



Board Meeting

September 24, 2001

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 on Monday, September 24, 2001, at 6:15 p.m. in the lecture room of Southampton Middle School. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler asked for a roll call with all Board Members reporting present. Col. Chandler said the Board had scheduled an earlier start for the meeting in order to conduct a memorial service honoring those who perished in the series of terrorist events that occurred in New York City, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler told those present that he had served in combat in the U.S. Army during both the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War but had never seen anything as horrible as the actions taken by terrorists on September 11th, in that all the casualties occurred to civilians. Col. Chandler introduced **Marley Welsh** of Jarrettsville, a seventh grader at North Harford Middle School and the niece of **Debbie Welsh**, who was purser (chief flight attendant) on United Flight 93 which went down near Shanksville, PA, killing all 45 passengers and flight crew on board. Ms. Welsh and her family had attended a White House reception earlier on Sept. 24th, during which they had met President **George W. Bush** and First Lady **Laura Bush**. Marley had also presented an impromptu singing of "God Bless America" for White House staff and family members of those who had died on the airplane. Ms. Welsh sang "The National Anthem" and "God Bless America" during the Board service. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, who talked about the cowardly nature of the terrorist attacks and led a moment of silence for those who had

fallen, also introduced **Chris Snyder** and **Jeff Imwold**, both seniors at Bel Air High School and Scouting leaders who are involved in the Boy Scout Eagle program, who recited portions of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Death or Give Me Liberty" and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's third inaugural speech, respectively. **Trevon Hawkins**, a fifth grader at Edgewood Elementary School, led those present in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. During the ceremony, through the efforts of Director of Secondary Education **William Ekey**, slides of the devastation as well as recovery efforts and patriotic symbols were displayed on the lecture hall screen. In addition, Office of Technology official **Nunzio Fiorentino** provided background patriotic music. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and other members of the Board presented the students who took part with certificates signed by all Board Members, honoring the students' participation in the memorial service. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion.

RECOGNITION

Beginning in October, 2000 and each month following, two retired Harford County Public School educators have been inducted into the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame. The inductees are selected each month by the Harford County Retired School Personnel Association (HCRSPA) based on the ex-educators' contributions to students, their communities, and the school system over a period of at least 20 years. Each inductee is featured in that month's edition of the *Harford Schools* newspaper, are presented with a plaque and certificate from the Board, and a laminated copy of the article. In addition, their pictures are added to the Wall of Fame at the school system's central office, 45 E. Gordon Street, Bel Air. The September 2001 inductees into the Educator Hall of Fame are **Mabel E. Andrews** and **Annetta G. Wright**.

Miss Wright, a native of the northern part of Harford County, beginning in 1943, taught in one-room school houses at Chrome Hill and Mt. Horeb before moving on to Jarrettsville High School and North Harford High School as a "Core" and math teacher. She was named a secondary school supervisor in 1959, serving in that capacity until 1977 when she retired. Now 81, she has continued to be a force for good in her community. Miss Wright, who is a relative of both **Charles T. Wright** and **C. Milton Wright**, superintendents of the Harford County Public School System from 1902 through 1915 and 1915 through 1945, respectively, thanked those present for the honor.

Mrs. Andrews, who passed away last year at the age of 78, was honored in recognition of her 39 year career as an elementary school teacher and supervisor, beginning in 1941 through her retirement in 1984. Mrs. Andrews, whose husband, Ray, was killed in action during the Korean Conflict, incorporated her love of nature into her teaching, working as a volunteer at the Harford Glen Outdoor Education Center. Her recognition was accepted by her sister and brother-in-law **Irene** and **Gene Poole**. Mrs. Poole read a tribute written by Mrs. Andrews' daughter, **Rachel**, a former teacher in Florida.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Ritz, president of the C. Milton Wright High School Sports Boosters Club, spoke in

support of high school athletics in the county, urging the Board to remember the positive contributions of athletics when it came time for budget appropriations.

Ian Hull, a junior at Fallston High School and president of the Harford County Regional Association of Student Councils (HCRASC), presented information on that organization including a list of the group's other officers for 2001-02 and their scheduled meetings. He said he would provide the Board with regular updates during the school year.

Carol A. Kwiatkowski spoke in support of athletic trainers being on site for interscholastic practices and games. She said her son, a football player at North Harford High School, had sustained a broken back during a practice session which had been diagnosed later by a medical doctor.

