and provided in-person public comment: Joe Fleckenstein, Christopher Anderson representing the group “Maryland Black Republican Council”, Derek Noyes, Christopher Providence, Jackie Johnson, Bonny Knudsen representing the group “NAACP”, Melissa Williams representing the group “Association of Public School Administrators and Supervisors of Harford County (APSASHC)”, Jacob Bennett, Thomas Piddington representing the group “Black Robe Regiment”, Cristina Lanocha, Charles Hicks, Jeannine Cannito, and Jessica Fendryk.

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: Louis Barnett and David Bauer.

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Old Business

President Poynton announced no “Old Business” was scheduled for discussion.

Item A. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report: July 2024
2. Approval of Negotiation Teams for the 2025-26 School Year
3. Contract Award: Conventional Special Needs School Busses Type I
4. Contract Award: Paving and ADA Improvements at Dublin and George D. Lisby Elementary Schools
5. Contract Award: Bulk Liquid Propane Gas
6. Contract Award: HVAC Filters

7. Contract Award: Digital Assessment Library Renewal
8. Contract Award: Assistive Technology Digital Resource Renewal
9. Appointment of 2025-2026 Calendar Committee Members
10. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: June 10, 2024, and June 13, 2024

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to approve the consent agenda items with the exception of item number nine (9), which was removed for discussion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Strauss. The consent agenda was approved with all items, except item: “9. Appointment of 2025-2026 Calendar Committee Members” in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Consent Item #9 Appointment of 2025-2026 Calendar Committee Members

President Poynton opened this item for Board questions and discussion. The Board asked Ms. Jillian Lader, Manager of Communications to make the following two (2) non-substantive changes to the appointment 2025-2026 calendar committee members document before seeking approval by the Board: “Board Liaison” will be changed to “Board Members” and Ms. Lader’s name will be added to the Calendar Committee Members document and listed as the chair of the committee.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve consent agenda item #9 Appointment of 2025-2026 Calendar Committee Members, with proposed changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sewell and the motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Meeting Break

The Board recessed until they were called back to order by President Poynton.

New Business

Item B. Decision on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 20-0038-000 Public Information Act Requests

Lauren R. Driver, Esq., Deputy General Counsel, presented information regarding the proposed revisions to Board Policy 20-0038-000 Public Information Act Requests. This policy was first presented to the Board at the June 24, 2024, Board meeting and was posted on HCPS.org for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. One (1) public comment was received and considered but did not result in any necessary or substantive changes to the proposed policy. Ms. Driver sought Board approval of the proposed revised Board Policy 20-0038-000 Public Information Act Requests.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Bruce made a motion to approve the proposed, revised Board policy entitled, 20-0038-000 Public Information Act Requests. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a voice vote of 10-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item C. Decision on Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 02-0036-000 Dress Code

President Poynton opened this topic for Board discussion and questions. Ms. Katie Ridgway, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Dr. Paula Stanton, Supervisor of Equity and Cultural Proficiency, originally presented the proposed revisions to the Board at the June 24, 2024, Board meeting. Ms. Ridgway and Dr. Stanton addressed the Board’s questions during the discussion. The proposed revised policy was posted on HCPS.org for thirty (30) days. The few comments that were received were shared with the Board for their review and consideration. After Board discussion, approval was sought for the proposed policy 02-0036-000 Dress Code.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve the proposed, revised Board policy entitled, 02-0036-000 Dress Code, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Strauss and approved in a roll call vote of 10-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item D. Presentation of the Concept Analysis for the Combination Harford Academy and New Elementary School Project

Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction, Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner, Ms. Kerry Porter Hill, Associate Principal Grimm+Parker, and Ms. Laura Smyles, Senior Associate Grimm+Parker, presented the Board background information of the Combination Harford Academy and new elementary school project. Ms. Hill and Ms. Smyles updated the Board on the project concept and the preliminary site analysis of different options. Grimm+Parker developed schemes demonstrating alternative relationships of the building footprint to the site entry. The interior building configuration was adjusted to ensure alignment with the new site conditions and verify that the building program meets the planned needs of the new school. The data collected through this process fulfills all requirements for Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) to request site plan approval from Maryland state. For the schematic design, Grimm+Parker will collaborate with stakeholders to evaluate the merits of each concept, associated construction costs, and long-term operating costs to develop a final layout for the new school.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Presentation of the FY2026 Capital Improvement Program

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 with the first presentation of the FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The presentation focused on the Maryland state eligible capital projects. In September, Board approval will be sought for the FY 2026 Maryland State CIP budget for submission by October 4, 2024, to the Interagency Commission, the Maryland State funding authority for public school construction projects. Between now and January, Ms. Beard, Mr. Morton, Ms. Valentino, and Mr. Brown's replacement will work with the Board and stakeholders to prioritize the FY 2026 local only CIP needs and align the request with the Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) operating budget. Board approval will be sought for the local only FY 2026 CIP request in December for submission to Harford County Government.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item F. Presentation on Proposed Changes to the Board Handbook

President Poynton gave the Board background information for the proposed changes to the Board handbook that were spearheaded by Board members, Mrs. Terri Kocher, and Ms. Carol Bruce. President Poynton opened this topic for Board questions and discussion. Certain Board members expressed concern that several ideated Board handbook versions were being circulated for review and feedback and not enough time has been given to review the proposed changes. Mrs. Kocher will schedule small groups to review the proposed changes and finalize a red-lined version that can be compared to the original current handbook and then be presented for a Board vote for adoption. President Poynton sought Board approval to table the Board handbook decision.

Original Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to table the decision of the proposed changes to the Board Handbook. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Perry. After the following approved motion amendment vote, the Board approved the motion to table the decision of the proposed changes to the Board Handbook until September 9, 2024, Board meeting; in a voice vote of 10-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Amendment to Original Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion to amend the original motion by adding a timeframe to table the decision of the proposed changes to the Board Handbook to the next Board meeting scheduled for September 9, 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce and approved in a voice vote of 9-1 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Casting the negative vote was Mr. Wade Sewell.

Item G. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's report was provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

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

Aaron S. Poynton, D.P.A.
President, Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024

BUSINESS MEETING: 6:00 PM – ADJOURNMENT

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

DOORS WILL OPEN AT 5:55 PM AND THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a hybrid Business Meeting on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 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, August 12, 2024. 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 6:00 PM on Monday, August 12, 2024.
- 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 for individuals 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.