

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

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 24, 2025. President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Miss Sasha Pazoki, who was absent.

In-person attendance: Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual Attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez and Mrs. Denise Perry

Motion, Second and Vote

Mrs. Kocher 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. Hahn and approved in a voice vote of 9-0. Miss Pazoki was absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Ms. Bruce, seconded by Mrs. Kocher and approved in a voice vote of 9-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion. Miss Pazoki was absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Miss Pazoki, who was absent.

In-person attendance: Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mr. Wade Sewell, Mrs. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual Attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez and Mrs. Denise Perry

Staff Present:

Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent

Dr. Eric Davis, Deputy Superintendent for Operations

Dr. Dyann Mack, Deputy Superintendent for Academics

Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations

Kimberly H. Neal, Esquire, General Counsel

Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Sean Bulson, Dr. Eric Davis, Dr. Dyann Mack, Mr. Ben Richardson, Dr. Mae Alfree, Kimberly Neal, Esq., and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

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

- Elementary and Secondary Principal pool assignment
- Elementary and Secondary Assistant Principal pool assignment.
- Pupil Personnel Worker pool assignment

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the nominees. Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented and discussed the proposed candidates for the Elementary and Secondary Principal pool assignments, Elementary and Secondary Assistant Principal pool assignments, and Pupil Personnel Worker pool assignments.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Topic: Presentation of confidential information regarding recommended employee discipline and to seek Board action.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the specific individual employee.

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented the Board information on an individual employee and sought Board approval of the recommended employee discipline matter.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Strauss made a motion to approve the recommended employee discipline with an increase of two (2) days for a total of three (3) days. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher, to approve the specific recommended employee discipline matter, as presented. The motion was approved in a roll-call vote of 5-3. Ms. Bruce, Dr. Mueller, and Mrs. Perry cast negative votes. Mr. Sewell abstained from voting. Miss Pazoki was absent.

Topic: Discussion of ratification of negotiated agreements.

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, was joined by Dr. Mae Alfree, Director of Staff and Labor Relations, and they addressed questions from the Board that pertained to the ratification of contract agreements with the bargaining units.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

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

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Board Members Present

Roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

In-person attendance: Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Terri Kocher, Dr. Carol Mueller, Miss Sasha Pazoki, Mr. Wade Sewell, Ms. Lauren Strauss, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual Attendance: Mrs. Diane Alvarez and Mrs. Denise Perry

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 Ms. Bruce and adopted in a voice vote of 10-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President 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 eleven (11) people registered and provided in-person public comment: William Martino, David Bauer, Gary Johnson, Tunisia Gannon representing the group “American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)”, Melissa Williams, Suzie Scott representing the group “Moms for Liberty Harford County”, Jeannine Cannito, Del Sellers, Tina Graf, Cristina Lanocha, and Dave Faby. There were no virtual speakers.

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. Ratification of AHCATSP, AFSCME, APSASHC, HCEA-Certificated, and HCEA-ESP 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)
 - Harford County Education Association Certificated (HCEA-Cert)
 - Harford County Education Association Education Support Professionals (HCEA-ESP)
2. Contract Award: Custodial Services
3. Contract Award: Custodial Supplies, Equipment, and Custodial Related Products, Services and Solutions
4. Contract Award: Grounds Equipment, OEM Parts, and Service
5. Contract Award: Rental Equipment for Construction and Related Facilities Operations
6. Contract Award: Facility Utilization & Program Adequacy Assessment
7. Contract Award: Prospect Mill Elementary School Comprehensive Roof Replacement
8. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: January 13, January 27, February 5, February 10, and February 24, 2025

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion to approve the consent agenda items with the exception of item number one (1) and two (2), which were removed for discussion by Mrs. Alvarez. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller. The consent agenda was approved with all items, except item: “1. Ratification of AHCATSP, AFSCME, APSASHC, HCEA-Certificated, and HCEA-ESP Tentative Agreements” and item “2. Contract Award: Custodial Services”, in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Consent Item #1. Ratification of Association of Public School Administrators and Supervisors of Harford County (APSASHC) Tentative Agreement

