



## Board Meeting

*September 11, 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 11, 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. Board Member **Karen L. Wolf** moved and Board Member **Thomas D. Hess** seconded that the agenda be amended by switching Items C and D and eliminating Item J. The amendment passed unanimously. Mrs. Wolf then moved and Board Member **Terry R. Troy** seconded that the amended agenda be adopted. Board members voted unanimously to support the motion. Mr. Galbreath asked Board Vice President **Eugene C. Chandler** to lead those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **RECOGNITION**

##### **PRESENTATION BY MAYORS OF MML "MARYLAND'S 157" BOOK**

Director of Public Information **Donald R. Morrison** introduced the mayors of the three municipalities in Harford County – Mayor **Douglas Wilson** of the City of Aberdeen, Mayor **Susan McComas** of the Town of Bel Air, and Mayor **Philip Barker** of the City of Havre de Grace – who presented Supervisor of Social Studies **Gerald Scarborough** and Assistant Supervisor of Social Studies **Kimberly Schmidt** with a copy of the newly published book, "Maryland's 157:

the Incorporated Towns and Cities." The book was published by the Maryland Municipal League. The Mayors said that a copy of the book, which details the incorporated municipalities throughout the state, will be donated to each public school library in the county and to each public library in Harford. Each municipality, including Harford's three, has two pages dedicated to that community. Mayor Barker said the book should be a great educational resource to government and social studies classes. Dr. Scarborough agreed, saying that it will be used by students for the purposed intended, and thanked the mayors for their donation. The mayors added that the book is available for purchase through the MML at a cost of \$25.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

**William R. Rogers** of Havre de Grace, representing the Community Projects of Havre de Grace, Inc., renewed his request that the Havre de Grace High School football stadium be renamed the "James R. Harris Memorial Field." Mr. Rogers had appeared before the Board last spring to say that the field has been known in the community by the name he suggested since 1993 following the death of the longtime teacher, coach and athletic director at the school. Mr. Rogers said those in the community felt the name had been changed, but did not realize that it is the Board which must officially name or rename a school facility. Mr. Rogers said he wanted to see the Board "clean up the confusion" and asked again that the Board take the steps necessary to rename the field.

**Cookie Eller**, past president and current vice president of the Deerfield Elementary School PTA, addressed the Board on the issue of Fourth Tier Busing and what she and others in the community felt was a commitment by the Board to provide a \$50,000 annual payment to the school in exchange for its agreeing to go on the later start/finish format to enable the school system to avoid the purchasing of additional buses. She said the school system's elimination of the payment after two years represented the breach of a contract with the community. She said the community had not been informed of the change and asked that Board members meet with the Deerfield PTA and place it on an October Board agenda, when the Board moves its meeting for the October-December quarter to Edgewood High School.

**Rick Daub**, former Board member and Board president and a resident of 224 N. Washington Street in Havre de Grace, offered his prayers to the family of the student who died when the van he was driving collided head on with a HCPS contractor school bus that afternoon, and to the driver of the school bus who had been flown to the Shock Trauma Center with undetermined injuries. Mr. Daub then spoke about the 2000 Census which lists 16 different racial categories while Harford County Public Schools lists just five. He said he "abhors" such classifications, but, if they are necessary, the HCPS list should correspond to the census categories. He offered his best wishes to Board President Galbreath, Board Vice President Chandler, and Student Representative **Daniel E. Purcell** for success in their year holding those positions of leadership.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENT**

Mrs. Haas, who was on the scene of the bus accident which occurred on Stepney Road near Aberdeen that afternoon, praised the work of the system's Transportation Office, the eight students on the bus, and the bus driver, all of whom acted in a most responsible manner. She said she and all those connected with the school system are saddened by the death of the young man who was driving the van and that our "hearts go out" to his family. She asked that those present observe of moment's silence in memory of the young man and in reflection on the bus driver and four students who had been hospitalized as a result of the crash.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and second of Mr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the Superintendent's recommendation to approve items on the Consent Agenda, including the approval of minutes from the August 14/21 Business Meeting and August 21 Work Session; Monthly Report on Personnel (including names of those who have left the school system, been placed on leaves of absence, or who are newly employed as of August 31, 2000; and approval of **Chuck Boyle, Sharon Mike**-reappointments-and **Ruth Hoskins** to be members of the Citizens Advisory Council on Career and Technology Education).

### **PROMOTIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

Mrs. Haas provided information on her recommendation to appoint **Donald W. Harmon** as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. Dr. Harmon, who has been Personnel Specialist/Supervisor of Human Resources in Dorchester County (MD) since November 1993, will be given sufficient time to complete his assignment there before reporting to the HCPS position. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** moved and Mr. Hess seconded the motion that Dr. Harmon be appointed and the Board voted unanimously to support the motion.

