



Board Meeting

June 10, 2002

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County was called to order on Monday, June 10, 2002, at 6:40 p.m. in the cafeteria of Aberdeen Middle School by Board President Eugene C. Chandler. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler called for a quorum call which showed all Board Members present. Terry R. Troy, Board Vice President, moved and Board Member Karen L. Wolf seconded that the agenda be adopted as printed. The Board voted unanimously to support the motion. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler directed that Mrs. Troy lead those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION

DESTINATION IMAGINATION WORLD TOURNEY QUALIFIERS

Each year, many Harford County Public School elementary, middle, and high schools take part in the creative, problem-solving, co-curricular activity known as Destination Imagination (DI). The enrichment activity calls for teams of students (up to seven per team) to be organized and prepare written and dramatic responses to a prompt, employing creative techniques in finding unique solutions to the problems. Students also construct props, adhering to a relatively low maximum cost limit. Team coaches (sponsors) are not permitted to assist students in substantial ways. The teams begin preparing their responses early in the

school year before taking part in a regional tournament in March. Those who qualify there (top three or four finishers) move on to the State DI Tournament with first place (or, in some cases, second place) winners there advancing to the World DI Tournament to compete against similar state champions from many U.S. states and some foreign countries. This year, five Harford Public School teams were among the approximately 800 to qualify for the World DI Tournament held between May 21 and 25 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Harford teams qualified for the appearance in the Global tournament by virtue of their first or second place finish in the East Central Maryland Tournament held at Bel Air Middle School on March 9, and the State competition held on campus at the University of Maryland/Baltimore County on April 13. Bel Air Middle School had three teams at the Global tourney. The "Art of Improv" squad – coached by Cindy Mumby and June Sizemore – finished first in the region and state tourney before winding up seventh out of 55 teams in their Global division. Team members included Brandon Collins, Patrick Keesling, Melissa Meek, Jack Mumby, and Julia Sizemore.

The second Bel Air Middle team, whose problem was "Dual Dilemma," also ended first in the region and state competition and wound up 24 out of 44 teams in the Global tournament. Eric Bennett coached the team, which included student members Maddie Bergeron, Emily Chell, Brooke Prater, Jacki VandenEnyden, and Sara Wagner.

The third Bel Air Middle team, "It's Your Move," finished first in the region and state and ended tenth out of 53 teams in the Global tournament. Coached by Mike Fridley, the team was composed of student members Kristen Acampora, Kaitlyn Carr, Evelyn Fisher, Joel Loftus, Emma Loftus, Karissa Fridley, and Dashielle Horn.

Meanwhile, Ring Factory Elementary School's "Art of Improv" team won first places in the region and state tournaments before finishing 15 out of 52 teams in its problem at its division in the Global tourney. Coached by Mary Kate Keesling and Cindy Mumby, the team was composed of Stephani Smith, Rachel Lovell, Anna Sherman, Caroline Keesling, Kayla Wagner, and Grace Mumby.

The fifth Harford team to compete in the Global DI Tournament was William S. James Elementary School's "Art of Improv" squad. Coached by Marcia Cole and Donna Peck, the team advanced to the State tournament by virtue of its performance at the Regional competition, where the group finished second out of 18 teams, earning a trip to Knoxville. There, the squad composed of Lucas Anderson, Robby Hanson, Pooja Kothari, Evan Mahone, Stephen Peck, and Mimi Romain ranked 29 out of 45 teams taking part. Team members and coaches received certificates of recognition signed by all Board Members and presented by Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler.

STATE/REGIONAL SPRING ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS

Following the completion of each athletic season, the Board of Education honors those student-athletes and teams which have won Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA) State championships with certificates of recognition signed by all Board Members. In addition, the Board recognizes those who have won Regional

championships by announcing their names or those of their teams at a Board Meeting. At the June 10, 2002 meeting, the Board recognized four individual state winners and one relay team. Noted for winning the 300 meter hurdles Class 2A state title was David Rollins of Aberdeen High School; Lauren Dunn of Edgewood High School, who won the Class 2A triple and long jumps; Aaron Smith of C. Milton Wright High, who won the Class 4A 1600 meter run; and Kevin Walsh, Havre de Grace High School, who won the Class 1A pole vault. Also, the C. Milton Wright High School 3200 meter boys relay team composed of Aaron Smith, William Murdock, Pat Bailey, and Jesse Slowikowski won the Class 4A event. In addition, 29 student-athletes had their names read during the meeting as Regional champions.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

