



Board Meeting

August 14/21, 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 meeting of the Board to order on Monday, August 14, 2000, at 7:07 p.m. in the auditorium of Havre de Grace High School. Mr. Galbreath asked for a roll call with all Board members being present with the exception of Vice President **Eugene C. Chandler** who was absent due to another commitment. Mr. Galbreath presented a plaque to Immediate Past President **Karen L. Wolf**, citing Mrs. Wolf's contributions as President of the Board during the 1999-2000 school year. Mrs. Wolf moved and Board Member **Terry R. Troy** moved that the agenda be amended to move the consideration of construction projects at Abingdon and Church Creek elementary schools to coincide with the discussion and action item surrounding the Capital Improvements Program for FY 2002; and that the approval of the Date for Calendar Change for the Sixth and Ninth Graders at five Harford County Public Schools be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Action Items portion of the agenda immediately following Affirmation of Unofficial Motions from the June 12, 2000 Business meeting. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion and cast a similar vote for the motion of Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** and the second of Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Troy that the amended agenda be adopted. Mrs. Wolf led the Board and those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Benedict, president of the Harford County Council of PTAs, thanked Mrs. Wolf for her service, wished Mr. Galbreath well in the "continued partnership" with HCCPTA, welcomed **Daniel E. Purcell** as Student Representative to the Board, welcomed Mr. Thomas back following announcement of his reappointment for a second five-year term on the Board, and commented on the local Board's willingness to listen to the public based on her conversation with the Baltimore County PTA delegation in which she was told a similar opportunity does not exist in that county. She said, during Baltimore County Board meetings, public comment is reserved for the end of the meetings.

Barbara Lawrence, incoming president of the North Harford High School PTA, thanked the Board for its support of science room renovations at the school and pledged the support of her organization to the work of the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items – Approval of July 10 Business Meeting and August 3 Executive Session; Approval of Monthly Report on Personnel; Approval of Award of School Bus Contracts; Approval of Special Education Staffing Plan; and Affirmation of Decisions on Appeal Cases.

PROMOTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

The Board took action on a series of proposed promotions/appointments presented by Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas**. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy, the Board appointed **Dr. Gerald L. Horn** to be Assistant Principal at John Archer School. Mrs. Wolf moved and the Board unanimously supported the appointment of **Mary Catherine (Kaye) Blome** to be Principal at Fallston Middle School. Mrs. Troy moved and the Board approved the appointment of **Carol S. Hepler** to the grant-funded position of Coordinator of Reading Excellence. Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** moved and the Board unanimously voted to appoint **Abiodun B. Shonaiya** as Assistant Supervisor of Planning and Construction. Mrs. Wolf moved and the Board endorsed the appointment of **John R. Miller** as Supervisor of Purchasing. Mr. Hess moved and the Board unanimously supported the appointment of **Dr. Bernard F. Barnes, Sr.** to be Assistant Superintendent for Education Services. In addition, Mrs. Haas announced the promotions of **Alice Jaffee**, **Katherine M. Johnson**, and **Tina Sell** to be Teacher Specialist – Elementary, Teacher Specialist – Social Studies, and Elementary Reading Coordinator – ReAch, respectively. (The promotions do not require Board endorsement).

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Mrs. Haas told the Board, in light of information provided by the U.S. Attorney

for Maryland, the Baltimore Office of the FBI, and advice from the Board Attorney **Patrick Spicer**, request for action on the Telecommunications Policy for the Harford County Public School System would be delayed. Mrs. Haas introduced the Supervisor of Instructional Technology **Dr. Phyllis VanWinkle** who told the Board that advice from the three entities had been that no student pictures or full names be included on the Internet. She said that several school systems in Maryland have interpreted the advice as "over reaction." Mrs. Haas told the Board that the system is requesting more time in order to discover additional information and data. She said the system does not want to react, but does not want to move forward in a policy which could run contrary to advice from the sources mentioned. Dr. VanWinkle said the school system has been proposing that families be afforded the opportunity to sign off on student work and identifiable student information being placed on the Internet. Mrs. Wolf said she is pleased that the system is "erring on the side of caution." Mr. Thomas asked what the concern of the FBI involved. Dr. VanWinkle replied that providing identifiable information could give those who read it the opportunity to "get to students." Mr. Thomas said it was a "foolish concern" and added that there are many ways someone who wanted to track a student could do so and that it is "a stretch" to believe that the Internet alone provides a way to track students through the system or individual school web sites. He added that there is "no difference in going to a newspaper." Mr. Purcell said that student names are routinely printed in "The Aegis" and "Harford Schools" newspapers. He said, if the Board bans student identifiable information from the Internet, it will have to do the same thing with newspapers and other sources. Board Member **Robert S. Magee** said the Board needs more information and asked that Director of Information **Donald R. Morrison** supply Board members with the applicable policies involved.

