



Board Meeting

September 25, 2000

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

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Board of Education of Harford County President **David H. Galbreath** called the open session of the Board to order on Monday, September 25, 2000 at 7:05 p.m. in the auditorium of the Havre de Grace High School. He directed that a roll call be taken with all Board Members being present. The agenda was adopted as submitted and the Board led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION

HEROIC ACTIONS AFTER BUS ACCIDENT

Director of Public Information **Donald R. Morrison** brought to the attention of the Board an accident involving a Harford County Public School bus which occurred on September 11, 2000 at approximately 2:55 p.m. on Stepney Road near Aberdeen. Mr. Morrison said the accident took the life of 17-year-old Edgewood High School senior **Justin Wayne Shelton** who was driving a vehicle which collided head-on with the bus carrying eight Aberdeen Middle School students and being driven by **Teresa Lynn Henderson**. Mr. Morrison said that Mrs. Henderson attempted to avoid the collision by applying her breaks and moving her bus toward the shoulder of the road. He said that, after the collision, Mrs. Henderson – even though she had suffered injuries which would ultimately necessitate her being flown to the Shock Trauma Unit in Baltimore --

applied the bus' parking brake, turned off the engine, and assisted the students on her bus to exit safely. She then cared for the students' needs, called emergency officials and the Transportation Office on her cell phone, before succumbing to the effects of shock. Mr. Morrison also described the actions of the first two people who came on the scene of the accident – **Deborah Lee Thompson** and **Warren Jeffery Thompson**, husband and wife. Mrs. Thompson, a registered nurse, provided support for both Mrs. Henderson and the students, staying on the scene until the bus driver and all children were either taken to the hospital or picked up by parents. Mr. Galbreath and Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** presented plaques and Board certificates to Mrs. Henderson and Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, and Superintendent's certificates to the students: **Rebecca Christine Stevenson, Earl Thomas Lieske, Elizabeth Pearl Lewis, Willie C. McCaslin, Amanda Grayce Amberman, Thomas P. Moyer, Ashley Elizabeth Moyer, and Matthew Kelley Blair**. Mrs. Henderson was treated at the Shock Trauma Center and released early the next morning while the four students hospitalized at Harford Memorial Hospital were treated and released later that evening. The Superintendent and the Board joined with the entire school system in expressing sympathy to the parents, relatives, and friends of Mr. Shelton.

BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL – STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT/SPANISH TRANSLATIONS

A group of students in the Level 4 Spanish class of **Melenda Velez** at Bel Air High School presented Board members with copies of the book they had produced providing translations of essential Harford County documents into Spanish. The project – a service learning initiative – is intended to be used by those new to the community who speak and read Spanish. The book will be placed in public libraries and at County government offices to be made available to those who have the need. Ms. Velez introduced members of her class who made an oral presentation to the Board. Those presenting were among the students who produced the book: **Sharon Huertas, Jennifer Marousek, Dawn Klein, Jessica Matrangola, Kristen Abraham, Richard Hutchinson, Leann Matta, Matt Stryjewski, Adolfo Negron, Elaine Triandafilous, Becky Tabelaing, Julie Frieman, Erin Pardew, Katie Boller, Jackie Wright, Nadia Mohandessi, Carla Wetzel, Stacy Clark, Sarah Voskuhl, and Ryan Rein**. The Superintendent and Board President presented Ms. Velez and her students with Board and Superintendent certificates recognizing their contribution.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Drysdale of Aberdeen recommended that the school system's calendar committee be revamped and turned into a citizens advisory committee to meet several times per year with representatives being on the committee more than one year. As Aberdeen High School PTSO president, she publicly thanked the Board for its support in the upcoming building of a replacement Aberdeen High School.

Andrea Allen, president of the Havre de Grace Middle School PTSA, said the school had been informed shortly before the summer vacation that its teacher allotment would be trimmed by one. She asked that the school system reconsider that move and restore the teaching position to "give our children the same opportunity" as other schools.

ADDRESS TO BOARD – PAUL SCHATZ, PRESIDENT, HARFORD COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

President of the Harford County Education Association (HCEA) **Paul Schatz** addressed the Board on issues involving the HCEA as provided once per month in the association's negotiated agreement with the Board. In his address, Mr. Schatz said HCEA is growing. He credited the Board for living up to its pledge in funding a negotiated 5 percent increase for teachers this year (and the resulting additional 1 percent challenge grant from the Governor). Mr. Schatz, however, pointed to the "unilateral move" on the part of the school system in passing along health care costs to employees. He said the move was a "violation of the negotiations process." He said the union had filed a grievance as a result of the action. He said he was renewing his call for the Board and HCEA to become involved in "collaborative or interest based bargaining." He credited the work of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Deborah J. Heiberger** in leading a renewed professional development program for teachers. He said HCEA needs to be involved in the process.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to support the following items on the Consent Agenda: Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2000 business meeting; Approval of Transfer of School Bus Contracts involving a total of 29 routes; Approval of the membership of the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee for 2000-01; four proposed resolutions – National School Lunch Week, October 9 through 13, School Bus Safety Week, October 15-21, Fire Prevention Week, October 8-14, and National Safe Schools Week, October 23-31, and National Red Ribbon Campaign, October 25; and Approval of Award of Contracts – Mechanical Equipment Services, Refuse Collection, Fuel Oil, and Copy Paper.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Haas presented her annual "State of the Schools" report to the Board, reviewing where the system has been during the past year, where it is currently, and her priorities for the coming school year and beyond. Mrs. Haas said the system is strong, with a continuing growing enrollment (seventh in the state and

