



Board Meeting

May 22, 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 of Education of May 22, 2000, held in the Fallston High School theater, to order at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Wolf welcomed the Fallston Middle School Instrumental Ensemble, under the direction of **Curtis Hinckley**, and thanked them for their presentation leading up to the Board meeting. Mrs. Wolf directed that a roll call be taken with all Board Members being present. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** moved that the agenda be adopted with several modifications. His motion, which was unanimously adopted by the Board, had Item I – Approval of Collaborative Health Benefit Program and memorandum of Understanding; Item G – Naming of Joppatowne High School Baseball Field; and Item H – Naming of Larry L. Robinson Garden of Remembrance, Senior Gift from Class of 2000, be moved to be considered following the Recognition and Consent Agenda items. Mr. Galbreath led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Fallston Middle School Instrumental Ensemble presented its version of "Maryland, My Maryland."

RECOGNITION

Mrs. Wolf, accompanied by Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas**, presented a Board certificate to Mr. Hinckley and the Fallston Middle School Instrumental Ensemble. Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Haas also presented a Board certificate to

Catherine L. Brodo, the 1999-2000 Student Representative to the Board, recognizing the contributions of the Aberdeen High School graduating senior on behalf of the Harford County Public School students. In addition, Board certificates were presented to each of the nine finalists in the 2000-2001 Harford County Public School Teacher of the Year program. Receiving certificates were: **William Carpenter**, Southampton Middle School Science Teacher; **Sharon Grove**, North Harford Elementary School fourth grade teacher; **Susan Koma**, Forest Lakes Elementary School first grade teacher; **Christine Regner**, Forest Lakes Elementary School fourth grade teacher; **Brenda Patterson**, third grade teacher at North Bend Elementary School; **Lydia Michel**, Youth's Benefit Elementary School kindergarten teacher; **Peter Griffiths**, C. Milton Wright High School History teacher; **Stanley Kukula**, Joppatowne High Technology teacher; and **R. Glen Hedelson**, Bel Air High School Environmental Science teacher. In addition, the 2000-2001 HCPS Teacher of the Year, **Donna Marie Zavacky**, teacher at Ring Factory Elementary School, was honored with a Board certificate as well as an engraved school bell, watch, and plaque, along with signed certificates from local and state government officials.

ACTION ITEMS

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from its May 8 Business Meeting and May 15 Work Session.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

The Board unanimously approved a proposed resolution, honoring Miss Brodo for her year of service as Student Representative to the Board.

APPROVAL OF COLLABORATIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

James Richardson, Harford County Government Director of Human Resources, appeared before the Board to outline a consortium of the County government, Harford Community College, Harford County Public Library System, and the Harford County Public Schools in the purchase of employee health care. Mr. Richardson also introduced a proposed Memorandum of Understanding among the four agencies outlining the procedures for administering the consortium. Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Richardson for his patience as questions concerning the proposal were worked out. Board Vice President **David H. Galbreath** added his thanks and pointed out that the agreement will save money for all the agencies and, ultimately, the taxpayers of Harford County. Mrs. Haas pointed out that the consortium does not mean that the agencies have consolidated their health care programs. Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** reiterated that the four agencies' health programs will remain separate. He said the savings to be realized will amount to about \$1 million for the school system, but that the increase in health costs, even with the consortium, will be between \$3 million and \$3 ½ million.

Mr. Hess moved that the final draft of the Health Care Consortium plan be approved by the Board. Mr. Galbreath and Board Member **Eugene C. Chandler** seconded the motion which was passed 6 to 0 with Board Member **Robert S. Magee** abstaining. Mrs. Wolf said that County Executive **James Harkins** had supported the plan due to its "economy of scale," and said she feels that more can be done in collaboration with the county. She thanked Mr. Richardson for his patience. Mr. Richardson thanked the Board for its understanding during the process. "We've done something unique and good for the people we serve," said Mr. Richardson.

NAMING OF JOPPATOWNE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD

Joppatowne High School Principal **Thomas Ackerman** appeared before the Board to support the naming of the new baseball field at the school "Mariner Park at Kelly Field." At its March 27th meeting, the Board had moved to consider the naming of the field as requested. According to Board policy, the request was to be tabled for a period of 60 days to allow for public comment. Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Galbreath seconded that the subject be untabled. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Thomas moved and the Board unanimously approved the renaming of the field as requested.

