



## Board Meeting

*June 26, 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 to order the open session of the Board of Education held on June 26, 2000, beginning at 7:10 p.m. Board Vice President **David H. Galbreath** and Student Representative **Catherine L. Brodo** were not present. Mr. Galbreath was on vacation while Ms. Brodo was graduated from Aberdeen High School last month. The agenda was adopted with the deletion of the item on promotions and Board Member **Eugene C. Chandler** led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **RECOGNITION**

The Board conducted a series of recognition ceremonies for students and staff who had earned significant honors recently. First to be recognized was the Envirothon team from Joppatowne High School which had won the Maryland Envirothon championship in a competition against teams from 21 other state sub-divisions held at the 4-H Center in Garrett County from June 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. The team, coached by Environmental Science teacher **Steven Hillyer**, qualified to compete in the National Envirothon to be held at Acadia University in Nova Scotia July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>. Joppatowne has won County Envirothon titles in six of the last eight years; and has taken the State Envirothon title three times, finishing second on two other occasions. The team

has been second and fourth in its two previous trips to the National Envirothon. The Board presented certificates of congratulations to Mr. Hillyer and team members: **Scott DeBruyne, Frank Rogers, Tabitha Fraczkowski, Christina Crawley** and **Tiffany D'Anna**, as well as alternate on the team **Paul Berk**. Ms. Fraczkowski is a graduated senior while all the other team members are rising seniors.

Next, the Board recognized student-athletes who won state or regional MPSSAA championships during the recently completed spring season. The Bel Air High School duo of **Danielle Hess** and **Tim Rohrbaugh** won the Class 3A State mixed doubles championship and were recognized at the Board's June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Meanwhile, **Matt Diggs** of Edgewood High School won the Class 2A boys triple jump; **James Murray** of Joppatowne High School won the Class 2A boys triple jump; and **Shiree Turner** of Joppatowne High School won the Class 2A girls discus. Meanwhile, six Harford Public School students won District 7 tennis titles: **Jason Wright**, Fallston High School boys singles; **Margot Wallace** of Bel Air High School, girls singles; **Katherine Kelly** and **Lauren Wohl** of Bel Air High School, girls doubles; and **Brandyn Fisher** and **Samir Shaw** of C. Milton Wright High School, boys doubles. In addition, in track and field, the following students won region titles: **Cara Wettlaufer** of C. Milton Wright High, girls 800 meter run and 1600 meter run, 4A North; **Kacie Remeto** of C. Milton Wright High, 3200 meter run, 4A North; **Cara Wettlaufer, Erin Shockley, Kacie Remeto**, and **Kristen Schaub** of C. Milton Wright High, girls 4 x 800 meter relay, 4A North; **Jen Arseneau** of C. Milton Wright High, girls pole vault, 4A North; **Kim Broderick**, Edgewood High School, girls 800 meter run, 2A East; and **C. J. Burdon**, Fallston High, boys 300 meter hurdles, 3A North. Also, **Jesse Kluttz**, Fallston high School, boys discus, 3A North; **Jeanette Staltsman**, Fallston High School, girls 100 meter high hurdles, and girls 300 meter hurdles, 3A North; **Meghan Walsh**, Havre de Grace High, pole vault and high jump, 1A North; **Anna Eltgroth**, Havre de Grace High, girls triple jump, 1A North; and **Matt Houtz**, Havre de Grace high, boys 400 meter run, 1A North. Also, **Keshawn Johnson**, Havre de Grace High, boys high jump, 1A North; **Marc McCray, Geoff Higgins, Othell Grimes** and **Keshawn Johnson**, Havre de Grace High, boys 4 x 100 and 4 x 200 relays, 1A North; **Adrian Billups, Bridget Hill, Angie Hill** and **HerDelia Watkins**, Havre de Grace High, girls 4 x 400 relay, 1A North; and **Paul Badders**, North Harford High, boys 1600 and 3200 meter run, 2A East. In addition, the following teams won Regional championships: Fallston High School baseball team, 3A North; and North Harford High School baseball team, 2A East; C. Milton Wright High School, boys lacrosse, 4A-3A North; Bel Air High School tennis, District 7, 3A; and Havre de Grace High School, girls track and field, 1A North.

Also, the Board recognized two fifth graders who were recipients of Carson Scholarships, sponsored by famed Baltimore cardiologist **Dr. Ben Carson** and his wife **Candy Carson**. The \$1,000 grants are given to students in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Washington, D.C. who display an interest in and

aptitude for science, math, and technology. Students must have a 3.75 or better GPA and demonstrate significant community service. Among the more than 200 students who received the awards this year were **Meghan Dibley**, a fifth grader at Youth's Benefit Elementary School; and **Nicole Smolenski**, a fifth grader at Emmorton Elementary School.