among the top 100 in the nation), while ranking 18th in per pupil funding out of the state's 24 sub-divisions. She reviewed the five priority areas for 1999-2000 – teaching and learning (achievement), facilities, technology, human resources, and partnerships. Mrs. Haas also reviewed where the system is with safety and security, highlighting several moves which have taken place. She said the school system ranked third in state MSPAP scores last year behind only Kent and Howard counties, down from second place the year before as Kent County moved to the top of the state achievement rankings. She said the school system is involved with a "Study Circles" program aimed at finding ways to eventually eliminate the "achievement gap" between minority students and others in the HCPS. Mrs. Haas said the system has made no progress in its effort to manage growth and balance enrollment, mentioning that several proposed initiatives put forward by the staff last year remain on the table. She said the school system is making progress in the area of technology, and will complete its Technology in Maryland Schools projects by the end of the end of this school year. She said that professional development is a clear goal for the coming year as is implementation of the Gifted Education guidelines, and academic intervention and alternative education models. She reminded the Board that it had authorized implementation of selected magnet programs in the local schools by the fall of 2002.

PRESENTATION – RELOCATION OF ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DURING CONSTRUCTION

William Ekey, director of secondary education, outlined a plan to provide for the relocation of Aberdeen High School students during the building of a replacement school on the site. He said the ninth grade would remain at Aberdeen Middle School while the remainder of the students would be located in the existing North Building at the site. Mr. Ekey said that there is marginally enough room at those two locations for the expected number of students to be housed. He said the relocation committee had been meeting throughout the late spring and summer to devise the plan, having looked at a number of off-site options, all of which were rejected as not being practical. The Board directed that Mr. Ekey ask the community to become involved in reviewing the plans and that a report should be made to the Board at its December 11, 2000 meeting.

PRESENTATION – GATE RECEIPTS

Mr. Ekey provided a report to the Board on the use of athletic gate receipts, pointing out that the receipts collected by the schools are returned to the schools in proportion to the amounts collected. Schools do not, necessarily, receive back all of the gate receipts collected in the previous year. This is done in recognition that the amount of gate receipts collected by some schools was not sufficient to operate the interscholastic athletic program at those schools. The school system budget also includes an amount for reconditioning of athletic equipment which is divided equally among the high schools. Any money not used for reconditioning can be spent on additional supplies and equipment. Mr. Ekey reported that principals had met and recommended that the current system be

maintained since it provides some degree of equity, especially since some schools draw larger crowds and have more active booster clubs. Modifications recommended by the Superintendent are that the amount given to the schools would be the estimated amount of gate receipts for any budget will be the actual gate receipts collected two fiscal years prior; and a mechanism should be created to permit high school principals to carry over unspent funds for interscholastic athletics at the end of each fiscal year. Mr. Hess moved and Mrs. Wolf seconded that the superintendent's recommendation be approved. Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Hess seconded that the recommendation be laid on the table for action at a later Board meeting. That motion was approved by the Board unanimously.

DEMONSTRATION – GIFTED EDUCATION WEB SITE

Madeleine Synnott, coordinator of the school system's Differentiated Services program, and **Joan Cable**, enrichment teacher at Roye-Williams Elementary School, presented the Board with a demonstration of the Gifted Education web site. The site, which is linked to the Harford County Public School System, provides information on the program, how to contact those in charge of the program, the identification process, summer programs, a Parent Academy, Citizen Advisory Committee, teacher resources, parent resources, and student resources.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Thomas moved that his motion made at a previous Board meeting that a consultant be hired to oversee a countywide redistricting process be brought off the table. He said his proposal does not mean that redistricting is a certainty, but the study would look at all school boundaries and a report would be completed by next summer. The Board voted 6 to 1 (Mr. Galbreath dissenting) to support moving the proposal off the table. Mr. Thomas then moved, and Board Member **Eugene C. Chandler** seconded that a consultant be hired to study the school boundaries. Student Representative **Daniel E. Purcell** asked how someone from outside the area would know about the local situation. Mr. Galbreath said the Board had not acted on a series of recommendations which had been made by the staff last year. Mr. Thomas said those recommendations were about specific areas, not a total look at the system boundaries. The Board voted 5 to 2 (Mr. Galbreath and Mr. Magee dissenting) to support the motion. Mrs. Wolf said the issue should be the subject of an upcoming work session.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

With the 10:00 p.m. time listed in Board Policy as the time after which new items cannot be introduced having passed, Mr. Thomas moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the rules be suspended. The Board voted 5 to 0 to support the motion (Mr. Hess and Mr. Magee were not present at the time of the vote).

BOARD COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Mr. Magee said he feels there is too much on the Board agenda that makes the meetings last too long. He said there needs to be a "streamlining" of the agenda. Mrs. Wolf said there needs to be a clarification of incentive dollars, with the intention that they apply directly to the classroom. Mr. Thomas said that he had delayed several motions because there was not time in the agenda for new business, pointing out that there is no clear place on the agenda for new business. Mr. Galbreath thanked Havre de Grace High School Principal **Catherine Hepler** and her staff for their hospitality during the past three months where the Board has held its meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Troy moved that the meeting be adjourned. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County will be held on Monday, October 16, 2000, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Edgewood High School. The regular meetings of the Board will be held at Edgewood during the October through December quarter; at Bel Air Middle School from January through March; and at North Harford High School during the April through June quarter.

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.

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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