



Board Meeting

July 10, 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

At the Board of Education's first meeting in July, the Superintendent presides over the reorganization of the Board leadership. Due to the absence of Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas**, Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata** presided over the opening of the July 10, 2000 meeting of the Board which was held in the auditorium of Havre de Grace High School. Mr. Licata called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., asking for a quorum call. All Board members were present except **Eugene C. Chandler**, who arrived at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Licata asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board. Board member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** nominated Board Vice President **David H. Galbreath** to be president for the 2000-01 fiscal year. Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** seconded the motion and Mr. Hess moved that nominations be closed, the motion being seconded by Board Member **Terry R. Troy**. The Board voted 4 to 0 with one abstention (Immediate Past President **Karen L. Wolf** abstaining and Mr. Galbreath not voting) to endorse Mr. Galbreath's nomination as president. Mr. Licata turned the gavel over to Mr. Galbreath to conduct the remainder of the meeting. Mr. Galbreath asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Mr. Hess nominated Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler (who had arrived prior to the nomination) for the office, the motion being seconded by Mrs. Troy. Mr. Thomas moved that nominations be closed and Mrs. Troy seconded that motion. The Board voted 6 to 0 (Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler not

voting) to elect Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler Vice President for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. In the absence of Mrs. Haas, Board Attorney **Patrick P. Spicer** administered the oath of office to the Student Representative to the Board for the 2000-01 fiscal year to Fallston High School rising senior **Daniel E. Purcell**. Mr. Galbreath, in commenting on his ascension to be president He said he intended to keep meetings as short as possible during the coming year. Past President Wolf thanked the Board for its support during the past year. Mrs. Wolf said being Board president makes the person serving in that office a better Board member. She said the burden had been great but it was an honor she will not forget. She mentioned four factors which will help Mr. Galbreath during his reign as president. In reverse order, Mrs. Wolf mentioned the staff as being patient and a great resource; the students, especially the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils; Superintendent Haas, whom Mrs. Wolf called a "rare find" with the uncanny ability to disagree on an issue yet not carry that feeling over to the next issue, calling her a "lifelong learner" and saying there is "nothing you can't approach her with"; and the Board which Mrs. Wolf said works well together and is there to support its officers.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Thomas moved to adopt the agenda as presented with Mrs. Wolf seconding the motion, which passed unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

RECOGNITION

Mr. Licata called on Director of Facilities Management **Jeffery C. Ayers** to provide information on the annual Custodial Recognition Awards program. Mr. Licata said the Facilities Management Department conducts twice a year inspections of each of the 49 schools, one an announced inspection and the other a "surprise" examination. Inspections are conducted by the Custodial Training Coordinator and randomly selected custodial colleagues. Awards are presented to the top three scoring elementary schools and the top scoring middle and high schools. Winners receive recognition during an assembly at Southampton Middle School following the school year during which the winners and runners up are presented checks in honor of their having been chosen as a top custodial staff. The winners are also recognized at the Board's July meeting. Mr. Ayers announced this year's winners as Elementary: Fountain Green, Darlington and North Bend elementaries (first place); and Roye-Williams, Youth's Benefit, Emmorton, John Archer, Norrisville, and Dublin (runners-up). Also, Bel Air and Southampton middle schools (tie for first), and Fallston and Havre de Grace middle schools (runners-up). In addition, Fallston High School (first place) and Havre de Grace and North Harford high schools (runners-up) were recognized. Mr. Galbreath joined Mr. Licata in presenting the certificates of award to those

representatives from the custodial groups who were present.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

David Lynch of Quail Way in Havre de Grace asked the Board where the process to rename Warrior Field as "James R. Harris Field" is at this point. He called Mr. Harris a "great teacher and friend" as a student, graduate, teacher, coach and athletic director at Havre de Grace High School. He thanked the Board for its support of the renovation at Meadowvale Elementary School and expressed his support for moving some students to St. Patrick's Catholic Church education building during the renovation, moving them "out of the way" of the construction process.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to approve items on the Consent Agenda. Included were the minutes from the June 5 (Executive Session), June 19 (Special Budget Meeting), and June 26 (Business Meeting); and the Monthly Report on Personnel, which consists of the names of certificated and supporting service personnel who have left the school system, have been placed on leaves of absence, are newly employed, or those certificated staff who have qualified for tenure based on two years of successful contracted probationary employment. Also included in the approval was the promotion of a number of teachers to be Department Chairpersons or Teachers-in-Charge. Board Member **Robert S. Magee** suggested that, as promotions, the last part of the report might be more properly addressed separately. However, he joined his colleagues in voting for approval of the complete submission.

