



## Board Meeting

*May 12, 2003*

Terry R. Troy, *President*  
Robert S. Magee, *Vice President*  
Eugene C. Chandler  
Ruth R. "Robin" Rich  
Robert B. Thomas, Jr.  
Karen L. Wolf  
Mark M. Wolkow  
Molly P. Harris,  
*Student Representative*  
Jacqueline C. Haas, *Superintendent*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County was called to order by Board President Terry R. Troy at 7:02 p.m. in the cafeteria of Havre de Grace Middle School. Mrs. Troy asked for a quorum call of Board members which revealed that all were present except Mark M. Wolkow who was excused from the meeting. Board Member Robert B. Thomas, Jr. moved and Board Past President Eugene C. Chandler and Board Member Robin R. Rich seconded that the agenda be approved as printed. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion. Mrs. Troy led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Board Member Karen L. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to endorse those items listed on the Consent Agenda including: Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards and minutes from the March 24, 2003 Board Business Meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **APPROVAL OF PROMOTION/ APPOINTMENT – SUPERVISOR**

#### **OF TRANSPORTATION**

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. Chandler and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the appointment of Patricia L. Hankins to be Supervisor in the school system's Transportation Office. Ms. Hankins, who had been a dispatcher with the school system's Transportation Department for the past two years, had also been a bus driver for the system from 1994-2001 and a presenter of "Buster the Bus" for six years. She has a B.S. degree from the University of Delaware in Home Economics/Textiles Clothing in Business and Industry; and has experience as a substitute teacher as well as computer lab coordinator at North Harford Elementary School.

### **APPROVAL OF AWARD CONTRACT – MOVEMENT OF RELOCATABLE CLASSROOMS**

Each year, the school system's Office of Planning and Construction evaluates the placement of relocatable (portable) classrooms. The system currently has 75 regularly placed relocatable classrooms with four additional ones existing in a leased arrangement at Aberdeen High School during construction of the replacement building for that school, due to be completed in May 2004. Led by Assistant Superintendent of Operations Joseph Licata, Supervisor of Planning and Construction Kathleen Sanner and Assistant Supervisor in that office Alice Burley, the Board was presented with a proposal to move a total of 12 relocatables impacting eight locations. The proposal showed the following schools giving up one or more portables: Southampton Middle (four), William S. James (two), Abingdon Elementary (three), and Church Creek Elementary (three); with the following schools receiving one or more units (Bel Air High (two), C. Milton Wright (two), William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary (two), Magnolia Elementary (two) Prospect Mill Elementary (one), Deerfield Elementary (one), Fountain Green Elementary (one), and Edgewood Middle (one). Six of the receiving schools will net additional portable buildings due to enrollment growth while two (William Paca/Old Post Road and Magnolia elementaries) are getting relocatables to provide space for all-day kindergarten programs which will begin next school year. Bids for the moves were opened on April 23<sup>rd</sup> with EMH Environmental, Inc. submitting the low responsible bid of \$377,500 for the transporting and placement of the buildings. Ms. Burley discussed a potential problem with the placement of the relocatable buildings which currently are required to be at least 30 feet from the main school building. She said County inspectors may require the buildings be at least 60 feet from the main building, an eventuality that would be impossible at some locations and would add expense to the placements. Mr. Thomas called the suggestion "ridiculous" and said it was a case of the "bureaucracy needing to do the right thing." Mrs. Sanner said there is \$381,500 in the capital budget to account for the moves with another \$118,000 held in contingency, some of which would be used to cover the construction costs of a portable building being constructed

