



Board Meeting

January 28, 2002

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

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Board President **Eugene C. Chandler** called the regular business meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County to order at 6:35 p.m. on Monday, January 28, 2002, in the multi-purpose room of Magnolia Middle School. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler directed that a roll call of Board Members be conducted with all members reporting present. Acting on the motion of Board Vice President **Terry R. Troy** and the second of Board Member **Karen L. Wolf** the Board voted unanimously to amend its agenda, removing Item 7 – Appointment of New Member to Citizen Advisory Committee on Gifted Education – from the Consent Agenda. Acting on a similar motion by Mrs. Troy and second by Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted to accept the amended agenda. Those present were led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.**

RECOGNITION

EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME – JANUARY 2002 – MARITA M. NELSON/H. CAROLYN LIPSCOMB

Beginning in October 2000, the Board of Education has been inducting two retired Harford County Public School educators into the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame. The former educators are nominated by the Harford County Retired School Personnel Association based

on the retired teacher/administrator's outstanding contribution to students, the school system and the community over a period of at least 20 years. The honored educators are featured in stories in the *Harford Schools*, are invited to a Board meeting where they receive a plaque and Board certificate, and have their framed pictures displayed on a wall of the Board Room at the school system's central office at 45 E. Gordon Street in Bel Air. The January 2002 inductees were the late **Marita M. Nelson**, a teacher for more than 20 years at Aberdeen and Havre de Grace high schools, and **H. Carolyn Lipscomb**, a 31-year elementary teacher and Outdoor Educator/Teacher in Charge at the Harford Glen Outdoor Education Center. Mrs. Nelson, an English and Drama teacher, was known as a persistent advocate for all children and who "never gave up" on a student. The Kentucky native came to Harford in the mid-1960's and taught through 1986 when she and her husband, Gary Nelson, died in a tragic automobile accident in 1986. Mrs. Nelson's daughter, **Jennifer Nelson**, her brother, **David Mathews**, and her longtime friend **Dolores Morey**, accepted the Board recognition in the honored teacher's name. Ms. Lipscomb, a native of Kent County, began teaching in Harford in 1969, getting involved early on in the fledgling overnight stay program at Harford Glen. Ms. Lipscomb was commissioned to oversee the residential program at Harford Glen for three weeks in the fall and spring while still teaching elementary school. In 1989, she was hired as full-time Teacher in Charge of Outdoor Education, the job from which she retired in 2000, after having become known as "the Harford Glen Lady."

ALL STATE MUSICIANS

Each year, music educators from around the state select a number of vocal and instrumental student-musicians to be members of the various All-State Junior and Senior groups. Students are evaluated in competition with about 7,000 of their peers from across the state. Being selected to one of the groups is the highest honor available to a secondary school student-musician. This year, Harford student musicians were selected to a record 61 slots on one of the All State musical groups – Junior Band, Junior Orchestra, Junior Chorus, Senior Band, Senior Orchestra, Senior Chorus, Senior Women's Chorus, Senior Band, and Senior Jazz Band. Students selected were: **Ashley Battersby, Amanda Head, Caitlin Katrinic, Katie LaBarre, Anna Wallis, Dan Cerio, Matt Macis, Garrett Stefan, and Dan Sakamoto – All State Junior Chorus; Lauren Lane, Edward Kim, Elizabeth Stefan, Katlyn DeGraw, and Enoch Rowe – All State Junior Orchestra; Patrick Carter, Grayson Tomecek, Adam Hall, Katie Wilson, Joel Eppig, Robert Blackwell, and Henry Hinz – All State Junior Band.**

Also, **Justin Ross, Jordan Bridges, Kirk Bullis, Heather Thompson, Katherine Getz, Erika Huber, Katelyn Trentzsch, Jessica Cushing, Amy Herbold, Erin Kirchner, Amanda Blewitt, Melissa Bourke, Megan Karman, Britta Nelson, Hanna Potter, Alice Waters, Matt Bowen, and Billy Morton – All State Senior Chorus; Allison Burr, Chris Walters, Laura Bohdel, Julianna Ireland, Rachael Lashof, Lewis Blandon, Rebecca Pinkus, Cameo Rowe, Jessie Eisdorfer, Jeff Tomecek, and Sally Roberts – All State Senior Orchestra; Allison Burr, Chris Walters, Andrew Burgess, Kevin Businsky, and Jonathan Dubay – All State Senior Band; and Jonathan Dubay, Dave Cohen, Jeff**