NAMING OF LARRY L. ROBINSON GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

The Board of Education, at its March 27th meeting, had agreed to consider naming the North Harford High School Stadium field the Larry L. Robinson Vietnam Veterans Memorial Field. Since that time, a compromise had been worked out between the NHHS Senior Class of 2000, which had made the original proposal, and members of previous North Harford High classes who had opposed the field being named for one person. The compromise called for stones to be placed around the flagpole at the field, one for each of the former North Harford High School students who had perished in the Vietnam conflict. **Wayne Shapiro**, NHHS Social Studies teacher and co-sponsor of the senior class, appeared at the meeting, expressing his support for the compromise and adding that a scholarship will be established by the class in remembrance of the veterans. Mr. Shapiro pointed out that the field has no official name and that the scholarship bears equal weight with the garden of remembrance. He said that several of the NHHS graduates who had spoken against the renaming of the field had spoken to his U.S. History class students. **John Ziegenhorn** of the North Harford High Class of 1968, a Vietnam veteran, said he was "100 percent in support" of the Garden of Remembrance and that he will be at the school on May 31st during the dedication of the Garden. Mrs. Haas reviewed the original March 27th proposal by the students and the compromise which had been communicated to the Board at its May 8th meeting. Mr. Galbreath, with a second from Mr. Thomas, moved the original March 27th motion be taken off the table. The Board unanimously supported the move. Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler said the NHHS Class of 2000 had done a "magnificent job" in "magnanimously" honoring those who had given the ultimate sacrifice to their country. "The students acted a lot better than most adults," Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, a three-

tour veteran of Vietnam, said. Board Member **Robert S. Magee**, a two-tour veteran of Vietnam, said he had empathy with all of the veterans and graduates who had shared memories during the consideration of the students' proposal. He urged that all present remember the veterans who came back from combat and who are currently in veterans hospitals suffering from their experience. The Board voted 7 to 0 to support Mr. Galbreath's motion that the flagpole area at the North Harford High School stadium be named the Larry L. Robinson Garden of Remembrance.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

BUDGET STATUS REPORT

John Markowski, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, presented a report to the Board on the third quarter budget status. Mr. Markowski said that some school funds have been placed in categories where they are not needed. He said that these quarterly reviews would be presented to the Board to allow adjustments to be made as appropriate. Mr. Markowski said that structural problems in the budget have created difficulties with the budget. "This isn't going to happen again," Mr. Markowski pledged. Mr. Thomas said that the Board had made \$5 million in program cuts last year only to find out there was a \$5 million fund balance surplus. He said that Mr. Markowski's figures, showing an estimated \$2.1 million to \$3.8 million surplus, means that some of the items which had been removed from next year's budget can be restored. He said a similar quarterly presentation to the County Council could go a long way to "build bridges" of understanding. Mr. Galbreath said the report that the system has spent less money than it had figured in certain categories "is not a problem," but represents good management. He said if the budget is tightened, there needs to be "contingencies" built into the Transportation and Operation of Plant budgets to account for emergencies such as the fire at Joppatowne High and the well problems which occurred at Jarrettsville and Norrisville elementary schools last year. Mr. Hess said that, when money is left over, it should be considered for the replacement of capital equipment. Mr. Thomas said that the April 17th action of the Board to cut \$594,477 to cut 19.5 Gifted/Talented teachers from the budget be reversed at a cost of \$746,792. Mr. Thomas' motion was seconded by Mr. Galbreath and the Board voted 7 to 0 to support the move. Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Galbreath seconded that the \$77,536 cut which eliminated elementary summer school be reversed. The Board again voted unanimously to support that motion. In both cases, the money would be realized by dedicating a portion of the fund balance to cover the amount restored. Mr. Thomas reminded those present that the school budget is never final until the County Council passes the budget on June 1 and it becomes clear how much money is in the school allotment. Mr. Galbreath reminded the Board that \$250,000 had been cut from operations. Mr. Hess pointed out that any money realized from the projected \$3.7 million fund balance would be "one time only" funds and that

there would be a deficit in that amount in the following year's budget.

2000-2001 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Haas introduced **Dan Purcell**, Fallston High School junior, who has been selected by the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils, as the 2000-2001 Student Representative to the Board of Education. Mr. Purcell said the HCRASC is a "good organization" and the process which led to his selection was an effective one. He thanked the students for their support and said he is looking forward to the opportunity to represent them.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas reported that Bel Air Middle School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School. The message came from State Superintendent **Nancy S. Grasmick** the previous Friday. Bel Air Middle was one of only two in the state and 168 nationwide to be so named. Mrs. Haas said the community was also honored to have had Mrs. Grasmick present for the Bel Air Cancer Society Relay for Life Friday.

