



Board Meeting

April 17, 2000

Karen L. Wolf, *President*
David H. Galbreath, *Vice President*
Eugene C. Chandler
Thomas D. Hess
Robert S. Magee
Robert B. Thomas, Jr.
Terry R. Troy
Catherine L. Brodo,
Student Representative
Jacqueline C. Haas, *Superintendent*
Secretary/Treasurer

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Education of Harford County President Karen L. Wolf called the open session of the Board to order at 7:05 p.m., April 17, 2000, in the theater of Fallston High School. Mrs. Wolf directed that a roll call be taken with all members being present. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Wolf thanked Laura Ruth, director of the Fallston High School string ensemble, for the group's performance leading up to the meeting and asked that the ensemble perform one additional number. Board Members Eugene C. Chandler and Terry R. Troy, respectively, moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted as printed and the Board unanimously supported the motion. Mrs. Troy led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Mrs. Ruth and the Fallston High String Ensemble performed the National Anthem. Mrs. Ruth was presented a Board certificate by Mrs. Wolf and Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas in recognition of the FHS String Ensemble's presentation. The group's performance was part of a continuing series of school musical groups which have performed at the Board's second monthly business meetings this school year.

RECOGNITION

CHRISTINA A. HUTTON MRDD, CEC TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Christina A. Hutton, North Harford High School Special Education Department Chairperson, was honored by the Board in recognition of Ms. Hutton having been named the Maryland Division on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD), Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 2000 Teacher of the Year. The award, given in each state, recognizes those teachers of special needs children who have had an extraordinary impact on their students. Ms. Hutton, Special Education Department Chair at North Harford High School, is a 22-year teacher in the Harford County Public School System. She and other state MRDD/CEC Teachers of the Year were honored in Vancouver, British Columbia, April 6. Dr. Janet Ambrose, Director of Special Education for the Harford County Public Schools, accepted the Board's certificate from Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Haas on behalf of Ms. Hutton, who could not be present for the meeting.

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA STATE CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS-UP

Each year, most Harford County public high schools take part in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Regional and State conference and competition. Individuals, partners, and groups from local high schools participate in the events which are preliminaries for the National FBLA Conference and competition. This year, the Region V tournament (Harford and Cecil counties) was held at C. Milton Wright High School on February 15. There are eight regions in Maryland. First and second place winners at the regionals were invited to take part in the State event which was held in Hagerstown on March 30, 31, and April 1. Seventy-five of the state's 93 FBLA chapters were represented at the state convention. Those individuals, partners, or groups which finished first or second at the state tournament are eligible to take part in the National Convention, to be held this year in Long Beach, California, July 8 through 11. Seven Harford County Public School students (including one in two categories) qualified to attend the National FBLA Convention and take part in competition at that level. From Bel Air High School, senior Abhi Nellore (first place Justin W. Boss (first in Desktop Publishing); and junior Bryan J. Michalak (second in Business Plan) qualified for the National Tournament. From C. Milton Wright High School, sophomore Christina A. Bortey (first in FBLA Principles and Procedures); and Ms. Bortey along with sophomore John A. Mogavero (first in Business Plan) qualified for the National tournament. From Fallston High School, freshman Steve Comaty (second in Computer Concepts); and Kim Schubert, senior from North Harford High School (second in Community Service) qualified for the National tournament. Each of the students, along with their teachers, were honored by the Board, the students receiving Board certificates honoring their achievements.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION STATE CHAMPIONS

Each year, teams from Harford County Public Schools elementary through high school form under the guidance of faculty or other adult sponsors to take part in a creative problem-solving exercise which has been known until this year as Odyssey of the Mind. The sponsoring organization has been changed to DestiNation Imagination (DI), but, other than some minor format changes, the same Regional, State, and National competition process is in place. Student groups are presented with