### **APPROVAL OF PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY**

Mrs. Haas told the Board that three revised or new policies are being brought before them involving the issue of Telecommunications as it impacts student/faculty use and the release of information to the public about students. She said there were some revisions to the proposal which had been brought before them at their August 14, 2000 meeting in the "Acceptable Use" policies for students and employees, but that the Copyright policy proposal was the same as the one they had seen in August. Mrs. Haas introduced Director of Technology **H. Andrew Moore** and Supervisor of Instructional Technology **Phyllis VanWinkle**. Dr. VanWinkle explained that the Superintendent, on advice from Board Counsel **Patrick Spicer** and the example of several other school systems, was recommending that advice from FBI and the U.S. Attorney

General's Office concerning the prohibition of identifiable information being placed on the Internet be set aside. She said that the proposed Parent/Student permission form would provide the parents and students with an opportunity to determine if they wanted information concerning students to be on the web. Mr. Purcell said that he objects to a student's work being placed on the web without his/her permission each time the work is to be displayed. Currently, when information which is not of a Directory nature (that permitted to be released by Board Policy) is to be released, a permission form with parent signature must be obtained for each release. The proposed change would allow for the information release/placement of student work on the Internet or other publications to be obtained at the outset of each school year and would cover that entire year. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the Board approve the proposed Telecommunications policies as revised or submitted. It was clarified that the supporting documents submitted with the policies are to be placed in the system's Administrative Procedures Manual and are not policy. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion.

#### **APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO FY 2002 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

**Michael S. Reid**, Supervisor of Planning and Construction, provided the Board with a revised worksheet with corrected figures involving the Abingdon and Church Creek elementary school addition projects. Mr. Reid said there is also a modification in the roofing request. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler moved and Mr. Thomas seconded that the revisions be approved. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

#### **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR ADDITIONS TO ABINGDON AND CHURCH CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Mr. Reid told the Board that three general contractors had submitted bids for the Abingdon Elementary School addition project. He said the apparent low bidder was Cam Construction Company, Inc. with a bid of \$3,935,700, including the base bid and Alternates 1 through 7 (terrazzo tile, install metal storage shelving, install cubicle track, install lightning protection, provide ice damage membrane, provide hearing assistance system, and all DDC control option). Mr. Reid said Cam Construction had successfully completed the addition/modernization project for Bakerfield Elementary School. Action on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to award the contract to Cam Construction, Inc.

Mr. Reid next presented the Board with the apparent low bidder for the Church Creek Elementary School addition project. He said three general contractors had presented offers and that Jack H. Kidd Associates, Inc. was the apparent low bidder with a total package of \$4,277,000, including Alternates 3, 10, 11A, and 12 (GMU cove base, cafeteria expansion and modification, 8'10" operating partitions, and extension classroom doors). In both cases, Board Member **Karen L. Wolf** asked Mr. Reid if the bids fell within the amount of money appropriated for the projects and he responded that they did. Lt. Col. (Ret.)

Chandler moved and Mr. Hess accepted that the bid be awarded to Jack H. Kidd Associates and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF FUNDS TRANSFER FOR RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT PROJECT**

Mr. Reid, joined by Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata**, told the Board that a proposal to construct a parking lot addition at Riverside Elementary School (Joppatowne) had been "around for some time." Mr. Reid said plans were prepared and bid in the spring of 1999, but the bids came in over the amount available and all bids were rejected. A second bid, July 2000, again produced all bids over budget, but the price was within \$53 of the prior year's number, indicating that the proposal was a "fair price." Accordingly, the Superintendent proposed that a transfer of funds from two completed capital projects – Emmorton Elementary (construction) and Hall's Cross Roads Elementary (Phase Two modernization) be approved to provide sufficient funds for the Riverside project. Mr. Reid said the total cost of the project would be approximately \$69,000. Mr. Licata told the Board that both Emmorton and Hall's Cross Roads projects had been completed with all proposed work done. Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. Hess seconded the motion that the transfer of funds be approved so the Riverside Parking Lot project could be completed. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion.

### **BOARD ACTION ON USE OF PROPERTY REQUEST BY WOODBRIDGE CENTER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

The Board, acting on the recommendation of Mrs. Haas, voted unanimously to accept the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler that the request by the Woodbridge Center Homeowners Association to use a portion of the land set aside in that Edgewood-area community as a school site for recreational use by the Association be denied. Mr. Licata had earlier reported that such a use could present a liability exposure to the Board of Education. Mr. Hess said the Board may want to consider the "surplusing" of the land for the purpose of turning it over to the county since it now appears there will not be a need for an elementary school at that site for some time. Mr. Licata said he recommends the Board wait until after validation of the official September 30, 2000 enrollment figures and projections to make sure such a move would be appropriate.

### **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR 2001-2002**

Director of Facilities Management **Jeffrey C. Ayers** presented the Board with the report on the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for 2001-02, an annual update to be used as a tool in outlining the maintenance program for the school system. The plan is reviewed annually, approved by the Board, and submitted to the Interagency Committee for School Construction by October 15. Mr. Ayers noted that the plan was being presented to the Board for its review and proposed

action during the Board's next regular business meeting, October 16, 2000. He noted that the State IAC had approved an extension of "a day or two" beyond the October 15 deadline. The Board and Mr. Ayers discussed various aspects of the proposal. In answer to questions from Mr. Thomas, Mr. Ayers said that the "responsiveness" to school requests has been the greatest improvement made by his department in recent years. He said that non-emergency work orders are responded to within 12 to 15 working days.

