

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

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, February 9, 2026. Acting President Paige called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mark Korn Esq., who was absent.

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

Motion, Second and Vote

Mrs. Hahn 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. Alvarez and approved in a voice vote of 9-0. Mark Korn Esq. was absent.

Attendance of the Student Member of the Board in Closed Session - Motion, Second and Vote

Dr. Mueller made a motion to invite Mr. McVicker to attend closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sewell and approved in a roll call vote of 6-2 (student member cast a preferential only, affirmative vote). Casting the negative votes: Mrs. Hahn and Mrs. Alvarez. Mark Korn Esq. was 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 Ms. Bruce, seconded by Mr. Sewell and approved in a voice vote 9-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in a hybrid fashion. Mark Korn Esq. was absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mark Korn Esq. who was absent.

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

Staff Present:

Dr. Dyann Mack, Acting Superintendent
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
Katie Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Gregory A. Szoka, Esquire, Board Counsel
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Dyann Mack, Mr. Ben Richardson, Dr. Mae Alfree, Ms. Deborah Judd, Mr. Eric Clark, Ms. Katie Ridgway, Gregory Szoka, Esq., 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, Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, and Mr. Eric Clark, Director of Budget, to answer the Board's questions. The Board directed Dr. Alfree to proceed with the recommendations presented as discussed.

Note: Dr. Mack, Mr. Richardson, Dr. Alfree, Ms. Judd, Mr. Clark, and Ms. Ridgway, and Mrs. Rallo, were excused from the following discussion.

Topic: To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice

Reason for Closed Session: To discuss with legal counsel sensitive personnel matters and preserve the privacy and confidentiality of discussion related thereto.

Acting President Paige introduced the discussion to the Board and sought Board counsel input for discussion.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Adjournment

With no further business, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

Acting President Lauren Paige called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Mark Korn Esq., who was absent.

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

Election of Board President, Board of Education of Harford County

Acting President Lauren Paige opened the floor for nominations for the Presidency of the Board of Education of Harford County.

The following Board President Nomination Motion and Second was made:

Mr. Wade Sewell nominated Ms. Lauren Paige for the office of Board President, with a second from Mr. James McVicker. Ms. Paige accepted the nomination.

No other nominations were made for the presidency of the Harford County Board of Education. Ms. Paige closed nominations and Ms. Bruce called for a vote on Ms. Paige's nomination for Board President.

Vote:

The appointment of Ms. Lauren Paige as President of the Board of Education of Harford County was approved with nine (9) affirmative voice votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mr. James McVicker, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Ms. Liliana Norkaitis, and Ms. Lauren Paige. Mark Korn Esq. was absent.

Election of Board Vice-President, Board of Education of Harford County

President Lauren Paige opened the floor for nominations for the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Education of Harford County.

The following Board Vice-President Nomination Motion and Second was made:

Mr. James McVicker nominated Mr. Wade Sewell for the office of Board Vice-President, with a second from Dr. Carol Mueller. Mr. Sewell accepted the nomination.

No other nominations were made for the vice-presidency of the Harford County Board of Education. Ms. Paige closed nominations and called for a vote on Mr. Sewell's nomination for Board Vice-President.

Vote:

The appointment of Mr. Wade Sewell as Vice-President of the Board of Education of Harford County was approved with six (6) affirmative roll call votes. Casting the affirmative votes: Mrs. Denise Perry, Mr. Wade Sewell, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mr. James McVicker, Ms. Carol Bruce and Ms. Lauren Paige. Casting the negative votes: Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Mrs. Diane Alvarez, and Ms. Liliana Norkaitis. Mark Korn Esq. was absent.

Adoption of Agenda

President Paige 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. Norkaitis and adopted in a voice vote of 9-0. Mark Korn Esq. was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. McVicker 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 Paige 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 nine (9) people registered and provided in-person public comment: David Bauer, William Martino representing the group "Moms for Liberty-Harford County", Cristina Lanocha, Gary Johnson, Tony Giangliordano, Jackie Johnson, Jeannine Cannito, David Faby, and Thomas Piddington representing the group "Black Robed Regiment".

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Old Business

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

Item A. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Personnel Report: December 2025
2. Contract Award: Furniture and Equipment
3. Contract Award: Electricity Supply Service
4. Contract Award: Commodity Processing of USDA Foods
5. Contract Award: Kitchen and Service Line Equipment, Smallware, Parts and Design and/or Installation
6. Contract Award: Off-the-Lot Fleet Purchases
7. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: December 15, 2025 and January 12, 2026

Motion, Second and Vote – Mrs. Alvarez requested that consent agenda item number two (2): Contract Award: Furniture and Equipment, be removed for discussion. Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve consent agenda items: one (1), three (3), four (4), five (5), six (6), and seven (7). The motion was seconded by Mr. McVicker. The consent

agenda was approved with all items, except: “2. Contract Award: Furniture and Equipment” in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mark Korn Esq. was absent.

Consent Agenda Item Number 2. Contract Award: Furniture and Equipment

President Paige opened for Board discussion contract award for “Furniture and Equipment”. After Board discussion and questions, the following action took place.

Motion, Second and Vote – Mr. McVicker made a motion to approve consent agenda item number 2, for contract award: “Furniture and Equipment”. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sewell. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 7-1 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Mrs. Alvarez cast a negative vote. Mrs. Hahn abstained from voting. Mark Korn Esq. was absent.

Meeting Break

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

New Business

Item B. Decision of Sean W. Bulson, Ed. D., Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools, Contract Renewal

President Paige presented the contract renewal of Dr. Bulson as Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools for Board decision, and the following action took place.

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Lauren Paige made a motion that the Board of Education not renew the Superintendent’s contract upon its expiration of 30th of June, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Liliana Norkaitis and approved in a voice vote of 9-0 (Includes 1 preferential only, affirmative student member vote). Mark Korn Esq. was absent.

Item C. Decision of Sean W. Bulson, Ed. D., Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools, Current Contract

President Paige shared that the Board held a closed session with Board Counsel the week prior and the Board of Education acting under its authority pursuant to Section 10B of the Superintendent’s employment contract, took action and entered into a separation agreement with Dr. Sean Bulson effective for February 2026. The motion passed by a roll-call vote of 6-3. President Paige gave Board Members the opportunity to provide comments on the reason for their vote.

Item D. Acting Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Dyann Mack provided the Acting Superintendent’s report.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Dyann R. Mack, Ed. D.
Acting Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer

Lauren Paige
President, Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

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, February 9, 2026, 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, February 9, 2026. 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, February 9, 2026.
- **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.