A total of 16 people addressed the Board during General Public Comments. Four of those who spoke discussed the recently passed Board student dress code policy and its application to teachers and other school employees. Paul Schatz, president of the Harford County Education Association (HCEA), which represents Harford teachers, said he hoped to help "extinguish a brush fire" in the application of the student dress code to employees. He called on the Board to rescind a June 5 directive from the Superintendent's office holding teachers to at least the minimum standard set by the student dress code. He pledged HCEA to work collaboratively with the school system concerning teacher dress and said he is not philosophically opposed to a teacher dress code. He pointed to a "paternalistic" attitude involving the situation and called the directive a "June surprise." Mrs. Wolf said the Board did not approve an employee dress code and that the Superintendent traditionally has worked collaboratively with employees. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said the Board would not engage in an open discussion with the public at this time on the dress code or other issues.

Jess Arms, a student who lives on Bonaire Road, said she is disappointed with the new dress code, saying that, if it was passed to enhance safety, "weapons can't be hidden in a flip-flop (shoe)." She said the code came as a surprise to students and will require the purchase of a "whole new wardrobe" for many students. She called student dress a "right of freedom of expression," and called on the Board to reconsider its decision.

Megan Watkins, a student who lives on Ruthridge Ct., agreed, saying that flip-flops, clogs, and tank tops do not present a danger to safety. She said, if it is a safety issue, why would teachers not be compelled to comply. She said there is room for compromise and added the clothes students currently wear does not inhibit the learning environment, noting that it is an "important issue" for students.

Stu Chapman, vice president of HCEA and teacher at Harford Technical High School, asked the Board when the issue would be considered. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said the Board is "not without feelings" on the issue and added the Board attorney will be consulted to make a ruling on whether the Superintendent exceeded her bounds in extending the dress code to teachers.

Meanwhile, nine students and adults spoke on the issue of potential limits on school system

funding of optional field trips for the Fallston High School band. Speaking to the issue were Meg Gatza, Carmon Holt, Robert Harvey, Kathleen Lopez, Kristan Holt, Richard S. Cook, Sandra Stokes, Kerri Koziowski, Barbara Mathewson, and Eileen Barrett. Those speaking pointed to the fact the Fallston Band Boosters work to raise up to \$15,000 to pay the lion's share of transportation costs for the student-musicians who travel to many festivals and competitions beyond the traditional performances of a high school band. They said the school system has, in the past, paid for a portion of the trips, but the school has been told there will be a limit on the spending next year. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said the Board is not aware of any cuts to the music program at this time, adding that the budget has not been finalized at this time.

Christine Snyder , chair of the Board's Special Education Citizen Advisory Committee, said she is concerned that none of the additional Thornton Commission state funding will be applied to Special Education. She said she considered the Thornton Commission bill to be one that was passed largely through the influence of Special Education groups and that, when the Federal government is involved, mandates involving Special Education must be adhered to.

Larry English of Forest Hill spoke on the issue of balancing enrollment, pointing out that he believes the impact of the redistricting recently passed by the Board will impact many of those students who have been sent to other schools. He said the shifts have made it impossible for future shifts to many schools who have had their boundaries closed by the recent redistricting. He said he felt there was a guarantee that portables would not be used to accommodate any of the moves which were made, but that will occur.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Board Member Thomas D. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to approve those items on the Consent Agenda, including Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards, Minutes from April 11 Board Budget Meeting, April 15 Board Business Meeting, April 22 Board Business Meeting, and May 6 Board Business Meeting; Approval of Contract for Magnolia Middle School Roof Replacement; Approval of Relocatable Contract Award; and Approval of Magnolia Elementary School Metal Pan Ceiling Replacement.

APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Past President David H. Galbreath, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the Superintendent's recommendation that the school system enter Phase I of a performance contract with Johnson Controls; and that the system be authorized to enter into a Project Development Agreement with Johnson Controls in the

amount of \$166,868. The project will be "budget neutral" with anticipated savings in the area of energy to pay for upgrades in electrical equipment at 14 HCPS schools.