a problem which they must solve by creating props and devising skits to solve the problem in ways. Team members (up to seven) present a prepared answer to the problem and then must respond to spontaneous prompts. Harford County teams take part in the North Central Region DI tournament, held this year at Bel Air High School on March 11. Teams compete in three divisions - elementary, intermediate, and secondary. Those teams which finished first, second, or third were invited to take part in the State DI Tournament which was held on campus at the University of Maryland/Baltimore County (UMBC) on April 8. Only those teams which finished first in their problem at their division qualified to go to the DI International Tournament, to be held this year at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, May 24 through 27, 2000. A total of 28 Harford County teams qualified to take part in the State DI tournament. Three of those teams - William S. James Elementary School (Eggsploration" _Division I), Bel Air Middle School (Mixing Apples and Oranges" _Division II), and the Learning Community (Mixing Apples and Oranges" _Division III) finished in first place in their division's problem area, earning the right to compete at the International event. Members and managers of the William S. James team receiving Board certificates were: Marcia Cole, third grade teacher, and Pam Carr (parent); along with team members: Stephen Albert, Will Melones, Karissa Fridley, Kaitlyn Carr, Becky Kauten, Jessica Early, and Angela Torbert. Members of the Bel Air Middle School team included Managers Linda Althouse and Brenda Berry; and students: Lauren Althouse, Chad Althouse, Cancha Igari, Archana Varma, Stacy Mikanowicz, Andrew Berry, and Adam Berry. Members and managers of the Learning Community team (composed of students from Fallston Middle and Fallston High schools) are: Sandy Gorrell and Debbie Goldman, managers; and students: Sarah Espinoza-Sokal, Alyssa Checkai, Megan Purkey, Rachael Purkey, Sophia Goldman, and Kristen Gunther.

BRIAN K. ELLSWORTH - SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

In each of the past 12 years, the Harford County Public School System has sponsored the Harford County Spelling Bee. The bee, which starts at the school level in the middle schools, culminates in the National Scripps-Howard Spelling Bee championship, held in Washington, D.C. over the Memorial Day weekend and bringing together local bee champions from all over the U.S. and many other countries. Harford County's Spelling Bee, under the direction of the English/Language Arts Department, is sponsored by Homestead Publishing Company and Comcast Cablevision. Several non-public schools as well as a home-school organization take part in the local competition. The 2000 Harford County Preliminary Spelling Bee was held at Magnolia Middle School on March 15, bringing together the top 60 spellers from local schools. At that event, the semi-finalists were trimmed to 30 finalists who qualified to take part in the County Bee held at Harford Community College on March 28. There Magnolia Middle School 12-year-old, eighth grader Brian K. Ellsworth emerged as the County Champion, and will travel with his parents to Washington, D.C. May 28 through June 2, 2000 for the National Bee. Hillary Svoboda of St. Margaret School, and Justin Park of Edgewood Middle School, finished second and third respectively. Brian received a Board certificate for his

achievement.

RACHEL SEPULVEDA - MICCA SECOND PLACE WINNER

Each year, the Maryland Institute of Computer Coordinators Association (MICCA) conducts a competition for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade statewide. MICCA holds competition in several categories with the winners receiving recognition for themselves and their school. This year, the MICCA competition, held at the Baltimore Convention Center on March 28, resulted in only one Harford County student being recognized as a winner. Rachel Sepulveda, a third grader at Roye-Williams Elementary School near Aberdeen, was awarded second place in the statewide Computer-Generated Writing category of the tournament. She won her prize in the grades three to five category and received a certificate as well as a carry-all bag, and a \$100 software certificate for her school during the MICCA convention. Her work and other winning entries were on display on bulletin boards located in the Sharp Street (Baltimore) lobby of the Convention Center. She received a Board certificate in honor of her accomplishment.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

