

PUBLIC
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
MINUTES OF MONDAY, MAY 18, 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, May 18, 2026. Vice President Wade Sewell called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Lauren Paige, who was absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry

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 Ms. Bruce. The motion failed in a roll call vote of 4-4 (student member cast a preferential affirmative vote). Casting the negative votes: Ms. Norkaitis, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Hahn, and Mrs. Alvarez. Ms. Paige was absent.

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. Norkaitis and approved in a voice vote of 8-0. Ms. Paige and Mr. McVicker were absent.

Pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon a motion by Mrs. Hahn, seconded by Mrs. Alvarez and approved in a voice vote 8-0, the Board of Education of Harford County met in closed session. Ms. Paige and Mr. McVicker were absent.

Closed Session

Board Members Present

All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Lauren Paige and Mr. James McVicker, who were absent.

In-person attendance: Ms. Liliana Norkaitis, Dr. Carol Mueller, Mrs. BangTam Miller, Mrs. Melissa Hahn, Ms. Carol Bruce, Mrs. Diane Alvarez, and Mr. Wade Sewell.

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry

Staff Present:

Dr. Dyann Mack, Interim Superintendent
Bernard Hennigan, Acting Deputy Superintendent for Academics/Assistant Superintendent Student Support Services
Katie Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Heather Kutcher, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Andrew Renzulli, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Yvonne Rallo, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

In-person attendance: Dr. Dyann Mack, Mr. Bernard Hennigan, Ms. Katie Ridgway, Mr. Ben Richardson, Ms. Heather Kutcher, Mr. Andrew Renzulli, and Mrs. Yvonne Rallo.

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

Topic: Presentation of background/qualifications of candidates nominated by the Interim Superintendent for the positions of Assistant Supervisor of Science, Supervisor of Reading, English, and Language Arts, and Supervisor of Accountability.

Reason for Closed Session: To preserve the privacy and confidentiality of information regarding the nominees.

Mr. Ben Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, led a discussion and presentation regarding the proposed candidates for the Assistant Supervisor of Science, Supervisor of Reading, English, and Language Arts, and Supervisor of Accountability positions.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice President Wade Sewell called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Roll call was taken. All Board members were present with the exception of Ms. Lauren Paige, who was absent.

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

Virtual attendance: Mrs. Denise Perry

Adoption of Agenda

Vice President Sewell called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. McVicker and adopted in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 affirmative student member vote). Ms. Paige was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Carol Bruce, Board Member, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item A. Presentation from Edgewood Elementary School Students: Mentorship Programs

Rev. Marlon Tilghman, Mr. Ricco Pena, and Ms. Elona Francisco, Edgewood Elementary School's Mentorship Program Leaders introduced the students from Edgewood Elementary School who are participating in mentorship programs. The two mentorship programs that were presented to the Board were: "Civics & Chess Masters Program" and "G.E.M.S. of Edgewood". The presentations highlighted program activities, purpose and goals of each program, and discussed the benefits participants have experienced.

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. Vice President Sewell 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: William Martino representing the group "Moms for Liberty of Harford County", Karyssa Nevins, Gary Johnson, David Bauer, Cindy Poper, Iris Bauer, Cristina Lanocha, Dominic Heath, and Cathy Kowalewski.

There were no registered virtual speakers.

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were provided.

Interim Superintendent's Report

Dr. Dyann Mack provided the Interim Superintendent's report.

Old Business

Vice President Sewell announced no "Old Business" was scheduled for discussion.

Item B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Monthly Report on Certificated Personnel: March/April 2026
2. Contract Award: Outside Legal Counsel
3. Contract Award: Public Address Systems
4. Contract Award: Technology Equipment, Software, and Services
5. Contract Award: Fire Alarm, Sprinkler, and Life Safety Systems Inspections and On-Call Services
6. Contract Award: Construction Management Services for the New Combination Harford Academy and Elementary School
7. Contract Award: Jarrettsville Elementary School Pre-K Expansion, Hickory Elementary School Strive Suite, and Roye-Williams Elementary School Sensory Room
8. Contract Award: Southampton Middle School Security Vestibule
9. Contract Award: New Combination Harford Academy and Elementary School Modified 02A Site Package
10. Contract Award: Cogent Communications, Inc. - Internet Circuits
11. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings: February 25, February 27, March 9, and March 23, 2026

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruce. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Paige was absent.

New Business

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.

Assistant Supervisor of Science

Jennifer A. Knoll

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miller, to approve Ms. Jennifer A. Knoll, for the position of Assistant Supervisor of Science. The motion was approved in a roll call vote of 8-1. The negative vote was cast by: Mrs. Alvarez. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Paige was absent.

Supervisor of Reading, English, and Language Arts

Gideon L. Twigg

Motion, Second and Vote – Ms. Bruce made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mueller, to approve Mr. Gideon L. Twigg, for the position of Supervisor of Reading, English, and Language Arts. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Paige was absent.

Supervisor of Accountability

James A. Wachter

Motion, Second and Vote – Dr. Mueller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miller, to approve Mr. James A. Wachter, for the position of Supervisor of Accountability. The motion was approved in a voice vote of 9-0. (Includes 1 preferential affirmative student member vote). Ms. Paige was absent.

Item D. Presentation of Recommendation on Proposed New Board Policy: Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement

Mr. James McVicker III, Student Member of the Board presented information on the proposed new Board policy entitled “Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement”. Mr. McVicker requested that the Board consider the proposed policy for possible approval at a future Board meeting. The proposed policy will establish a financial literacy graduation requirement for all students pursuing a Maryland high school diploma from Harford County Public Schools, effective beginning with students entering grade nine (9) in the 2028-2029 school year. Board discussion took place. 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 recommended new proposed Board policy will be sought at a subsequent Board Meeting.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

Item E. Presentation of Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending March 31, 2026

The Board received a presentation on the quarterly financial report for the period ending March 31, 2026, from Ms. Deborah Judd, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services. The report included detailed analysis of revenues, expenditures, and projections to year-end. The highlights shared by Ms. Judd were as follows:

- Revenues – Total revenue received to-date is 77.0% of budget.
- Expenditures – Total expenditures are 73.3% of the appropriation.
- Projected surplus for FY2026 is \$7.4 million
 - Projected unassigned fund balance for FY2026 is \$19.9 million, which takes into account the preliminary proposed use of \$10 million for the FY2027 budget.

Adjournment

With no further business and with Board consensus the meeting adjourned at 8:13 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
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PARTICIPATION
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

Attachment

OPEN SESSION: 5:30 PM – 5:35 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: 5:35 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, May 18, 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, May 18, 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, May 18, 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.