Tomecek, and Sally Roberts – All State Jazz Band.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to approve items on the Consent Agenda, including minutes from the December 3, 2001 and January 7, 2002 work sessions, and the January 14, 2002 business meeting; the monthly report on personnel; approval of contract for architectural/engineering services for Aberdeen High School's Technology/Math/Science magnet addition; transfer of school bus contracts; proposed resolution on Career and Technical Education Week and National School Counseling Week; and award of contract for microcomputers and laptop computers.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF FY 03 BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATING BUDGET

Acting on the motion of **David H. Galbreath** and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted 6 to 0 to approve the FY 03 proposed Board of Education Operating Budget. The budget has now been forwarded to the County Executive for his review and action, followed by its submission to the County Council and action by that group. Once funding levels are known about the budget (initially after the County Executive submits his budget to the County Council on April 1), the Board is expected to make adjustments to its spending plan.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL FENCE

In the spring of 2001, parents expressed concern about safe crossing of students at the intersection of Rt. 1 and Bond Street in Bel Air. The Town of Bel Air became involved through its master plan by proposing changes along Belair Road (Business Rt. 1) adjacent to the school. Enhanced crosswalks at Atwood Road and Bond Street were implemented. The Town has proposed a fence be erected along the Bel Air High School property line from the Hays House to Atwood Road. Funding for the fence (\$15,000) has been an issue. The County government has proposed the school use the \$5,000 the government had appropriated for beautification of the grounds as 1/3 of the cost of the fence if it chose to do so. Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata** told the Board that funding continues to be an issue. He said it was suggested that the school system find money for its \$5,000 portion of the project from contingency funds of other projects. However, he said with the problems which have been identified with the Aberdeen High School replacement building project, it would not be prudent to use those funds. Mr. Hess noted that there were no plans to fence the northern side of Belair Road in the area. Bel Air Mayor **Robert Cassilly** told the Board the Town has worked diligently to improve safety conditions for

students who cross the road at areas not controlled by traffic control devices to frequent business establishments on the other side the street. Mr. Cassilly said the proposal is for an eight-foot high chain link fence to form a barrier that would force students and others to use the Atwood Road/Bond Street crossings. Mr. Cassilly said the Town is working to acquire property at Atwood Road to facilitate a footpath to Bel Air High School from that area. He said, if the Board provides its support, the Town will take a strong role in obtaining funding. He mentioned that a Bel Air High lacrosse player had been hit, though not seriously injured, by a car last year while attempting to cross the busy thoroughfare. Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** said the proposal comes to the Board at a time outside the normal capital funding cycle, and that maintenance would become an issue for Bel Air High and school system facilities personnel. She said that Bel Air High Principal **Kevin Fleming** would share the proposal to use beautification funds with the school's PTA at its February 8th meeting. Mrs. Haas said she was not opposed to the fence but would like to hear more from the Bel Air High community on the issue. Mr. Hess said the school system needs to identify whether there is a safety issue or not and that the decision to erect the fence has to be based on that issue. He said it is "not a money issue" if safety is involved. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said the issue will be placed on the February 11, 2002 Board agenda.

COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - INFORMATION REPORT

Mrs. Haas told the Board there is a need for all employees to have ongoing, imbedded professional development. She said, the proposed Professional Development Plan, which was first brought to the Board in October 2001, has a time line included in its implementation. Mr. Hess, commenting on the motion by Mrs. Troy and his second that the plan be approved in concept (with no guarantee that the proposed time line would be implemented) said it was an outstanding document which, if funded, would work in improving the ability of school employees to do their jobs. The Board voted 5 to 0 (Board member **Robert S. Magee** abstaining) to support the motion.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mrs. Haas told the Board that there are several pieces of legislation now coming before the Maryland General Assembly which need to be addressed by the Board in taking a position on the proposals. She introduced **Kathy Carmello**, the school system's governmental relations liaison, who provided information on the proposals. The first involved House Bill 7, the "Principal Training Pilot Program," on which the Superintendent recommended no action until more information can be developed on the proposal. Acting on the motion of Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted 7 to 0 to take no position on the measure. The next issue involved Teacher Salary Signing Bonus which would increase the current signing bonus from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and the reimbursement of the amount if a teacher fails to fulfill the three-year teaching requirement of the bill. The Board voted unanimously to endorse the motion of Mr. Thomas and second of Mrs. Troy. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion of Mrs. Wolf and second of Mr. Galbreath to support state stipends of up to \$2,000 per qualified teacher to include library media specialists and reading specialists who gain national certification. The Board