By unanimous vote, the Board approved proposed resolutions on: Pupil Personnel Worker Week - April 30-May 6, 2000; School Psychology Week - May 1-7, 2000; Home & Hospital Teachers Appreciation Day - May 2, 2000; Teacher Appreciation Week - May 7-13, 2000; Salute to School Food/Nutrition Service Personnel - May 10, 2000; National Physical Fitness and Sports Month - May 2000; and the 2000 Merit Scholastic Awards, which honor the top five percent of the graduating classes at each of the nine public high schools in the county. The Board directed that appropriate activities be conducted in the schools to commemorate each of the resolutions. Student-scholars recognized were: Aberdeen High - Rebecca Ben, Muriel Maren Minnie Dow, Morya Lynn Erickson, Lamar Brandon Frasier, Ian Christopher Hall, Rebecca Elisabeth Hranj, Lacey Diana Johnson, Jane Lee Marsilio, Jennifer Lee Rosinski, Kathleen Anne Swam, Jennifer Marie Van Dyk, Benjamin Napenas Viray, Sarah Jane Weeks, Melissa Renee Welsh, and Sarah Katherine Willard. From Bel Air High School - Justin William Boss, Kate Erin Duffy, Shelby Elizabeth Ford, Katrina Marie Groth, Savesh Kumar Gupta, Megan Elizabeth Hogan, Benjamin Franklin Johnson, Matthew Mark Kapelanczyk, Jacqueline Regina LaFleur, Kent Chunkin Mai, Rebecca Ann Miller, Melissa Ann Moore, James Michael Pineno, Jessie Elizabeth Cole Reeder-Blom, April Gail Roberts, Kelly Marie Spivey, Michelle Lynn Szrom, and Sarah Elisabeth Voskuhl. From C. Milton Wright High School - Daniel Anthony Allen, Adam Peter Baker, Scott Robert Bindel, Lauren Elizabeth Cramer, Matthew David Hafner, Page Elizabeth Heath, Lauren Brianna Mize, Scott Andrew Pojunas, Lauren Kathryn Popiolek, Heidi Kerstin Roy, Samir Sahu, Kristin Michelle Schaub, Erin Elizabeth Shockley, Jessica Ross Smith, Gregory William Stiffler,

Thomas William Swindell, Carrie Cecilia, and Robert Michael Zaborowski. From Edgewood High School - Erin Lynn Bates, Kimberly Anne Broderick, Lauren Joy Chmura, Kerri Ann Davis, Bethany Mary Duke, Kathryn Elizabeth Ekey, Rebecca Lynn Flottesch, Melanie Irene Johnson, Krista Marie McDevitt, Amber Grace Stansbury, Courtney Siobhan White, and Cassandra Rosa Wilson. From Fallston High School - Mary Elaina Amasia, Sarah Mills Baker, Heather Lee Bishop, Kimberly Adoree Caughey, Matthew Charles Ennis, Peter Michael Erickson, Noel Leigh Gorman, Erin Michele Hirsch, Courtlin Lombard Holt, Bradley Elton Howell, Steven James Kuligowski, Claire Elizabeth Runge, Jennifer Mary Scarff, Sarah Ann Schnitker, Jennifer Lee Selin, Lynn Michelle Silagyi, Peter Lawrence Smith, Beth Ashley Staple, and Lindsey Rebecca Wurster. From Harford Technical High School - Timothy Scott Boniface, Joseph Wilson Doran, Jennifer Lynn Erdman, Sarah Elizabeth Gray, Luis Antonio DeGuzman, Karen Lynn Hall, Laura Marie Kramer, Katherine Marie Maddox, Tiffany Marie Morgan, and Jonathan Russell Yurek. From Havre de Grace High School - Courtney Melissa Bauer, Justin Lee Fabriziani, Jessica Renee Hager, Angela Marie Hill, Timothy Warren Hoy, Andleeb Khan, Mary Elizabeth Stephens, and Shanna Sophia Stolarz. From Joppatowne High School - Allison Nicole Bender, Aimee Lin Bortner, Claire G. Eisner, Tabitha Marie Fraczkowski, Arthur Brian Kretschmar, Chelsea Mantin Lucero, Nickolas Benjamin Pippen, Mark John Tanious, Ronny E. Wahba, and Kyna Doreen Waters. From North Harford High School - Daniel Robert Cvach, Christopher Mark Dziabo, Rebecca Anne Fox, Elizabeth Maria Griffiths, Joshua Bradley Grinath, Jeremiah Lee Horan, Suzanne Lauren Karczeski, Lauren Ann Kopajtic, Rachel Amy Lilley, Erin Lindsay Mohr, Cynthia Louise Molen, Julie Ann Ogrysko, Sara Ann Thomas, and Eliza Blackford Hill Wick.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2001-2002