Carla Fromille spoke about the cutting of the instrumental teacher position at Youth's Benefit Elementary School from a full-time slot to a .8 position. She said her child is a fourth grader at the school and will be handicapped by not having a full-time instructor for instrumental music. She said members of the school community had requested information on the assignment of staff in elementary instrumental music, but had not received it. Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** instructed Mrs. Fromille to file her request with the system's Director of Public Information under the Maryland Freedom of Information provisions.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion's of Board Member **Karen L. Wolf** and the seconds of Board Vice President **Terry R. Troy**, the Board voted in each case, 6 to 0, to amend the Consent Agenda to exclude the recommendation for tenure approval (because it was incomplete) and then to approve the remaining items on the list. The action served to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2001 Board meeting, other items on the Monthly Report on Personnel as of August 30, 2001 including those who have left the system, those who have been placed on leaves of absence, and those who have been newly employed; and Appointments to the Career & Technology Education Advisory Council for three year terms including **Michael Allen** (reappointment); and **Rochelle Arnold-Simmons, Kathy Kraft** and **Brian Holmes**.

AWARD OF CONTRACT – JOPPATOWNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph Licata** and Supervisor of Construction **Kathleen Sanner** provided information on the proposed award of a contract to build a 45-slot parking lot at Joppatowne Elementary School, to be jointly funded by the school system and the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Licata said the project had its origins in 1993. Mr. Licata said funds in the amount of \$31,482 exist for the project,

but the low bid for the job, \$93,423, would require additional funding. He said the Department of Parks and Recreation, which will benefit from the additional parking for its afterschool activities on fields and courts at the school, will contribute \$30,000 to the project. That leaves a \$36,000 shortfall for the project, money which would be realized in transfers from completed capital projects. In addition, playground equipment that exists on the site where the parking lot is to be located, would have to be moved. Some of the equipment has been judged not to meet current standards and will have to be replaced, at a cost of \$30,000. The County Department of Parks and Recreation has committed to supply \$15,000 of the cost, leaving a need for an additional \$15,000 from the school system by way of a transfer from completed capital projects. The proposed parking lot project would add an alternate to supply lighting for the facility. Acting unanimously on the motion of Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board agreed to combine the parking lot and playground projects and to approve a transfer of \$51,454 to complete the \$93,423 award to the low bidder for the job. S. Thomas Contracting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STATE OF THE SYSTEM ADDRESS

Superintendent Haas presented the Board with the annual 'State of the System' address, highlighting the status of the system and its future. Mrs. Haas, who presented a series of slides illustrating her points to the Board, said the system remains strong and, despite many challenges, is offering a well balanced series of educational services to students. She told the Board that the local school system has existed since 1865 and there has been a superintendent in place for 99 years. Mrs. Haas said the school system has grown from 27,812 students in 1983 to a present projected 39,785 students. In 1990, there were 41 schools in place. Now, there are 50. Mrs. Haas said that change over the last ten years has amount to "tinkering around the edges." She said future change will have to be more long-range and more radical. Mrs. Haas said demographic changes including the old outnumbering the young, the coming of a country made up of minorities composing a majority of the population, the shifting from judging performance by averages to individuals, and the continuing impact of technology will mark the coming decade. Mrs. Haas said the current school year must feature the continuing improvement of the budget development process, accountability indicators must be incorporated into any budget/planning instrument, use of the fund balance as a revenue must be discontinued, and long range plans must be used to develop the annual budget. She said enrollment shows a continuing pattern of about 3,000 students per grade and that early enrollment figures for 2001-02 are slightly above projections with middle school total enrollment at 96.5 percent of capacity and high school total enrollment at 98 percent of capacity. Mrs. Haas said staff began pointing out to the Board two years ago the growing critical situation involving enrollment compared to capacity and the situation has worsened during the intervening time. She added that changes in the state's calculation of capacity, already implemented at the secondary level and coming to the elementary grades, will exacerbate the situation. Mrs. Haas said professional development has to be a priority in coming budgets if we are to retain excellent educators and improve instruction. She added that the school system has not yet accepted improved technology as "a cost of doing business," but must do so. She said the shootings at Columbine High School in April 1999 and the terrorists acts on September 11, 2001 have made shifted the paradigm for the way schools operate. Mrs. Haas said the

performance review/audit final report is due in December and will point out issues which will help the system establish its priorities for improvement. In her vision, the superintendent said the Board should picture a school system with longer school days and a longer school year, a system with full day kindergarten for some schools, a 'virtual high school', and high schools open from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. She added the Board should picture a school system with revised business practices.