APPROVAL OF BID AWARD FOR MEADOWVALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODERNIZATION

Attorney **Andrew Cook**, representing Alliance Roofing, the apparent second low bidder for the roofing portion of the Meadowvale Elementary School modernization project, told the Board that the apparent low bidder, Cole Roofing, failed to include certain responses required by the bid and, thus, should have been eliminated from consideration for the award. He said that his client had responded and, under Maryland law, failure to be fully responsive should have eliminated Cole. He particularly cited an addendum to the request for proposals which called for the submission of a timeline. Mr. Galbreath said, since the Board had made no award, there is no award to appeal. He suggested that, if the Board did subsequently make the award, Mr. Cook should appeal to the Superintendent or the Board's attorney.

Supervisor of Planning and Construction **Michael S. Reid** told the Board that the bids – a Multiple Prime Construction Management process – were opened on July 25. He said they consisted of 16 packages and pointed to one miscalculation of a bid (\$502,924 instead of \$501,924 for sitework), creating a total cost of \$7,911,530 for the project. He said the project includes the base bid

plus eight alternates. Mrs. Wolf asked if the cost of the project is within the proposed budget for the job and Mr. Reid responded that it was. He added that the Multiple Prime process had been employed with Forest Lakes and Forest Hill elementary school projects and with the Harford Technical High School renovation/addition. He said that the cost of the Parks and Recreation Department addition to the Meadowvale project had not been included since it was to be reimbursed by that organization. In answer to a question by Mr. Hess, he said written documentation of the impending reimbursement has been received from P&R. He also responded to Mr. Hess' question that the low responsible bidders had received the award recommendation in each of the 16 packages. The Planning and Construction Supervisor was asked why this project had come within budgeted projections and other projects had not. He said the other two – Church Creek and Abingdon – had been approved in a previous year and had been delayed due to lack of funding, adding that the State does not increase the amount of original funding request to account for inflation and changes in the construction industry. Mrs. Wolf asked why Alternates 8 and 9 – rubberized gymnasium floor and wooden stage floor – were listed as alternates and Mr. Reid said such a breakdown is commonplace to provide more information to those who are evaluating the project costs. Mr. Hess moved that the base and alternate bids be accepted and Mr. Magee seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF SCHEMATIC DESIGN FOR ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Reid presented information about the proposed Schematic Design for the Aberdeen High School replacement building project. He said that County funds had been provided in Fiscal Year 2000 for architectural services. He introduced **Carol R. Mark**, a principal in the Grimm and Parker Architectural firm, who provided visuals of the proposed project. She said the original Education Specifications, which were submitted to the State in September, 1999, had been revised in accordance with State comments and approved by the Board of Education on Jun 26, 2000. The revised schematics are in keeping with that revised approval. Mrs. Wolf moved that the auditorium balcony and the television studio, which had been eliminated from the schematics, be restored. The motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Hess seconded that the proposal be approved as recommended. That motion was unanimously approved. Mrs. Wolf moved that the TV studio and the balcony be included in the Design Development stage of the project and listed as alternates in the bid award. Mrs. Troy seconded the motion which was approved 4 to 2 (Mr. Thomas and Mr. Galbreath dissenting).

APPROVAL OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES FOR FY 2002

The Board approved by a 5 to 1 vote (Mr. Hess dissenting), the motion of Mr. Thomas that the Board approve the FY 2002 Capital Improvements Program request and the long term program for the FY 2003 through 2007 time period.

The FY 2002 request is for \$20,603,390 -- \$12,592,393 in local funds and \$8,010,997 from the State. The priority listing includes relocatable classrooms; providing furniture and equipment for the additions to Abingdon and Church Creek elementary schools; construction funds for Meadowvale Elementary School, Aberdeen High School, and the Havre de Grace High School track/football field; planning funds for the Joppatowne Elementary School modernization and administrative space; and to renovate, repair, or replace technology infrastructure, HVAC systems, roofs, fire alarms, environmental compliance projects, and instructional equipment furniture.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

GRADUATION TIMES

The Board voted 3 to 2 against a motion made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Hess (Mrs. Troy abstaining) that the three high schools which will stage their 2001 graduation ceremonies at the Towson University Center – Bel Air, Fallston, and C. Milton Wright – be held at 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. (The ceremonies had been switched from 6:30 p.m. to the earlier times because of a conflict with the Baltimore County high school graduations.) The Board approved by a 4 to 2 vote (Mr. Magee and Mr. Hess dissenting) the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Mrs. Troy that the graduation ceremonies for the three schools be held at the evening (6:30 p.m.) time.

SUSPENSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to suspend remaining items on the agenda and take them up at their work session to be held at the Higher Education Applied Technology (HEAT) Center on Monday, August 21, 2000.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

CONTINUATION – AUGUST 21, 2000

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Galbreath called the continuation of the August 14, 2000 Board meeting to order on August 21, 2000, in Room 130/131 of the Higher Education Applied Technology (HEAT) Center in Aberdeen at 6:07 p.m. A quorum roll call resulted in all Board members being present with the exception of Mr. Thomas (who arrived at 6:14 p.m.), Mrs. Wolf (who arrived at 6:50 p.m.), Mr. Hess, who had a prior commitment, and Mr. Daniel Purcell, who also had a prior

commitment.