APPROVAL OF JAMES HARRIS STADIUM

Acting on the motion of Board Member Robert S. Magee and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to endorse a contract award to Urban N. Zink, Inc. in the amount of \$676,900 for the development of the Havre de Grace High School athletic field. The approval includes the base bid along with three alternates. The base bid calls for the demolition of existing tennis courts, excavation, storm lines, water/sewer, new tennis courts, track, seed, storm drains, and scoreboard relocation electrical rough-in which would allow for the relocation of the school's football/stadium field from its current site to an area off Juniata Street. Supervisor of Construction Kathleen Sanner said that a prior appropriation of \$130,000 for design work has \$31,000 remaining, combined with a \$400,000 capital appropriation in the FY 03 budget, a \$60,000 appropriation from the Department of Parks and Recreation, and \$220,000 in plant maintenance would account for the award and a contingency fund. The three alternates will allow for a parking lot, concrete sidewalks on Juniata Street, and a chainlink fence and gates off Juniata. Havre de Grace High Principal Steve Williams said the appropriation will "allow us to get started" on the project which has been in the works for six to seven years. He said it was "seed money" which will encourage the City and others to begin the process that would allow for a stadium similar to the ones at other Harford high schools. The expenditure does not include funds for lights. Mrs. Sanner said the bid to move the old lights (\$141,000) is not favorable and that the project could be re-examined at a later time. Mrs. Wolf said she is delighted to see the project move forward and that it came up as the last of the schools to have its track rehabilitated. Board Member Robert B. Thomas, Jr. said the Board is not able to fund a "full-blown" stadium project and depends on the community to pitch in for such a project. Mr. Galbreath reminded the Board that Harford Technical High School has no football field stands or other accommodations.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF PROMOTIONS/ APPOINTMENTS

Acting on the motion of Mr. Hess and the second of Mr. Galbreath, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of George J. Toepfer to be Supervisor of Social Studies. Acting on the motion of Mr. Magee and the seconds of Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Troy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Celeste Wisniewski Klima to be principal at Havre de Grace Elementary School. Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted unanimously to support the promotion of Frances M. Haslup to be principal of North Harford Elementary School. Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of M. Angela Morton to be in the elementary principal's pool. Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the appointment of Mark Christopher Etzel to be Magnolia Elementary School assistant principal. Acting on the motion of Mr. Magee and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted

unanimously to support the appointment of R. Bradley Stinar to be in the elementary assistant principal's pool. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mr. Galbreath, the Board appointed Joyce A. Stevenson to be a member of the elementary assistant principal's pool. In addition, Mrs. Haas also announced a series of transfers including Barbara J. Douglas to be principal of Magnolia Elementary School; Michael C. Steeg to be principal of Church Creek Elementary School; William D. Gunn to be principal of Darlington Elementary School; Brenda R. Taylor to be principal of Deerfield Elementary School; Ellen G. Tracy to be principal of Youth's Benefit Elementary School; Rosanna Hisley to be assistant principal at Bakerfield Elementary School; Gwendolyn Benjamin-Jones to be assistant principal at Deerfield Elementary School; Audrey W. Solomon to be assistant principal at Prospect Mill Elementary School; and A. Blaine Hawley to be assistant principal at Youth's Benefit Elementary School.

APPROVAL OF BARGAINING AGREEMENTS FOR HCEA & AFSCME

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the seconds of Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hess, the Board unanimously endorsed the collective bargaining agreements between the Board of Education of Harford County and the Harford County Education Association (teachers union) and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (which represents custodians, mechanics, craftsmen, and other non-certificated personnel). Mr. Schatz joined HCPS Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Donald Harmon in saying that the climate of negotiations had been more collegial during the recently completed session than the year before.

PRESENTATIONS

BOARD OF EDUCATION 'DRAFT' MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Troy and others presented a "draft" mission statement for the Harford County Public Schools. Mrs. Troy headed a committee including John Cavanaugh and Deb Merlock, who made the presentation to the Board, which looked at the current HCPS mission statement and wrote the new proposed statement. The statement is being held over for 30 days to allow for public comment before action would be taken by the Board to adopt it. The proposed statement says, "The mission of the Harford County Public Schools is to provide a quality educational system that presents knowledge and skills essential to inspire students to become life-long learners, building the foundation for those students to maximize their individual potential."