by Harford Technical High School Building Trades students. That relocatable would likely remain at Harford Tech, Mrs. Sanner said. Acting on the motion of Board Vice President Robert S. Magee and the second of Mrs. Wolf and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to support the motion.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services John M. Markowski presented the Board with the Quarterly Financial Report, covering the quarter which ended on March 31, 2003. He said, each quarter of the fiscal year, the report is completed and distributed to the Board, the County Executive, and the County Council. Beginning with the second quarter, projections of expenditures/revenues are included to indicate any possible problems between the two with suggested remedies. Mr. Markowski said sagging interest earned revenue continues to be a problem with a shortfall of approximately \$460,000, a portion of which will be balanced by revenue from the insurance rate stabilization program. Mr. Markowski added that the Operations category is currently \$230,000 over budget, a portion of which (\$90,000) is due to excessive snow removal costs. He added that fixed charges is \$236,000 over budget. The Chief Financial Officer said the current projection is for the school system to finish the fiscal year with a \$1.2 million surplus, which is less than ½ of one percent of the total budget. He reviewed the capital budget program which shows a projected expenditure of \$183.7 million of which \$179.1 is either expended or encumbered at the March 31<sup>st</sup> review point. In answer to a query from Mr. Thomas, Mr. Markowski said there is an application on file with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) for a \$93,000 reimbursement for snow removal. Mr. Thomas requested a trend analysis of revenue/expenditures for the past five years be presented to the Board.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas reported that, on May 5, the school system had held its annual Employee Service Recognition banquet during which employees with ten, 20, or 30 years of service in the system (those with 40 or 50 years of service, if applicable are also recognized). She said 172 employees with ten years of service, 39 with 30 years, and 73 with 30 years were recognized. Mrs. Haas also pointed to the "Bright Stars" recognition ceremony which was held the previous week, honoring those outstanding members from each participating school in the Maryland's Tomorrow anti-dropout program. She noted that it would likely be the last year for the 15-year-old program since Federal funding for the effort has been cut. Mrs. Haas said those present heard many inspiring stories of students who had overcome problems to show promise of succeeding in school and life. She said their success was due to the presence of "many caring adults" in their lives. Mrs. Haas said there would be efforts by the school system to fill the void of the program next year. The Superintendent provided the Board with a summary of the school system's enrollment three-quarters of the way through the school year. She said elementary enrollment was up by 111 since the beginning of the school year (with Deerfield, +38, and Emmorton, +23, the most significant gainers; and Magnolia, -34, showing the most significant loss; while Prospect

Mill, a school which has received much attention due to its recent growth, actually showing a net -1 in student enrollment during the time period). Mrs. Haas noted that there was a net loss of one student among the eight middle schools; and that high school is down by 232 students since the start of the school year, a normal trend, a portion of which is reflected by the 100 students currently enrolled in the system's twilight alternative education program.

Overall, the superintendent said, enrollment is down by 117 students from the 40,264 which had been reflected in the September 30, 2002 report. Mr. Thomas said it had come to his attention that Magnolia Elementary School has recently received several students from The Bronx in New York City, some of whom enrolling and withdrawing within the same month.

He asked for a report on whether this was a growing trend, and whether it was a situation being seen throughout the school system or just at Magnolia.

## **BOARD NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Wolf asked about the school system's policy on Internet use, particularly in the area of teachers contacting students via e-mail. She added that the youngest of her three children is graduating from Towson University this spring, completing her three children's matriculation through elementary, middle, and high school in the Fallston area public schools which resulted in the three compiling 24 consecutive college semesters on the academic/athletic honors list in college. She said her family is not the only one to have had children demonstrate such success and said her daughters owe much of their outstanding collegiate record to the preparation they received in the local public schools.

## **CLOSING**

Mrs. Troy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

After the Superintendent's presentation of the State of the School System on May 13 at North Harford Middle School, the Board was to have continued its regular business meetings at Havre de Grace Middle School on May 19 (6:30 p.m.) and June 9 (note the changed starting time of 6:30 p.m.) and June 23 (6:30 p.m.); with a work session on the FY 05 Capital Budget program (7:00 p.m.).

## **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: [don.morrison@hcps.org](mailto:don.morrison@hcps.org); Or call the HCPS Customer Relations Action Line (24-hours-a-day) at 410-638-0022.

In addition, for those who would like to receive emergency or other important school announcements automatically at their e-mail address(es), check the schools-out.com initiative on the home page of the HCPS web site.

**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.**

*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.*