ACTION ITEMS

AFFIRMATION OF UNOFFICIAL MOTIONS (JUNE 12 MEETING)

Acting on the motion of Mr. Magee and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, the Board voted 5 to 0 to affirm the decisions made by the Board at its June 12, 2000 meeting following the apparent suspension of the Board's 10:00 p.m. curfew after which additional agenda items are not to be considered. The Board had voted 5 to 2 at the June 12 meeting to suspend its curfew to permit additional items to be considered. However, Board Attorney **Patrick Spicer** subsequently provided the opinion that Board by-laws mandate the vote be unanimous. Among the items affirmed was a motion to adopt a policy on school-sponsored dances; approval of Construction Manager Contracts for Aberdeen High School and Meadowvale Elementary School; approval of contract to move relocatable classrooms; approval of first transfer of funds into the FY 2000 budget (sufficient to fund Schoolwide Enrichment Teachers, summer school, and health benefits associated with the two items); approval of second transfer of funds into the FY 2000 budget (projected fixed charges deficits for solving the current fiscal year's budget shortfall with the exception of any reduction to the interscholastic gate receipts); Board action for budget restoration of library funds in the amount of \$50,000; Board action for budget restoration in the swimming program (\$188,000 to restore swimming technicians to allow pools to remain open); and the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Report on Woodbridge Center Homeowners Association request – Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata** was called on by Mrs. Haas to outline a recent visit by several Board members and County Council Member **Susan Heselton** to the 19-acre site in the Woodbridge Center of Edgewood which has been dedicated to a possible future elementary school site. Mr. Licata said that a decision may need to be made by the Board in the future whether to "surplus" the land and turn it over to the county if it does not appear that it will be needed for a school site. In the meantime, Mr. Licata recommended that the Board decline the request of the Woodbridge Center Homeowners Association to use a portion of the property for trails and other recreational purposes. Mr. Magee said the Board should not take a formal position of a topic without it being listed as an action item. The Board agreed to have the proposal placed on the September 11, 2000 Board agenda and directed that information be provided by Mr. Licata to representatives of the Homeowners Association that such an action was being considered on that date.

Teacher Hiring Incentives – Mrs. Haas reported that the County Executive had originally appropriated \$30,000 -- \$1,000 each to the first 30 new teachers who signed contracts to teach in the Harford County Public Schools in areas identified as critical need. The amount has since been increased to \$40,000 --

\$1,000 each to the first 40 new teachers who join the system in critical areas this school year. Mr. Thomas moved and Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler seconded that the Board formally approve the participation of the school system in the bonuses to be distributed by the County government. Mrs. Haas was directed to discuss with County Executive **Jim Harkins** whether the bonuses would be offered next year so the benefit could be used as a recruiting tool. And, Mr. Morrison was directed to publicize the receipt of the bonuses.

Preliminary Statement – Year End June 30, 2000 – Assistant Superintendent for Business Services **John Markowski** presented the Board with a quarterly financial report for the quarter ending June 30, 2000.

Appointment to Local Management Board – Harford County Family Systems Reform Initiative – Mrs. Haas told the Board that she had been appointed to serve on the Harford County Family Systems Reform Initiative by the County Executive.

Harford Woods Request for Transportation – Director of Transportation **Norman D. Seidel** reported to the Board concerning the request by parents of students who reside in the Harford Woods section of Bel Air to have transportation provided for their youngsters to and from Bel Air High School. Mr. Seidel said it would cost \$5,000 to \$6,000 to provide the transportation. Mrs. Haas said two issues are involved – whether the students live within the 1.5 mile minimum distance from the school which would disqualify them for transportation service; and whether their walking route to school puts them at such risk that the Board would want to waive its distance policy. Mr. Thomas warned that, if transportation were to be provided for those students, there are those all over the county who have as dangerous or more dangerous walking routes to school. The Board took no action on the request.

Mr. Thomas' appointment – Mrs. Haas congratulated Mr. Thomas on his recent promotion to be Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal for the State of Maryland, making him the second ranking officer in that organization. She also announced that Mr. Thomas had been recently appointed by the Governor to a second five-year term on the Board, effective July 1, 2000.

DISCUSSION – INTERNAL PERFORMANCE AUDITOR

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler, the Board voted 5 to 1 (Mr. Magee dissenting) to inform the County Council that the Board has an interest in conducting performance audits on various areas of its operation, if the Council provides funds in advance for the service. Mr. Harkins had set aside \$135,000 in his budget for such performance audits which would provide information on how effective the money being spent in that area was in addressing the need. Mr. Magee said that such an arrangement would be setting a "dangerous precedent."

APPROVAL OF CITIZENS BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted 5 to 1 (Mr. Thomas dissenting) to accept the proposed membership on the Board's Citizens Budget Advisory Committee. The 26-member committee would retain many of the current 23-member group but would add more parents, incorporating one each from the nine high school attendance areas (rather than the previous three). Mr. Thomas said the even number of members could create the possibility of a tie vote, but Mrs. Wolf said the Board representative could be a non-voting member. Mrs. Haas recommended that the focus of the group be more narrowly defined into the area of building the budget rather than evaluating the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 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).

*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.