Motion and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion for “1. Ratification of APSASHC Tentative Agreement”, to be discussed for approval in a roll-call vote. After discussion, item: “1. Ratification of APSASHC”, was approved in a roll-call vote of 8-2. Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Hahn cast negative votes. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Consent Item #1. Ratification of Association of Harford County Administrative, Technical and Supervisory Professionals (AHCATSP), American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Harford County Education Association Certificated (HCEA-Certificated), and Harford County Education Association Education Support Professionals (HCEA-ESP) Tentative Agreements

Motion and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion for “1. Ratification of AHCATSP, AFSCME, HCEA-Certificated, and HCEA-ESP Tentative Agreements”, be discussed for approval in a roll-call vote. After discussion, item: “1. Ratification

of AHCATSP, AFSCME, HCEA-Certificated, and HCEA-ESP Tentative Agreements”, was approved in a roll-call vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Consent Item #2. Contract Award: Custodial Services

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez made a motion seconded by Mrs. Hahn to defer a decision for consent item “2. Contract Award: Custodial Services”, until a May 2025 time frame. After discussion, deferment of item “2. Contract Award: Custodial Services” for a May 2025 decision, failed in a roll-call vote of 2-8. Ms. Bruce, Mrs. Kocher, Dr. Mueller, Miss Pazoki, Mrs. Perry, Mr. Sewell, Ms. Strauss, and Dr. Poynton cast negative votes. (Includes 1 preferential negative student member vote).

Consent Item #2. Contract Award: Custodial Services

Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion to approve consent item “2. Contract Award: Custodial Services”. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce and consent item “2. Contract Award: Custodial Services” was approved in a roll-call vote of 8-2. Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Hahn cast negative votes. (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. Presentation of Mentorship Program "boys2MEN, WillPower, and Civics and Chess"

Pastor A.L. Reeves, Mr. William Howard, and Reverend Dr. Marlon B. Tilghman presented the Board a summary of the mentorship programs they provide for students entitled, “boys2MEN, WillPower, and Civics and Chess”. These mentorship programs are not new, they are currently provided at certain Harford County Public Schools. The programs are meant to help support HCPS by supporting students, teachers and the school communities.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item C. Decision on Administrative and Supervisory Appointments

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

Elementary Principal Pool

Tara R. Sample
Kelly A. Sayre
Katie L. Scharf

Secondary Principal Pool:

Michael J. Cuneo
Kristina J. Marzullo
Ri-Chard A. McCarthy, Ed.D.

Elementary Assistant Principal Pool

Gregory E. Gulley, Ed.D.
William S. James
Kristie L. Horn
Danya D. Lewis
Heather R. Macauley
Robert L. Pohlner
Lisa L. Redding
Jordan E. Steiner

Secondary Assistant Principal Pool

Derek J. Baker, Jr.
Bridgette G. Bell, Ed.D.
Jamie L. Childs
Kaitlyn L. Custis
Jason M. King
Terrence E. Robinson, Sr.

Pupil Personnel Worker Pool

Lauren M. Cody
Erika M. Jones
Duane A. McNairn

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve the Elementary Principal, Secondary Principal, Elementary Assistant Principal, Secondary Assistant Principal and Pupil Personnel Worker pool candidate names as listed above. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kocher. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 10-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote).

Item D. Presentation of Harford County Public Schools Academic Performance: Local Assessments

Ms. Heather Kutcher, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Colleen Sasdelli, Director of Special Education, and Mr. Phillip Snyder, Supervisor of Accountability, updated the Board on mid-year local assessments data for Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). This presentation highlighted key data points, including the performance of students on two local assessments: DIBELS, 8th edition and i-Ready. Comparisons between the fall and winter administrations were shared. These assessments are aligned to Maryland College and Career Ready Standards.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bulson provided his report.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:57 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, MARCH 24, 2025

OPEN SESSION: 4:30 PM – 4:35 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 6:00 PM meeting.

*The only item the Board will consider during this open meeting is consideration of meeting in a closed session.

CLOSED SESSION: 4:55 PM – 5:55 PM

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, March 24, 2025, 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, March 24, 2025. 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, March 24, 2025.
- 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.