In addition, **Mary H. Boni**, a 41-year teacher (22 in Harford County), who retired this year, was honored for having founded the "Patriot Program" in the county schools. Ms. Boni, a fifth grade teacher, came to Harford in 1978 at Hickory Elementary School, initiating the program which requires that students commit to memory and recite ten important documents in American history or U.S. geographical data. Students who successfully complete the requirement are declared "Patriots." Ms. Boni, who moved to Prospect Mill Elementary in 1981, has seen her program instituted at more than 20 Harford Public Schools, several school systems in the state, and at many schools in other parts of the country.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Ann T. Vogt** of Regent Drive in Bel Air, and mother of a Ring Factory Elementary School rising fifth grader, told the Board that she is concerned about the prospects of fifth grade classes at the school having more than 30 students in them compared to the 23 which were in her son's fourth grade class.

**Patricia Logan** of Amesbury Court in Bel Air, mother of a prospective fifth grader at Ring Factory Elementary School, suggested that teacher specialists be redeployed into the classroom to avoid the possibility of more than 30 students being in fifth grade classes at the school. She added that there needs to be a program of substitute teacher training instituted in the school system.

**John and Floy Evans** of Joppatowne told the Board that the newly installed lights on the parking lot at Joppatowne High School were invasive to their home. Mrs. Evans said residents in the 500 block of Joppa Farm Road and Red Haven are impacted by the lights. She said the condition has existed since April 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Acting on the motion of Board Member **Terry R. Troy**, the Board amended the Consent Agenda to consider the approving of guidelines for hiring/rehiring retired teachers and the waiver of the 2000-2001 school calendar to permit five Harford Public schools to adjust their schedules to permit sixth and ninth graders only to begin school on September 5, 2000. Voting 6 to 0, the Board approved the motion of **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler to approve other parts of the Consent Agenda including: minutes of June 2, 2000 (Executive Session) and June 12, 2000 (Business

Meeting); Approval of the Transfer for School Bus Contracts; Change of the October Board of Education meeting from October 9, 2000 to October 16, 2000; Appointment of MABE LSA Director and Assistant Director, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Wolf, respectively; and approval of the 2000 Educational Facilities Master Plan, which had been reviewed by the Board at its June 12, 2000 meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF HIRING/REHIRING OF RETIRED TEACHERS**

The Board voted unanimously to approve guidelines directing the method by which retired teachers could be hired/rehired by the Harford County Public School System. Senate Bill 15 (which took effect on July 1, 1999) provided legislative approval for Maryland school systems to rehire teachers who had retired without impacting those teachers retirement/pension programs. The act is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2004. The legislation is intended to provide the opportunity for schools which are "reconstitution eligible" under the State Department of Education Maryland School Performance Assessment Program or school systems which have a "geographical" shortage of teachers in certain areas. The HCPS Human Resources Office has identified "critical shortage areas" including secondary mathematics, secondary sciences, foreign languages, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), family and consumer science, technology education, secondary English/Language Arts, media specialist, and special education. The guidelines also specify other regulations directing the method of employment, pay, leave, and other stipulations for hired/rehired retired teachers. The program becomes effective for the 2000-2001 school year.

#### **WAIVER FOR SIXTH/NINTH GRADE ORIENTATION**

By a 5 to 1 vote (**Robert S. Magee** dissenting) the Board approved a plan which will allow five schools – Fallston, Bel Air, North Harford and Edgewood high schools, and North Harford Middle School – to open schools on Tuesday, September 5, 2000 only for ninth graders (high school) and sixth graders (middle school). The gradual entry pilot program would allow schools involved to conduct orientation for newcomers to the schools. Other students would begin their school year on Wednesday, September 6, 2000. The Board voted supported Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas'** recommendation that all students at schools involved go to school at least 180 days. The Board left till its August 14, 2000 meeting the decision on which day (November 6<sup>th</sup> or the day after the end of the regular school year) would be used to make up the orientation day.

**William E. Ekey**, director of secondary education, said supervisors had expressed their opposition for using the November 6<sup>th</sup> inservice day as a student makeup. The motion to accept the pilot was made by Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** and seconded by Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler.

