

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

The information included here provides a summary of the agenda items presented during the above work session 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, April 20, 2026. President Lauren Paige called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Denise Perry, who was absent.

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

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. Bruce and approved in a voice vote of 8-0. Mrs. Denise Perry was absent.

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

Mr. Sewell made a motion to invite Mr. McVicker to attend closed session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a roll call vote of 5-3 (student member cast a preferential affirmative vote). Casting the negative votes: Ms. Norkaitis, Mrs. Hahn, and Mrs. Alvarez. Mrs. Perry was absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Ms. Bruce, seconded by Dr. Mueller and approved in a voice vote 8-0 (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote), the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session in hybrid fashion. Mrs. Denise Perry was absent.

Closed Session

All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Denise Perry, who was absent.

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

Staff Present:

Gregory A. Szoka, Esq., Board Counsel
Dr. Kelly Griffith, Lead Consultant, MABE Superintendent Search Committee
Dr. Lynne Duncan, MABE Superintendent Search Committee
Dr. Edward Shirley, MABE Superintendent Search Committee
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Mr. Gregory Szoka, Dr. Kelly Griffith, Dr. Lynne Duncan, Dr. Edward Shirley, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo.

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

Topic: Discussion with legal counsel on a sensitive matter.

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

The Board consulted with their counsel and obtained legal advice.

Adjournment

With no further business, and with Board consensus, the closed session adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Work Session

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Paige called the session to order at 6:03 PM.

Board Members Present

Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Denise Perry, who was absent. In-person attendance: Ms. Liliana Norkaitis, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mr. James McVicker, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Diane Alvarez, Mr. Wade Sewell, and Ms. Lauren Paige.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-President Sewell led the Pledge of Allegiance

Item A. 2025 North Harford Envirothon Team "Nonpoint Ninjas" Presentation: "Pollution Busters"

Mr. Howard Eakes, Assistant Supervisor of Science, Ms. Laura O'Leary, North Harford High School Science Teacher, and Envirothon Coach introduced the Harford County Envirothon presentation to the Board. The winning 2025 North Harford High School Team "Nonpoint Ninjas" included the following students: Auna Walker, Bailey Carvale-Cochran, Emma Konopacki, Nina Field, Lucas Gerhing, and Max Diegel. They discussed their team's topic: "Pollution Busters." The team highlighted the threats to the Swan Creek Watershed.

Item B. Presentation from Joppatowne High School JROTC

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Ronald C. Lenker, U.S. Army, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Joel Santana, Cadet Allyson Gardner, and Cadet Connor Klass, gave the Board a summary of the JROTC program at Joppatowne High School. The cadets highlighted their individual experiences of participating in the program and highlighted the support, benefit, and the skills that they learn from being in JROTC.

Item C. Calendar/Virtual Instruction for Inclement Weather

Ms. Katie Ridgway, Chief of Staff, introduced for Board discussion updated guidance from the State Board of Education and asked the Board to discuss whether to implement a virtual instruction plan for inclement weather and revise the FY27 school calendar. She provided background materials, including the previous year's proposed virtual instruction plan, and explained that a decision on the calendar is needed if virtual instruction is pursued. Ms. Ridgway also emphasized the importance of communicating any calendar changes to families promptly and outlined potential options for the Board's consideration.

Item D. Budget Planning Current and Future Discussion

Ms. Lauren Paige, Board President introduced a Board discussion on the FY2027 budget priorities. Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services requested Board input on programs and services to prioritize protection, as well as guidance on strategies for addressing potential budget reductions. Discussion focused on non-negotiated budget priorities and potential cost saving measures.

Adjournment

With no further discussions and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Dyann R. Mack, Ed. D.

Interim Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer

Lauren Paige

President, Board of Education of Harford County



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

OPEN SESSION: 5:00 PM – 5:05 PM

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid fashion in advance of the 6:00 PM work session.
*The only item the Board will consider during this open meeting is consideration of meeting in a closed session.

CLOSED SESSION: 5:05 PM – 5:45 PM



BOARD WORK SESSION: 6:00 PM – ADJOURNMENT

This work session will be conducted in a hybrid fashion and *will not* include public comments, Board member comments, a consent agenda, or decision items.
Public attendance will be permitted as explained below:

DOORS WILL OPEN AND THE SESSION WILL BEGIN AT 6:00 PM

The Board of Education of Harford County will hold a hybrid Work Session on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Board Room of the A.A. Roberty Building, with Board Members and staff in attendance, both in-person and virtually. Public attendance seats will be available on a first come-first served basis and is only for observing the Work Session.

There is no time allotted for public participation or comments during the Work Session.

The meeting will be streamed live and archived for later viewing on the HCPS [Website](#).

****The next full Board meeting is set for Monday, May 4, 2026.***