

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 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, October 27, 2025. President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 4:51 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. James McVicker, Ms. Carol Bruce, and Mrs. Diane Alvarez who were absent.

In-person attendance: Mr. Wade Sewell, Mark Korn Esq., Ms. Lauren Paige, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry, Dr. Carol Mueller, and Mrs. Melissa Hahn

Motion, Second and Vote

Dr. Mueller 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. Paige and approved in a voice vote of 7-0. Mr. McVicker, Ms. Bruce, and Mrs. Alvarez were absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(7)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Dr. Mueller, seconded by Ms. Paige and approved in a voice vote 7-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion. Mr. McVicker, Ms. Bruce, and Mrs. Alvarez were absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. James McVicker, Ms. Carol Bruce, and Mrs. Diane Alvarez who were absent.

In-person attendance: Mr. Wade Sewell, Mark Korn Esq., Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Lauren Paige, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry and Dr. Carol Mueller

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

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

Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

Eric Clark, Director of Budget

Daniel Reimers, Human Resources Staff and Labor Relations Specialist

Amanda Henck, Director of Finance

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, Ms. Deborah Judd, Mr. Eric Clark, Mr. Daniel Reimers, Ms. Amanda Henck, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

Virtual attendance: Kimberly Neal, Esq.

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

Topic: Discussion with counsel to seek legal advice

Reason for Closed Session: To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice

Kimberly H. Neal, Esquire, General Counsel, was joined by Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, and Ms. Amanda Henck, Director of Finance to report information to the Board on a particular matter.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Topic: Discussion and possible decision regarding parameters for negotiations with bargaining units.

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, Mr. Daniel Reimers, Human Resources Staff and Labor Relations Specialist, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, and Ms. Amanda Henck, Director of Finance led a discussion, answered questions, and updated the Board on negotiations.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Korn 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 Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Carol Bruce and Mrs. Diane Alvarez who were absent.

In-person attendance: Mr. Wade Sewell, Mr. James McVicker, Mark Korn Esq., Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Lauren Paige, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry and Dr. Carol Mueller

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

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. Paige and adopted in a voice vote of 8-0. Ms. Carol Bruce and Mrs. Diane Alvarez were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Paige led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item A. The Marigold Mosaics Presentation - 2025 Teacher of the Year Finalists

The Board received a presentation from the following 2025 Teacher of the Year finalists: Ms. Haejung Kim, Joppatowne High School Science Teacher, Ms. Kate Veet, Darlington Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher,

Ms. Nicole Young, Southampton Middle School, Mathematics Teacher, Ms. Shelby Hultquist, Havre de Grace Elementary School, Special Education Teacher, and Ms. Wendy Feight, North Harford Middle School, Health Teacher. The presentation provided background information and the vision for their group which is titled, "The Marigold Mosaics".

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 also have three (3) minutes to speak.

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: Annie Palya, Bonny Knudsen, Jill Ferrara, and Megan Fitzgerald.

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 sixteen (16) people registered and provided in-person public comment: Shawn Ryan, David Bauer, Mason Keckler, Michael Pagan, Tarsie Thompson, Neil Thompson, Dave Faby, Jackie Johnson, William Martino, Emory Spence, Cindy Popper, Ellen Buesgen, Donna Conneally, Suzie Scott, Tammy Schueler, and Ronnie Davis.

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Old Business

President Poynton announced no "Old Business" was scheduled for discussion.

Item B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report: September 2025
2. Contract Award: Audio-Visual Equipment Installations
3. Contract Award: Group Medicare Advantage for Retirees

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 8-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Carol Bruce and Mrs. Diane Alvarez were absent.

Meeting Break

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

New Business

Item C. Presentation of Proposed New Board Policy: Administration of Stock Bronchodilators in School

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Joseph Harbert, Director of Health and Wellness, on the proposed new Board policy titled "Administration of Stock Bronchodilators in School". Mr. Harbert shared background information on the proposed new policy. The proposed policy will be posted on HCPS.org for thirty (30) days to allow for public comment. Following the 30 days, Board approval of the proposed new policy "Administration of Stock Bronchodilators in School" will be sought at a subsequent Board meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item D. Presentation on HCPS Academic Performance: State Assessments

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Katie Ridgway, Chief of Staff, Mr. Phillip Snyder, Supervisor of Accountability, and Mr. Andy Wachter, Assistant Supervisor of Accountability. An update was provided regarding academic measures for Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) from the 2024-25 school year. The presentation included student performance data from the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) in English/Language Arts Literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Added Item E. Discussion on HCPS Dress Code Policy

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to add a Board discussion of the HCPS Dress Code, to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Korn. The motion was approved in a roll-call vote of 6-1. (Includes 1 affirmative student member vote). Dr. Mueller cast a negative vote. Mrs. Denise Perry, Ms. Carol Bruce, and Mrs. Diane Alvarez were absent.

Board discussion regarding proposed changes to the dress code policy took place. President Poynton asked the Board to give the administration time to address the Board questions and come back with information.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Added Item F. Discussion on Wikipedia

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion to add a Board discussion of Wikipedia, to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Korn. The motion was approved in a roll-call vote of 5-2. (Includes 1 negative student member vote). Dr. Mueller and Mr. McVicker cast negative votes. Mrs. Denise Perry, Ms. Carol Bruce, and Mrs. Diane Alvarez were absent.

Board discussion regarding a proposed resolution for Wikipedia took place.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Hahn made a motion have a resolution for Wikipedia. The motion was seconded by Mr. Korn. The motion failed in a roll-call vote of 4-2. Mr. Sewell and Dr. Mueller cast negative votes. Mr. McVicker and Dr. Poynton abstained from voting. Ms. Carol Bruce and Mrs. Diane Alvarez were absent.

Item G. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's report was provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:35 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, OCTOBER 27, 2025

Please note, all meeting attendees will be asked to go through the Open Gate weapons detection system before entering the Board room. Be prepared to follow instructions from members of the HCPS Safety and Security team as you enter the Board room.

OPEN SESSION: 4:45 PM – 4:50 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: 4:50 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, October 27, 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, October 27, 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, October 27, 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.