voted unanimously to support the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mr. Hess to take no position on school reconstitution as outlined in HB 56 which would have the state pay each public school identified for reconstitution \$60,000 and \$200 per student beginning in FY 2004. Mrs. Haas said more information has to be obtained on what the need for the bill to be filed was. Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to oppose a bill introduced by Harford Delegate **Charles Boutin** that would establish a tuition tax voucher program of up to \$500 to individuals or corporations who opt to donate funds to a charitable organization that provides scholarship funds to students who want to attend private schools. Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to oppose SB 75 which would establish a steering committee under the Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families to develop a comprehensive plan to establish a system of promoting early childhood social and emotional development of school readiness of children under the age of six. The opposition is based on its passing placing additional requirements on local school systems and its usurping of local authority from school boards. Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted 6 to 1 (Mr. Magee dissenting) to oppose Senate Joint Resolution 2 which urges boards to introduce instruction to encourage patriotism by including curriculum on or before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day and to include the local veterans in the instruction when practicable. The decision to oppose is based on the taking away of local authority and the mandating of curriculum by legislation. Mr. Magee said the resolution does not bear the weight of mandate and the Board should not go on record as opposing patriotism. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Mr. Galbreath, the Board voted unanimously to take no position at this time on SB 60 that the State Highway Administration consider installing traffic control devices at intersections on highways at a vehicular entrance to or exit from school property. Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted 6 to 1 (Mrs. Wolf dissenting) to take no position on HB 75, 76 and SB 29 which designates August 10, 2002 through August 16, 2002 as a tax-free week for sales and use tax exemptions on school supplies and clothing items of less than \$100. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted 7 to 0 to take no position on HB 78 which would require those out of state agencies that arrange for a child's placement for adoption in Maryland not be held liable for the costs of the child's education, including transportation. Under current law, out of state agencies that place a child in a foster home or residential facility in Maryland are liable for the costs of the child's education, including transportation.

AMENDMENT TO 2002-2003 CALENDAR – GRADUATION DATES FOR 2003

Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey** presented the Board with information that the 2002-2003 calendar it approved in December contained graduation dates for 2003 during the last week of May – May 27 through 30. He said Board policy requires those dates be set for the first week of June – June 3 through 6. Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the seconds of Mrs. Troy and Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to waive its policy for one year, to allow for the graduation dates to remain during the last week of May 2003.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTIONS

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Mr. Magee, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that **Gerald E. Scarborough** be appointed Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Scarborough has been an educator in the Harford County Public School System since 1969. He was former principal at North Harford Middle School and, most recently, served as Supervisor of Social Studies.

APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR OF SAFETY AND

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint **Robert A. Benedetto, Sr.** as Coordinator of Safety and Security. Mr. Benedetto has been an investigator with the Harford County Public Schools since 1998.

PRESENTATIONS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas said the Permanent Nominating Caucus has extended the dates in which it will accept candidates to seek Board of Education (North Harford/Abingdon-Edgewood) and Harford Community College positions until March 7. She said that she would present the State of the Schools address at the February 11, 2002 meeting. Mrs. Haas mentioned that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day County celebration, postponed a week due to bad weather, and held on January 26th was "inspiring." She said that Supervisor of Equity and Diversity **Cathy Price**, Assistant Superintendent for Education Services **Bernard Barnes**, and Assistant Supervisor for Equity and Diversity **Rhonda Jones** had joined her at the meeting. Mrs. Haas said the release of the MSPP Report on January 28th had showed Harford's scores as well as those in the rest of the state "flattening." She said changes in demographics and other factors had led to the plateauing of the scores.

DISCUSSION

OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO PRESENT NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler thanked Harford teachers and principals for "knocking themselves out" for students in the system. Mrs. Troy said the "A Better Harford... Together" organization, which had sponsored a Parent Conference in the fall, is now sponsoring an "X-treme Leadership for Youth" initiative.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education will hold two public hearings to gather information on proposed

balancing enrollment recommendations. The first will be held on Wednesday, February 20th and the second on Wednesday, February 27th both at C. Milton Wright High's auditorium, beginning at 7:00 p.m. (Consult the HCPS web site for more information on the balancing enrollment proposals and review). The Board's regular business meetings will continue at Magnolia Middle School through March – March 11th and March 25th, 7:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively.

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 HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.

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