

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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, November 17, 2025. President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. James McVicker who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Lauren Paige, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mark Korn Esq., Ms. Carol Bruce, and Mrs. Diane Alvarez

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

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 Mrs. Perry and approved in a voice vote of 9-0. Mr. McVicker was absent.

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

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. James McVicker who was absent.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Lauren Paige, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mark Korn Esq., Ms. Carol Bruce, and Mrs. Diane Alvarez

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
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, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo

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

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, and Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, were available to answer the Board's questions. Dr. Alfree sought the Board's direction and approval to proceed with the recommended parameters as presented and discussed. The following action was taken.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sewell, giving Dr. Alfree the authority to proceed with a specific recommendation relating to a negotiation parameter option for bargaining units. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 8-0. Mrs. Alvarez abstained from voting. Mr. McVicker was absent.

Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Mueller motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Paige, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Aaron Poynton called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

In-person attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mr. James McVicker, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Lauren Paige, and Dr. Aaron Poynton

Virtual attendance: Mark Korn Esq. and Ms. Carol Bruce

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 10-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Paige led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item A. Presentation of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2025

Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Ms. Amanda Henck, Director of Finance, and Mr. William Early, CPA, Principal at CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), presented the annual comprehensive financial statement audit for the year ended June 30, 2025. The presented report contained audited financial statements, schedules, exhibits, and footnotes, as well as opinions of the Independent Public Accountants of CLA. Copies of the report are available to the community on HCPS.org.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

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 two and a half minutes (2.5) minutes to speak and speakers representing a group would have four (4) 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-one (21) people registered and provided in-person public comment: William Martino, Tarsilla Thompson, Neil Thompson, Eric

Thompson, Samuel Badders, David Bauer, Anne Hartig, James Ramsey, Ellen Buesgen, Lucy Buxton, Charlene Haupt, Lorette Vetusi, Dave Faby, Rita Scharmann, Suzie Scott representing the group “Moms for Liberty – Harford County”, Ronnie Davis, Cindy Poper, Aravinda Pillalamarri, Jeannine Cannito, and Cristina Lanocha. 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 B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report: October 2025
2. Contract Award: North Harford High School Comprehensive Roof Replacement Project
3. Contract Award: Athletic, Physical Education Supplies, and Team Uniforms
4. Contract Award: On-Call Hazardous Materials Removal and Services
5. Contract Award: Open-End Water and Sewer Construction
6. Contract Award: Moving Services
7. Prior Board Meeting Minutes: August 18, 2025, September 8, 2025, and September 22, 2025

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Paige. 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 C. Presentation of Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2025

The Board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending September 30, 2025, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services. Ms. Judd gave a narrative analysis of the presented financial reports. She provided details on the object level for each category, the object level for the Unrestricted Fund as a whole, and the allocated account balances for each office and school. Reports also provide detail for the Food Service Fund and Capital Projects Fund. All budget accounts are within reason at this time and do not require any actions. Projections are not calculated after the first quarter as the first quarter review typically focuses on outliers and comparing to recent years for line items and categories. Revenues and expenditures are in line for a typical first quarter analysis.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item D. Presentation of Proposed New Board Policy: Use of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies

Superintendent Sean Bulson introduced the discussion, and the Board received a presentation from Dr. Martha Barwick, Supervisor of Innovation in Learning, and Mr. Andrew Renzulli, Director for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, on the proposed new Board policy titled “Use of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies”. Dr. Barwick 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 “Use of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies” will be sought at a subsequent Board meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Presentation of FY 2027 Local CIP Priorities

Ms. Cathy Bendis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Mr. Chris Morton, Supervisor of Planning and Construction, and Ms. Missy Valentino, Facilities Planner presented the Board with the locally funded project requests and the prioritization of those needs. The local-only projects include safety and security upgrades, technology refresh cycles, and initiatives addressing the district's most critical compliance, facilities, and educational priorities. On December 15, 2025, the Board of Education will be asked to take action on the FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program (local-only) funding request for submission to the local government. The Board discussed separating the safety and security priority items from the full priority list and took the following action.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. Sewell made a motion to reach out to the County Executive to request the safety and security priority items list be funded now, as discussed and presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce. The motion was approved in a roll-call vote of 7-3. (Includes 1 preferential only affirmative student member vote). Mr. Korn, Mrs. Hahn, and Dr. Poynton abstained from voting.

Item F. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's report was provided.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:08 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, NOVEMBER 17, 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: 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 6:00 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 – 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, November 17, 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, November 17, 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, November 17, 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.