SPECIAL ISSUES OF CONCERN

REVIEW OF FY 2002 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Mr. Licata asked if there were any concerns from the Board on the proposed FY 2002 Capital Improvements Program Priorities which is due for action at the Board's August 14, 2000 meeting. The Board did not express any concerns.

REQUEST TO BUS STUDENTS FROM HARFORD WOODS

Mr. Licata gave a brief background review of the request to bus students from the Harford Woods community of Bel Air to and from Bel Air High School. He said that written information had been provided the Board from Director of Transportation **Norman D. Seidel**. Two members of the public appeared to present comment. **Karen Reddy** of Hitching Post Drive in the Harford Woods community said that the school system is adhering to a policy (secondary

students living within 1 ½ miles of their school are not entitled to busing service) rather than being concerned about safety. She disputed the measurement from the community to the high school, saying she had clocked it to be between 1.6 and 1.9 miles. Mrs. Reddy said that recent red-light cameras have shown that a large number of motorists run red lights. She urged that the system "not wait for a tragedy" before providing bus service for the community. **Sherry Hare**, also of Harford Woods, said the issue is safety. Mrs. Reddy read a letter from student **Sarah Maglov** who commented how she "darts across traffic looking for the shortest, quickest route" to the school. Mr. Thomas said he was "perplexed" by the ramifications if the request were to be approved, holding that it would be "opening Pandora's Box" for other communities who have similar safety concerns about walkers. He vowed, if the Board approved the request, he would be back with a similar request to bus students living along Joppa Farm Road and walking to the Joppatowne-area schools in his district. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted three to three on the motion (Mr. Hess abstaining). Voting against the motion was Mr. Magee, Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and Mr. Galbreath with Mr. Thomas joining Mrs. Troy and Mrs. Wolf in voting in favor of the motion, which failed due to the tie vote.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Licata credited the 1999-2000 Student Representative to the Board **Catherine L. Brodo** for her contributions during the past school year. Mr. Licata welcomed Mr. Purcell and provided those present with a brief summary of the new Student Representative's background, including a 3.71 Grade Point Average, Honor Society member, student government leader, and member of both the football and track and field teams at Fallston High.

SAFETY/SECURITY REPORT – EMPLOYEE BADGES

Acting Deputy Superintendent **Robert C. Williams** presented the Board with a report, outlining the planned spending of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to produce up to 5,000 employee picture identification badges for the coming school year. Mr. Williams explained that the system had begun badging its central office and itinerant teachers as well as many of the support service personnel who travel between schools two years ago. Last year, Superintendent Haas had directed that all school-based employees be given picture identification badges and suggested that the process be accomplished through student/faculty picture contracts. Mr. Williams said the Identocard Systems company from Lancaster, PA. has been identified to provide the picture I/D badges for central staff and support service personnel as well as those school-based employees who will not have been supplied with badges through the school. Mr. Williams introduced **Clint Dittmar** of Identocard who explained that similar services had been provided by the firm to school systems in Baltimore, Montgomery, and Howard counties. Mr. Dittmar said that a magnetic strip on the back of the cards could be later encoded to provide keyless entry to

buildings and other services. Identocard will supply a digital camera and related equipment, software, laminator, and other materials to create the badges. In response to Mrs. Wolf, Mr. Dittmar said his company's system is not currently compatible with the Lawson program which is being used by the schools for its employee/student data systems, but plans are to make the systems compatible in the future. Mr. Thomas said he supports the keyless entry system and credited the system for being forward-thinking. He added that he had some concerns about the cost factors involved and he would discuss the situation with the school system leadership. Mr. Magee said the presentation was in the form of a briefing and did not require Board action.

PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY PRESENTATION

Director of Technology and Information Services **H. Andrew Moore** and Supervisor of Instructional Technology **Phyllis Van Winkle** formally presented the proposed Telecommunications Policy to the Board. Dr. Van Winkle said the school system does not currently have an acceptable use policy for students or employees and cited the possibility of legal challenges in the areas of copyright infringement or student/faculty liability in connection with the use of technology. She said that the proposal had been reviewed by Mr. Spicer and that several school system administrators had worked on the proposal and reviewed its elements. The Board will be asked to take formal action on the proposal at its August 14, 2000 meeting.

PROMOTION

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that current Fallston Middle School Principal **M. Lynne Owen** be named as Supervisor of English, Reading, and Related Language Arts. Mrs. Owen had been one of eight applicants for the position, formerly held by now retired **Doris L. Williams**. Mrs. Wolf asked Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources **Kathleen M. Eng** to explain how the position had been advertised. Dr. Eng responded that the position had been advertised beginning June 1st with a closing date of June 16th. She added that the announcement had been sent to all schools and school offices as well as County government offices, and that it had been advertised in the *Baltimore Sun*. She said the position had not been advertised on the school system web site, but that efforts are being made to ensure that all future position openings are advertised in that venue.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Magee, who serves on the County's False Alarm Task Force, credited the system in its 85 percent reduction in fees assessed for false alarms during the past school year. He particularly cited the work of **Dawn Hoderfield** in the system's Safety/Risk Management Offices with outstanding efforts in causing the significant reduction. Mr. Thomas formally commended Mrs. Wolf for her efforts during the past year as Board president, noting her work in dealing with

budget issues with the County Executive and County Council Members. He suggested that it might be prudent to have Mr. Spicer attend all Board meetings to be available for legal advice. He said that Mr. Galbreath and Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler need to be a success if the Board is to be successful. Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler credited Mrs. Wolf for her work and thanked the Board for its confidence in him to be vice president during the coming year. Mrs. Wolf volunteered to be an alternate for Mr. Hess at the Maryland Association of Board's of Education's (MABE's) July 24 work session on its FY 2002 budget. Mr. Magee asked Mr. Spicer to provide an opinion on the question of the 4 to 2 vote taken to change the method of electing Board leadership at the June 26, 2000 meeting (a 2/3 vote of the membership is required – Mr. Galbreath had been absent). Mr. Spicer said the vote has to represent 2/3 of the total membership (at least five votes) to be successful, thus negating the apparent action of the Board at its June 26 meeting. In addition, Mr. Spicer said the provision to extend Board meetings beyond the 10:00 p.m. curfew it established two years ago requires a unanimous vote based on a portion of the Board bylaws indicating that a unanimous vote is needed to suspend Board rules. Mr. Thomas said he had assumed his motion called for a change in the bylaws. Mr. Galbreath asked Board Secretary **Netha Wilmoth** and Director of Public Information **Donald R. Morrison** to research the issue and get back to the Board as soon as possible. He indicated that, if the Board agreed, pending information on the issue, the Board would operate on the necessity of obtaining a unanimous vote to extend its meetings beyond 10:00 p.m. Mr. Galbreath suggested that the issue of the change in the method of electing Board leadership be brought up at a future Board meeting, but Mr. Hess, quoting the Board minutes from the June 26 meeting approved earlier in the session, said the motion had been ruled as having passed – and that the Board could decide to accept or not accept the advice of counsel. Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler moved and Mr. Magee seconded that the Board accept the advice of counsel on the need for a 2/3 vote of the total membership to change the method of choosing its leadership. The Board voted 4 to 3 to endorse the motion (Mr. Hess, Mr. Thomas, and Mrs. Wolf dissenting). Mrs. Wolf said that there continues to be a need to review all of the Board bylaws, a process which had been begun by former Board Member **Richard Daub** with the assistance of Mr. Spicer. Mrs. Wolf offered to work with Mr. Spicer on the issue and Mr. Galbreath asked Mr. Thomas and Mr. Magee to join Mrs. Wolf on the subcommittee exploring the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County will take place on Monday, August 14, 2000 in the auditorium of Havre de Grace High School. The same site will be the location of the Board's two meetings in September. The Board will hold its regular business meetings in October,

November and December at Edgewood High School, move to Bel Air Middle School for the January, February and March meetings, and then to North Harford High School for the April, May, and June meetings. All regular Board business meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

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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