RECOMMENDED CALENDAR COMMITTEE FOR 2003-04

The Board of Education passed a new Board Policy on the school calendar during its May 20, 2002 meeting, providing flexibility in the creation of the calendar while calling for an "out-year" schedule to be put in place two years before that year. The policy also calls for the creation of an ad hoc committee to make recommendations to the Board on the calendar. Director of Public Information Donald Morrison presented a list of 19 nominees for the committee. Acting on the motion of Mr. Galbreath and the second of Mr. Thomas, the

Board voted 6 to 0 with Mr. Magee abstaining to endorse the slate of 2003-04 committee members. Mr. Morrison also reminded the Board that the procedures for the process of recommending the calendar directs that the Board provide any parameters it deems appropriate to the committee prior to its convening. Mrs. Wolf said she favors the granting of an early dismissal for employees and students on the day prior to the Thanksgiving holidays; Mr. Hess said the potential makeup days for inclement weather should be clearly defined; and Mr. Galbreath said he wanted the committee to look closely at the number of closings during the first two months of the school year. Mr. Morrison said the committee would meet on June 13 and would have a series of recommendations for the 2003-04 calendar ready for the Board to consider at its July 8, 2002 meeting. He asked that the Board consider taking action on the calendar at its August 12, 2002 meeting, in time for the schedule to be printed and sent home with students on the first day of school, August 26, 2002, along with the 2002-03 calendar. (The new policy and procedures call for the out-year calendar to be established by April of the current school year, but, because of the May 20 passage of the new policy, the timetable had to be extended this year.)

NORTH HARFORD HIGH SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mrs. Sanner and Carole Mark, architect with the Grimm and Parker company, presented the Board with the North Harford High School Feasibility Study, a plan for the renovation and modernization of North Harford High School. Ms. Mark showed the Board plans for the building which will preserve a portion of the structure, including courtyards and parts of the building including science rooms and the main gymnasium. Mrs. Sanner said the option of modernizing the building – rather than demolishing it and building a new building – is favored by the State government. She said renovating the building will require phasing the construction and moving students to other areas while their section of the building is being constructed. She said, an option, is to build a new structure on the area currently occupied by the athletic stadium at the school and use the site of the school as the stadium field. She said building a new building could delay the effort by a year. Mr. Hess said the community wants a renovated building and would not be in favor of a delay. Mrs. Sanner said portable buildings will be located in front of the building to house students who will be moved in four to eight classroom sections while that amount of rooms are being renovated. She said the administrative center will be done first. Mrs. Sanner mentioned that a package wastewater treatment system could be installed for the high school, middle, and high school, or middle/high/elementary school. That decision will be made in the future.

LSA POLICY REVIEW ASSISTANCE

Mr. Thomas told the Board that the Legal Service Administration of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education offers assistance in the creation of policy by local school systems. Mr. Thomas said Maryland is one of only three states where Boards of Education are state agencies.

2002 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Supervisor of Construction Kathleen Sanner and Assistant Superintendent for Operations

Joseph Licata presented the 2002 Educational Facilities Master Plan to the Board. The document is required by the Maryland State Department of Education and reflects plans for capacity projects, modernizations, renovations/expansions, and site improvements. Mr. Licata said the state wants a long term plan and that many decisions could be altered as conditions change. Mrs. Haas emphasized that the Facilities Master Plan is not an official capital improvements plan, but a draft providing information to the state on possible future projects. Mr. Licata said the rationale for the timelines mentioned would be discussed at the June 24, 2002 meeting at which time the Board will be requested to take action on the plan.

PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY – 2002-05

Director of the Office of Technology and Information Services Andrew Moore and Supervisor of Instructional Technology Phyllis Van Winkle presented the Board with the school system's Plan for Technology for 2002-05. The first school system Technology Plan was written in 1996. Revisions were made in 1998 to meet Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) standards when they began requiring local school systems to submit a technology plan for their approval in order to apply for grant funding. Since 2000, a state approved technology plan has been a requirement for the submission of e-rate applications. The revised plan – a three year schedule — must be in the MSDE office no later than June 26, 2002. The Superintendent recommended the Board take action on the plan at its June 24, 2002 meeting.

SUSPENSION OF BOARD RULES TO ADDRESS ITEMS AFTER THE 10:00 P.M. DEADLINE

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Mrs. Troy, the Board voted 5 to 1 (Mr. Galbreath had left, Mr. Magee dissenting) to suspend the Board's operating guideline that no new item be considered after the 10:00 p.m. curfew. However, Board rules say the vote to continue must be unanimous. Consequently, because of the lack of a unanimous action, no new item could be addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Troy and the second of Mr. Hess, the Board voted 6 to 0 to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board will hold its July through September business meetings in the auditorium of the North Harford High School. The July meeting will be held July 8 with the August session set for August 12, both beginning at 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: drmorrison.gs@hcps.k12.md.us; 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.