#### **FLEET MAINTENANCE PLAN**

Accompanied by Mr. Licata, Director of Transportation **Norman D. Seidel** and Assistant Superintendent for Business Services **John M. Markowski** presented the Board with the results of their analysis regarding a proposal from First Vehicle Services (former Ryder) to assume the vehicle maintenance program. Mr. Licata said First Vehicle Services proposes to perform maintenance services on buses and other school vehicles at a cost of \$798,302 for the first year, an apparent savings of \$353,077 over what the vendor says is the \$1,151,397 the school system spent last year on the services. Mr. Licata said the figure the vendor identified as the cost of the system's vehicle maintenance plan was provided by the firm and does not match what the system feels it spends on the service. Mr. Seidel said the cost is \$786,811. An independent analysis by Mr. Markowski produced the same estimate of the cost of vehicle maintenance services by the system. In addition, Mr. Seidel said the First Vehicle proposal does not include "non-target" costs which could add "15 to 22 percent" to their cost. Mr. Licata said other questions include the status of the system's bus garage as a capital asset, what happens to the employees involved, and what if the cost by First Vehicle rises dramatically in the third or fourth year – how would the system reassume the role of providing fleet maintenance. Mr. Markowski said his analysis of the plan yielded a \$278,000 increase for the school system if First Vehicle were to be contracted, and that does not include any non-target costs. The Harford County Government has reserved \$200,000 for a study of the fleet maintenance account. Mr. Gabreath said he is concerned with the wide difference between what the school system says it spends on fleet maintenance and what First Vehicle says the system is spending. Mr. Licata responded that attempts had been made to meet with the firm to jointly identify the costs, but requests for such a conference were not accepted. Mr. Markowski said that he is much less concerned with what a vendor says it will charge compared to what the vendor says the cost of the service is than he is with what it really costs the system. He called such claims "puffery." It was agreed that the item will be placed on the September 25, 2000 Board agenda as an action item.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Magee moved that the Board begin the process of renaming the Havre de Grace Stadium field "James R. Harris Memorial Field," initiating the 60-day period for public comment prior to the Board's official action. Mrs. Troy seconded the motion establishing the parameters for an anticipated November

action by the Board.

Mr. Hess said his examination of the minutes on the proposed elimination of the \$50,000 Fourth Tier Busing payment reflects a tie vote on the motion, therefore the payment should have remained in the budget. He said he would like to be supplied with information if a subsequent motion by the Board had passed on the issue. He said, if the Board wants to take action on eliminating the payment, it should be listed on a future agenda. Mr. Thomas said he recalls the same tie vote, but reflected that funding the \$100,000 (additional \$50,000 for William S. James Elementary's Fourth Tier busing agreement) would be difficult given the "tight budget" situation which exists. He reminded the Board that there is a possibility the Harford Woods busing issue could again come before the Board.. He said he remembers the commitment made by the system's former Superintendent to the schools involved in Fourth Tier busing, but that "hard choices" had to be made in the Board's move to cut the necessary \$8 million from this year's budget after a cut of \$5 million the year before. He added the commitment had been made by a prior school administration and approved by a Board, many of whose members are no longer on the Board. Mr. Magee said, if the commitment was made by the Board, even though the membership may have changed, the commitment remains.

Mrs. Wolf commented on the new Forest Hill Elementary School and the excitement surrounding the opening of what is the county's 50<sup>th</sup> public school. She applauded Mr. Licata and other members of the school staff as well as the support of the community and elected officials in persisting that the building should be built as a new and expanded structure rather than a modernization of the old structure. Mrs. Wolf asked Mr. Markowski if the audit report would be on a future Board agenda before it is submitted to the state. Mr. Markowski said he felt the information provided to the Board at a previous public meeting on the fourth quarter financial report contained the same information, but, if the Board is interested in seeing a full report, it would be provided. In response to her question about the movement of portable buildings this year, Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey** told Mrs. Wolf that ten had been moved this year (there are a total of 79 currently in use in the system).

Mr. Thomas congratulated the superintendent and the school staff on a smooth opening of schools. He said he is concerned about the drop in Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) scores, but he knows the staff is researching the issue. He thanked those Board members who had attended his swearing in that afternoon.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County will be held on Monday, September 25, 2000 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Havre de Grace High School. The Board's regular business meetings will be

held from October through December at Edgewood High School; its business meetings from January through March will be held at Bel Air Middle School; and its business meetings from April through June will be held at North Harford High School. The public is reminded that the first meeting in October has been changed from Monday, October 9 to Monday, October 16 due to the Yom Kippur holiday on October 9.

### **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](mailto: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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