BALANCING ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITIES –DRAFT POLICY DISCUSSION

Mr. Licata presented information to the Board on its continuing consideration of a proposed policy for Balancing Enrollment with School Capacities. The proposal has been a topic of discussion for the Board for several months. The major issue yet to be decided is the issue of 'school performance' as a part of the consideration for any movement of students from one school to another. The school system's internal committee on balancing enrollment presented several potential statements which could be included in the policy to judge school performance. Superintendent Haas told the Board that school performance is a complex issue to define. Following extensive discussion on the issue, the Board voted 6 to 1 (Mr. Thomas dissenting) to support a motion by Mrs. Troy to leave school performance as a non-specific item in the policy to be determined at the time of any balancing enrollment initiative.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORT – SOUTHAMPTON MIDDLE/C. MILTON WRIGHT HIGH SCHOOLS OVERCROWDING

Southampton Middle School (1,953 students – 129 percent of capacity) and C. Milton Wright High School (1,730 students – 107 percent of capacity) are experiencing student growth that is projected to continue for several years to come. The result has been a series of critical issues being faced by each school. For several months, proposals have been made to ease the impact of the excess of students prior to any long term solution to the problem. Cafeteria, cleaning, student circulation, dismissal, and staffing issues are chief among the problems being faced by the schools. Choosing from among a list of proposed efforts to help the schools, Board Past President **David H. Galbreath** moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the following improvements be made at Southampton from capital fund balance transfers: 45 additional parking spaces (\$70,000), an additional bus lane (\$25,000), and three additional cafeteria tables (\$2,500) for a total of \$97,500; and, from the operating budget fund balance, an additional health technician/nursing assistant (\$27,332) and an additional clerical position (\$58,921) for a total of \$58,921. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Mr. Galbreath, for C. Milton Wright High, the Board voted unanimously to transfer from capital fund balances money to pay for three security gates to limit access to areas of the building (\$6,000), install a gate at the service entrance in the rear of the building (\$2,000), and purchase an additional copy machine (\$2,000) for a total of \$10,000; with an additional

\$64,321 coming from operating budget fund balance for an additional health technician (\$27,332), an additional clerical position (\$31,589), and a full-time, long-term substitute teacher (\$5,400). Other items on the suggested C. Milton Wright High list of capital fund balance transfers – an intercom system and a telephone system – will await firm figures to be provided by the staff. School officials will now seek approval by the County Executive and County Council to transfer funds from capital and operating accounts for the purposes listed.

AWARD OF CONTRACT BID PACKAGES FOR ABERDEEN HIGH SCHOOL ALTERNATES

Mr. Licata and Mrs. Sanner presented the Board with information regarding the need to use between \$300,000 and \$350,000 of the estimated \$900,000 in the contingency fund for the Aberdeen High School replacement building to pay for unexpected expenses involving the disposal of rubble from demolition of the existing South Building. Mrs. Sanner explained that asbestos had been found between the outside and inside wall of the school and that the material would not be able to be recycled. Normally, through recycling, the cost of the disposal is neutral to the owner. However, the asbestos contaminated fill will now have to be disposed of in an approved landfill at the considerable cost Mrs. Sanner mentioned to the Board. In addition, Mrs. Sanner said the fill material used under the gymnasium of the South Building is unsuitable to be used as a base for the new building and will have to be redone, absorbing another portion of the contingency. Mr. Licata said that two alternates for the building will have to be enacted now prior to the beginning of construction – the auditorium balcony and the video security system – at a cost of \$218,280 and \$81,000, respectively. He said only three sources exist to obtain the money – using a portion of the remaining contingency, seek transfer of the remaining balances of all capital projects (\$94,000), or seek approval from the county to include the needed \$299,280 in the FY 2004 request. Mr. Licata said the added request would remain within the \$12 million appropriation the county has provided as its ceiling in recent years. Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted 6 to 1 (Mrs. Wolf dissenting) to approve the contingencies and seek the needed money in the FY 2004 county request. Mrs. Wolf said she would rather go to the county and request additional funds immediately, rather than depend on the possibility of receiving funding in a future fiscal year.

WAIVING OF BOARD 10:00 P.M. CURFEW FOR BUSINESS ITEMS

Mr. Thomas moved and Mrs. Troy seconded that the Board's by-law prohibiting the consideration of any new business item after 10:00 p.m. be set aside to consider only one additional item – the system's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for 2001-02.

COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR 2001-2002

Jeffrey C. Ayers, director of Facilities Management, presented the Board with a brief overview of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the 2001-02 school year. The plan is established to develop, maintain, and/or improve the maintenance program of the public school system. The plan must be approved by the Board and presented to the State

Interagency Committee for School Construction each year prior to the end of October. The Board agreed to add the item to its action agenda for the October 8, 2001 meeting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO PRESENT NEW BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mrs. Troy thanked Southampton Middle School Principal **Barbara Canavan** and her staff for hosting Board meetings during the July/August/September quarter. Mrs. Troy also congratulated Supervisor of Equity and Cultural Diversity **Cathy Price** for having been selected to present at a national Study Circles conference.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Board Member **Robert S. Magee**, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The October 8 meeting and all regular Board meetings in the October through December quarter will be held at Fallston Middle School. The second Monday meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the fourth Monday meetings slated to start at 6:30 p.m. The Board will also hold work sessions on October 15 (7:00 p.m., HEAT Center – Reports from Citizen Advisory Committees -- two); and October 29 (7:00 p.m. HEAT Center, Reports from Citizen Advisory Committees – three).

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.

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