



Board Meeting

October 14, 2002

Terry R. Troy, *President*
Robert S. Magee, *Vice President*
Eugene C. Chandler
Ruth R. "Robin" Rich
Robert B. Thomas, Jr.
Karen L. Wolf
Mark M. Wolkow
Molly P. Harris,
Student Representative
Jacqueline C. Haas, *Superintendent*
Secretary/Treasurer

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER - Board of Education of Harford County President Terry R. Troy called the regular meeting of the Board to order at 7:10 p.m. in the gymnasium of Bel Air Middle School on Monday, October 14, 2002. Mrs. Troy asked for a quorum call which determined that all Board Members and the Student Representative were present. Karen L. Wolf moved and Robert S. Magee seconded to amend the agenda deleting Item G, the Approval of Carol M. White Physical Fitness Grant and to move item E, Approval of Appointment of Members to the Harford County Advisory Committee on Special Education to be part of the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board. Mrs. Wolf, seconded by Eugene C. Chandler moved that the amended agenda be approved and the Board voted unanimously to do so. Board Vice President Mr. Magee led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donald Criss of Bel Air, who works for the school system as a vehicle mechanic, reminded the Board of the need to replace many of the trucks in the school system's Facilities Management fleet. Mr. Criss said the trucks are well past their useful service life and represent a safety hazard. He urged the Board to consider putting money in the upcoming operating budget to address the issue.

Laura Seed, who said she had returned to the area with her family after being away for a number of years, decried the overcrowding that exists in several of the Harford County Public School middle schools. She urged the Board to take steps necessary to see that adequate space is provided for all students.

Larry English of Forest Hill noted that the Superintendent's Technical Advisory Committee on Balancing Enrollment is due to convene this month. He said the Balancing Enrollment Policy calls for the committee to make several recommendations providing the Board options, but that last year's committee presented just one option with 15 parts. He said the resulting redistricting plan "overloaded" Forest Lakes Elementary School while not considering alternatives such as Bel Air, Homestead-Wakefield, Jarrettsville, North Bend and Youth's Benefit elementary schools to absorb the over-enrollment from Forest Hill Elementary. Mr. English said, he believes, Forest Lakes will be the only school that will meet the Board's criteria as a subject for balancing enrollment.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve items on the Consent Agenda including minutes from the September 9 Board Business Meeting and September 17 Board Work Session, and the Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards.

In addition, the Board appointed for three year terms on the Board of Education of Harford County's Citizen Advisory Committee on Special Education: Mark Lieberman, Carol Fung, Janice McLean-Delatch, Rhonda Creecy, and Rebecca Sorensen. Also, Lois Stimax was appointed as an alternate and Duane Wallace was named administrative representative to the committee. Also, representatives from HCEA, HCRASC, and HCCPTA remain open at this point.

APPROVAL OF SCHEMATIC DESIGN C. MILTON WRIGHT HIGH SCHOOL AND SOUTHAMPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Kathleen Sanner, Supervisor of Planning and Construction for the Harford County Public School System, said improvements to C. Milton Wright High School and Southampton Middle School to help those schools deal with continuing over-enrollment situations have been on a "fast track" since last summer. She said, in August, an appropriation of \$2.05 million from the FY 03 CIP had been approved by the County along with a transfer of \$97,000 to deal with alleviating parking problems at the middle school. Mrs. Sanner said \$1,933,000 is available for construction projects for the schools. Projects, in addition to parking, include the expansion of the health suite at Southampton and an addition of an auxiliary gym on the lower level of the school. Improvements at C. Milton Wright would include the expansion of the school's cafeteria as well as the enclosure of an area outside the school's media center below the science addition with its conversion into classrooms. Mrs. Sanner said the Board had previously approved \$390,000 in the FY 04 capital request for the C. Milton Wright improvements, but it is estimated there will be a need for an additional \$400,000. She said the shortfall can be addressed at a later time, but told the Board there is a need for them to approve the schematic designs for the projects so the proposals can be submitted for review by the State Interagency Committee for School Construction. Thomas Ackerman, principal of C. Milton Wright High, said the science room enclosure project is his top priority. Mrs. Sanner said the additional funds request could be dealt with as an amendment to the FY 04 Capital Improvements request at a later time. She said that recommendation would likely come to the Board in November after review of the schematic designs by the IAC and following issuance of the findings of the Harkins Commission, which recently completed its review of school system capital needs. Mrs. Sanner added that the enclosure of the science area can be done, but it will be at a high cost. However, she said there are no other areas at C. Milton Wright where an expansion could be accomplished without major relocation of utilities. Mrs. Sanner added that the enlargement of the Southampton health suite will be accomplished by the taking of the current faculty dining room, with a small classroom then being converted for faculty dining. Acting on the motion of Mrs. Wolf and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board approved the proposed schematic designs as developed by Marshal Craft Associates by a 7 to 0 vote.

APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Wolf, the Board voted 6 to 1 (Robert B. Thomas, Jr. dissenting and Student Representative Molly P. Harris abstaining) to approve the proposed Performance Contracting of 14 schools in the area of energy consumption to the Johnson Controls company. The approval represents Phase II of the project in which the schools - Aberdeen Middle, Bel Air Elementary, C. Milton Wright High, Deerfield Elementary, Edgewood High, Edgewood Middle, Havre de Grace High, Havre de Grace Middle, Jarrettsville Elementary, John Archer School, North Harford Middle, Wakefield Elementary, and Youth's Benefit Elementary - will be retrofitted in the areas of lighting, heating/ventilation, cooling systems, facility management systems, water conservation measures, systemic air balancing, and equipment replacement. The improvements will be made through loans that would be paid back through savings realized through periods up to 15 years at the schools. Board Vice President Mr. Magee requested that a quarterly report on the progress of the energy savings realized be given to the Board.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR A DISTRICT E-MAIL SYSTEM

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the seconds of Mrs. Wolf and Mr. Thomas, the Board voted 7 to 0 to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board of Education approve the contract award for employee e-mail accounts (about 3,500) to HP/Compaq Corporation according to the Western States Contract Alliance pricing. The \$149,887 price covers the cost of purchasing computer hardware for an enterprise e-mail system. Funds for the project are available through a portion of a previous \$280,000 transfer.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2002

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Board Member Mark M. Wolkow, the Board voted 6 to 0 (Mr. Thomas was not present for the vote) to accept the submission of the June 30, 2002 audit report as submitted by the Wooden and Benson firm. The audit shows a "clean" opinion with no management letters for the school system accounts from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002. Mark Gillette, manager of the audit for Wooden and Benson, told the Board that last year's management letter citing the need for a fixed asset accounting system resulted in the creation of such a system.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF THE SAFETY AND SECURITY ANNUAL GOALS

Robert Benedetto and Wayne Boyer, members of the Harford County Public School security office, presented the Board with action plans for the current school year in the area of safety and security. The comprehensive Safety and Security Plan is grounded on 37 basic strategies for managing inappropriate student behavior and disruptions/violence in the schools. The process is grounded on the establishment of policies directly related to safety and security, establishment and regularly evaluated emergency procedures, solicitation of recommendations for improving safety and security, and the increase of administrative leadership training as well as safety and security crisis management debriefing after all incidents.

CURFEW

With the 10:00 p.m. time after which a new business item cannot be introduced without unanimous approval of the Board, other items on the Board agenda were not addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mrs. Wolf and Mr. Magee, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board was to have held a work session on legislative positions at the HEAT Center in Aberdeen starting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 21; with its next business meeting set for Bel Air Middle School on Monday, October 28, starting at 6:30 p.m. The November 4 scheduled work session has been cancelled. Business meetings will be held on November 11 and 25 at Bel Air Middle School.

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.

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