#### **APPROVAL OF REVISED EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL**

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revised Educational Specifications

for Aberdeen High School. On May 10, 1999, the Board had approved the Educational Specifications for a replacement building at Aberdeen High designed for a capacity of 1,500 students. The Interagency Committee on Public School Construction (IAC) have authorized a replacement building, but at a capacity of 1,262 rather than 1,500. The Education Specifications committee decided to begin anew its process, rather than trying to adjust its original plan. The state formula calls for a 180,466 square foot building, but the Educational Specifications call for 190,700 square feet. The additional size is resulting primarily from efforts to maintain a gymnasium and food service area that are designed for 1,500 students. Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey** said that a balcony for the auditorium could be listed on the bid specifications as an "add alternate."

## **SPECIAL ISSUES OF CONCERN**

### **DISCUSSION ON BUDGET STATUS**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services **John Markowski** presented information about the status of the school budget to the Board. He said the total HCPS Current Expense Fund budget will increase by \$13.6 million next year, 6.3 percent from the current year. All budgeted funds from all sources increased by \$14.6 million, slightly less than a six percent increase; these include Current Expense, Restricted, Food and Nutrition, and Debt Service Funds. When including other County set-aside money, the total increase rises to \$15.4 million, or 6.2 percent. The County's contribution for the Current Expense Fund increased by \$7.1 million, about 5.9 percent, from the current year. With the addition of \$420,000 to the Capital Projects Fund for textbooks and another \$335,000 held in reserve by the County for HCPS purposes, the increase rises to just over 6.5 percent. Mr. Markowski told the Board that the County fully funds the Debt Service Fund (principal and interest on bonds issued for school construction). Debt service expenses increased by almost \$784,000, 18.3 percent over the current year. In total, the County increased funding for public education by \$8.6 million or just over 6.9 percent. To accomplish this increase in education funding the County government raised some taxes, with no little pain, Mr. Markowski said. To keep these increases in context, under the "maintenance of effort" funding formula, the legally required increase in Current Expense Fund money by the County was limited to slightly under \$1 million, or less than a one percent increase over current year funding. Mr. Markowski said that inflation is stable at less than three percent. Nearly all of the additional dollars will go to salaries and benefits accounts to keep HCPS competitive for teachers and support staff in a tight job market, he said. Mr. Markowski said the increase in the cost of benefits were curbed through participation in the Harford County Health Care Coalition, but some fixed charge costs remain to be funded in next year's budget. He said that the budget and finance staffs are committed to more accurately assessing and deploying resources to meet the needs of the system, continually improving on past practices. He said the school system will seek

categorical transfers from the County as the situation warrants. Mr. Markowski said the system understands the importance of implementing position control, evaluating and documenting business practices to improve our efficiency and effectiveness, and fully implementing the technology now at the system's disposal to achieve improved budget development and management.

### **PROPOSAL TO AMEND BOARD OF EDUCATION BYLAW**

The Board of Education voted 4 to 2 (Mr. Magee and Lt. Col. Rtd. Chandler dissenting) to approve a change in the Board of Education bylaw governing the election of its officer. The current system has the most senior member of the Board not to have served in a leadership capacity to become vice president and then president of the Board. The change, which would become effective in the 2003-2004 school year, would not include any current member of the Board. Under the new system, the Board President and Vice President would be elected by majority vote of the Board membership. No member of the Board may serve more than two consecutive terms as President, however, a member may serve more than two terms as President if the number of terms in excess of two terms as President if the number of terms in excess of two is cumulative. There is no limitation on the number of terms a member may serve as Vice President. (Under the Board bylaws, a change in the bylaws must be accomplished by a 2/3 vote of the "total membership. The Board's counsel has been asked to render an opinion whether the 4 to 2 vote of those members who were present – Mr. Galbreath was not present – represents that 2/3 majority or whether the vote must be retaken when all Board members are present, provided the two dissenting Board members do not change their votes.)

### **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Joseph P. Licata**, assistant superintendent for Operations, reported to the Board that a group of citizens from the Edgewood area have made a proposal for the use of a portion of the Woodbridge Center school site for passive recreation. Mr. Licata said he had suggested more than a year ago that the residents seek the support of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the proposal. He said there had been no response to that suggestion. Mr. Licata said there are some liability issues with the proposal which seeks access to the land that is set aside for a possible future school site and to make improvements to the area. Mrs. Haas said school officials will keep the Board informed of developments in the coming months. Mr. Thomas asked that Board members who desire be given a tour of the area and that legal considerations be presented to the Board.