Mrs. Haas asked that the Board take action on the proposals made by Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata** in April involving the payment to Baltimore Gas & Electric Company involving the deregulation of the electric industry. She reminded the Board of its options to pay \$1.3 million immediately, pay the amount over several years, or continue paying the current rates with the projected savings to be used to pay for the "stranded costs." The rates would be frozen at the current amounts and the school system would continue procuring its power requirements from BGE over the next four years. Mrs. Haas said, if the payments are not meeting the requirement after six months, she would come back to the Board with a recommendation for an alteration. Mr. Hess said such a move would minimize risk and provide for an opportunity to see what plays out in the market. Mrs. Haas said the option of freezing rates with BGE is the one being recommended by the County government. Mr. Thomas moved that the Board approve the frozen rates plan with BGE for four years. Board Member **Terry R. Troy** seconded the motion which was passed unanimously by the Board.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Vogt of Bel Air spoke to the Board on the topic of class size. She said she has two students, one a sixth grader at Bel Air Middle School, who is in a class of 32; and, the other, a fourth grader who is in a class of 23 at Ring Factory Elementary School. She said, next year, it is estimated that there will be 30 in her daughter's fifth grade class at Ring Factory, and she is concerned about that prospect.

David Glenn, Meadowvale Elementary School PTA President, explained his reasons for writing a letter that was sent to many government and community

leaders concerning the need for portable buildings to be used at the school during its reconstruction. Mr. Glenn recounted his efforts on getting the project in the pipeline and in getting a flashing light at the intersection near the school.

Beth Oleszczuk of Belcamp mentioned rumors which have been circulating about the closing of the pools at the three middle schools – Edgewood, Magnolia, and North Harford. She said that a swim club on which her child participates uses the pools in its year-round program.

REVISED EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey** told the Board that 378 days ago the Board had approved educational specifications for the proposed renovation of Aberdeen High School. At the time, the State Interagency Committee for School Construction had not considered the replacement of the building as the best option. Since that time, the replacement option has been approved by the General Assembly, and the capacity of the school has been trimmed from 1,500 to 1,262. Mr. Ekey said the Educational Specifications Committee began meeting for a second time in February in an effort to alter the original plans, became frustrated with that effort, and decided to start "from the ground up" in devising a new set of plans. The group has recommended the cutting of the copy center, conference area, television station, balcony in the auditorium, and textile lab. He said the State has approved a 180,464 square foot building, but the educational specification calls for a building of 190,700 square feet. Mr. Ekey said the group is recommending an oversized cafeteria, gymnasium, and other core areas. He said the school has seldom built a school to the minimum standards set by the State. **David Volrath**, principal of Aberdeen High School, said the process has been "most difficult." Mr. Thomas asked where the system is with getting the extra 10,000 square feet paid for. Mr. Ekey responded that the County has approved a building larger than the one now proposed. Mr. Hess said Abingdon Elementary School was built to State standards and the result is classrooms too small for practical use. He reminded that the enlarged core facilities will allow for the possible expansion of Aberdeen High to account for a projected magnet program. Mrs. Haas said it is expected that a construction contract will be brought before the Board at its June 12th meeting with groundbreaking for the new building likely to occur near the end of the 2000-2001 school year. **Pat Benedict** appeared to urge that the Board restore the television station to the school.

SUSPENSION OF BOARD BYLAWS

Mr. Thomas moved and received unanimous Board support to suspend the Board's bylaws calling for no new items to be initiated after 10:00 p.m.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Thomas moved that the 25 additional parking spaces at Riverside Elementary School be approved if the final cost of the project does not exceed

the December 20, 1999 approval. Mrs. Troy seconded the motion which was unanimously supported by the Board. Mrs. Haas said the issue of Maintenance of Plant funds would be taken up at the Board's June 12th meeting. Mrs. Wolf said the next two Board meetings would be held on June 12 and 26 at Fallston High School, with the lone Board meeting in July to be held on July 10 at Havre de Grace High School.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Galbreath seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meetings of the Board of Education of Harford County will be held on Monday, June 12 and Monday June 26, at Fallston High School, with both meetings starting at 7:00 p.m. During next school year, Board meetings will be held at Havre de Grace High School (July, August, and September); Edgewood High School (October, November and December); Bel Air Middle School (January, February, and March); and North Harford High School (April, May, and June).

MORE INFORMATION

The school system is attempting to prevent duplications and reduce production/mailing costs of the printed versions of B-Line. Those who are able to access B-Line on line and who would like their copy of the printed version of the document discontinued should e-mail the Director of Public Information: Drmorrison.gs@hcps.k12.md.us; Or call the HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.

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