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and the second of Board Member Robert B. Thomas, Jr., the Board unanimously approved the school calendar for the 2001-2002 school year with one change in the proposal. The change was to eliminate Monday, February 18, 2002 (President's Day) as a possible inclement weather makeup day in keeping with the law passed by the Maryland General Assembly in the recently concluded session, mandating that President's Day be a school holiday. The calendar, which had been brought before the Board at its March 13, 2000 meeting, was proposed by a committee of community and school representatives as directed by the Board. The calendar, which will have school beginning for students the day after Labor Day, Tuesday, September 4, 2001, and conclude for students (with four inclement weather days built into the schedule) on Thursday, June 13, 2002. The calendar calls for schools to be closed for students and teachers on the Jewish holy days of Rosh Hashanah (Tuesday, September 18) and Yom Kippur (Thursday, September 27, 2001), as well as for the MSTA Day, Friday, October 26, 2001. Schools would be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, one-half day on Wednesday, November 21 and the full days of Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, 2001. The mid-year holiday would begin on Monday, December 24, 2001 and conclude on Tuesday, January 1, 2002, with students and staff returning on Wednesday, January 2, 2002. Schools and offices would be closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday,

January 21, 2002, as well as on Monday, February 18, 2002 for President's Day. Spring break is slated for Thursday and Friday, March 28 and 29, and Monday, April 1, 2002. Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2002 in observance of Memorial Day. In addition, the calendar calls for the 5-1-4 model for staff development days with teachers scheduled for five inservice days prior to the start of the student school year, one during the school year (elementary school conference day, November 5, 2001) and four following the conclusion of the student school year. In 1993, the Board directed that the school system develop and have the Board pass a two-year calendar to afford the public ample opportunity to plan. The 2000-2001 calendar was passed by the Board last year.

APPROVAL OF POLICY/PROCEDURES FOR TRANSFER OF SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTS

By unanimous vote, the Board approved the extension of school bus contractors' responsibilities as independent vendors to include those contractors' ability to transfer/sell their business. The Board vote authorizes the change of Board Policy to allow the transfer of existing contracts by school bus contractors and directs that the applicable Board Policy (General Administration 02.09.039) be changed to reflect the new procedures.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

DISCUSSION ON ENERGY DEREGULATION

Assistant Superintendent for Operations Joseph P. Licata reported to the Board that the deregulation of the electrical supply industry may have profound effect on the school system, including a possible bill for \$1.3 million to pay for stranded costs incurred by current supplier Baltimore Gas & Electric Company. Acting on the motion of Board Vice President David H. Galbreath and the seconds of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and Terry R. Troy, the Board directed that the school system pursue joining a consortium of County agencies in an attempt to obtain a better deal in absorbing the stranded costs and other fallout involving electric deregulation.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE BUDGET REDUCTIONS FOR FY 2001 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

Continuing a discussion which began on April 8 at Southampton Middle School, extended to April 11 at Fallston High School, and resumed at 6:00 p.m. earlier in the evening of the Board meeting at Fallston High, the Board resumed its process of trimming \$8.4 million from its proposed 2000-2001 general fund operating budget. The action was necessary to bring into balance the Board's proposed \$236 million budget with the \$228 million in revenue which will be available. In a series of actions, the Board transferred \$1.4 million from the school system fund balance to next year's budget and directed \$7 million in cuts to balance the budget. Among the moves taken is the moving of 19.5 Elementary Gifted/Talented teachers back to the classroom (\$594,477 savings), elimination of the proposed addition of 24 classroom teachers to account for impending enrollment increases (\$909,700), a cut of about 20 percent from materials of instruction (\$1,006,816), and the transfer of eight Teacher

Specialist positions to the classroom (\$246,768). In addition, acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, the Board voted to have the Superintendent pursue the one percent State Teacher Challenge Grant as a means of increasing teacher salaries by a total of six percent. (For a complete listing of the cuts, please see the entry on the home page of the Harford County Public School web site.)

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County will be held on Monday, May 8, 2000, in the Fallston High School Theater, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The second business meeting of May will be held at the same location and time on Monday, May 22, 2000.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Board meetings or other matters affecting the Harford County Public Schools, contact the system's Director of Public Information, 410-588-5203; or call the system's Customer Relations Action Line, 410-638-0022 (which can also be used as a 24-hour-a-day tip line for safety concerns).

The Harford County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs.

Inquiries related to the policies of the Board of Education of Harford County should be directed to the Director of Public Information at 410-588-5203.