Mrs. Haas introduced Supervisor of Equity and Diversity **Cathy R. Price** and community leader **Richard Bock** who presented information on a program aimed at working toward the elimination of the performance gap between minority/socioeconomically deprived students and the majority student enrollment. Mrs. Haas said one of the goals identified by the Board for the

current year was improving student achievement, especially for the at risk and minority students. She said that "every kid counts and there are no throwaway kids." Mr. Bock said the "Study Circles" effort is intended to narrow the 25 percent gap between that exists between the two groups of students. He said Caucasian students score 25 percent higher than African-American and poor students, 22 percent higher on SATs, and that the rate of African-American dropout is 52 percent higher. He added that blacks are suspended at twice the rate of white students. Mr. Bock said that many people see the gap as something that cannot be impacted. But, he said the "Study Circles" movement is one that can be a catalyst for change. He said the process can open the dialogue on the topic, accumulate resources for closing the gap, and provide information on the next steps. Mrs. Price said that a core group of Harford Public School officials and community activists attended two days of training in April at the invitation of the Maryland State Department of Education. Mrs. Price said the goal is to recruit 150 community citizens who will confront the issue "head on," developing an action plan for making a difference. She said the kickoff for the effort was slated for June 28<sup>th</sup> with facilitator training on September 11, a kickoff dinner on September 12, and Study Circles to be held on September 19 and 26, and October 3 and 10, with a possible final meeting on October 17, and a report to come to the Board in November. Mrs. Haas credited State Superintendent **Nancy S. Grasmick** for opening the "honest dialogue" on the issue. Mrs. Price said, "We have the power to totally eliminate the achievement gap," and the first step is getting the support of the community.

A third issue presented by the Superintendent concerned the "Principal's Task Force" report. The report made the following recommendations: clear the principal's plate of "extraneous responsibilities" to allow him/her to be the instructional leader of the school; develop a comprehensive program of identifying candidates; and adjust salaries to better reflect the responsibilities of the job. Mr. Hess said he was pleased to see the report and its indication of the complexities of the job with its impact on the classroom.

#### **PRESENTATION – HARFORD WOODS BUSING PROPOSAL**

At its March 13, 2000 meeting, the Board received comment from community citizens concerning the proposal to provide busing to Bel Air High School for youngsters living in the Harford Woods sub-division. The applicants said safety concerns along the almost mile-and-half route make the need for public transportation imperative. Director of Transportation **Norman Seidel** told the Board that there are sidewalks and traffic control devices all along the route from the sub-division to the high school and that conditions in many other parts of the county where students walk to school are relatively less safe than those in the Harford Woods to Bel Air High route. He said that the Board established the mile distance for elementary and mile-and-a-half for secondary, and that there are 4,000 to 5,000 students who live within those distances from their school. He said the Board does provide transportation for students inside that distance if it determines the walk is not safe. Mr. Seidel said the cost of providing

transportation for Harford Woods would be between \$5,500 to \$6,000. Mrs. Haas recommended that the Board not address the single request instead of looking at the entire system. The Board directed that Mr. Seidel do a survey of other systems to see what they do with their walkers and that the issue be revisited at the July 10, 2000 meeting.

### **SUSPENSION OF BOARD CURFEW**

With the approach of the 10:00 p.m. time established by Board by-laws after which new items cannot be introduced without suspension of its rules, Mr. Thomas moved and Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler seconded that the Board business be concluded and the meeting be adjourned. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

### **PRESENTATION – INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Jeffrey C. Ayers**, Director of Facilities Management, presented the Board with the state of Integrated Pest Management in Harford County Public Schools. Mr. Ayers explained that legislation passed by the General Assembly outlined how pests must be managed in the school system, with notification to employees and citizens. House Bill 286, passed in 1998, outlined those notification procedures and the strategies to be used in pest eradication. Senate Bill 149, passed in 1999, stated that all notification procedures apply to outside pesticide/herbicide application in addition to the inside notification outlined in HB 286. The procedures must be in place for the 2000-01 school year. Mr. Ayers said an update would be provided to the Board at one of its November 2000 meetings.

### **REVIEW OF FY 2002-07 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

Mr. Licata presented the Board with Capital Budget Priorities for Fiscal Years 2002-07 – the second in a two-part presentation. The first part, presented to the Board at its June 12, 2000 meeting, centered on the proposal for FY 2001. The entire program will come to the Board at its August 14, 2000 meeting for approval. Mr. Licata said the proposal in each of the next four years would exceed the County's practice of providing \$12 million per year for school capital projects. He said the evaluation of facilities needs to be infused into the budget process.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County is slated for Monday, July 10, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Havre de Grace High School. One meeting will be held in July and August (August 14) at Havre de Grace High. During the coming year, Board meetings will be held at Havre



de Grace High (July, August, 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](mailto:Drmorrison.gs@hcps.k12.md.us); Or call the HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.

**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).**

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