



Board Meeting

November 11, 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 business meeting of the Board to order on Monday, November 11, 2002, at 7:08 p.m. in the gymnasium of Bel Air Middle School. Mrs. Troy directed that a quorum call be conducted which showed all Board Members present except Karen L. Wolf who was absent due to illness. Acting on the motion of Board Member Robin R. Rich and the second of Eugene C. Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Mrs. Troy directed that Wally Muller and Norman Boskind of the Harford County Veterans Commission post the colors after which Mrs. Troy led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. C. Milton Wright High School junior Kevin Businsky then played the National Anthem as the observance of Veteran's Day by the Board of Education continued with a presentation from the Harford County Public School Social Studies Department.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON AMERICAN PATRIOTISM IN THE HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Rich and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board unanimously approved the Proposed Resolution on American Patriotism in the Harford County Public Schools. The resolution cites the General Assembly's passage of the Senate Joint Resolution 2 on April 6, 2002 which urges local boards of education to introduce instruction to encourage patriotism by including instruction to encourage patriotism by including curriculum on or before Veterans Day and Memorial Day regarding sacrifices

made by veterans in serving our country and protecting democratic values world wide, and to encourage the inclusion of local veterans and veterans' groups in this instruction where practicable. The resolution points to the support it provides for the philosophy of Harford County Public Schools which states that education is a primary means by which all youth may experience opportunities for individual growth and by which they may acquire the values of our democratic society. The resolution supports implementation of the SJR 2 values. Noting that he and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler are veterans of foreign wars, Board Vice President Robert S. Magee noted the patriot programs conducted in most Harford County Public elementary schools and added that Superintendent Jacqueline C. Haas' son, Rob Haas, was inducted into the Army the week before.

PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN PATRIOTISM IN HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

George Toepfer, supervisor of social studies, Kim Schmidt, assistant supervisor of social studies, and Gerry Scarborough, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, provided an informational report to the Board on ways in which the school system provides instruction on patriotism and the democratic system. Mr. Toepfer said social studies teachers provided instruction immediately following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and during the Afghanistan war, discussed the aging population of American veterans with special attention on Korean and World War II vets, noting the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War and 20th anniversary of the opening of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Schmidt and Mr. Toepfer discussed a timeline of activities outlining some of the specific instruction that has been provided at the various levels of the Harford County Public Schools in the wake of recent worldwide developments. Mrs. Rich noted that there is a great deal being done in the area of patriotism instruction in the schools. Board Member Robert B. Thomas, Jr. said he is "no great fan" of mandated curriculum from the General Assembly but said he "feels good" that the HCPS has met the challenge. Ray Astor, a retired Army colonel and Korean War veteran, thanked the Board of Education for its attention to SJR 2 and the earlier ceremony, noting he had taken part in a ceremony earlier in the day commemorating Veterans Day. He said 28 of the 32 HCPS elementary schools have Patriot programs but called for the four who do not to do so. He said he was not able to get a definitive answer if all schools announced to their students that the day, November 11th, was Veterans Day. He complimented the social studies office for its many "outstanding programs" but noted that they were voluntary, adding that the programs should be mandatory. Mr. Boskind said that he had spoken to Mrs. Haas in coordinating activities involving the Veterans Commission, adding that the group was appointed by the County Executive and County Council with an eye toward working for the health and welfare benefits of Harford veterans. He noted that veterans are ready to come to schools and make presentations at any grade level.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Rich and the seconds of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and Board Member Mark M. Wolkow, the Board voted unanimously to approve items on the Consent Agenda including Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards; and Approval of Appointment of Members to the Harford County Advisory Committee on Gifted and Talented Education (Misty JoAnn Ball, Cheryl A. Bolstad, Bryan Brock, Pamela J. Copes, S. Joseph Corral, and Nora G. Naguib; with Monika Kauffman as student representative for 2002-03; and Eileen Gunther as HCCPTA representative).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FY 04 CAPITAL BUDGET REVISIONS

Supervisor of Construction Kathleen Sanner presented the Board with additional information from design studies, development of plans for full-day kindergarten, and budget negotiations with the State Interagency Committee for School Construction (IAC) which has resulted in the need for several changes in scope and funding requests for the FY 2004 Capital Improvements Program from those which had been presented to and approved by the Board on September 9, 2002. She said it has been determined that two of the eight elementary schools affected by the implementation of full-day kindergarten will require two portable classrooms each to increase their capacity. One state unit is available to be moved from Church Creek Elementary School to Magnolia Elementary and the state will fund up to \$25,000 to assist that move. Preliminary estimates for the enclosure of space beneath the science addition at C. Milton Wright High School indicates the need for additional funding of \$400,000 to supplement the \$390,000 FY 04 request. In addition, there is a need for \$100,000 to fund a stormwater management pond at the school in connection with any construction (the County had waived the need for such a facility during the 1994 addition, but has provided information that a pond will be needed this time). Christopher Battaglia, C. Milton Wright High assistant principal, said the additional space would serve the entire ninth grade science program. Mrs. Sanner said discussions with the IAC have resolved formula, scope and square footage issues for North Harford High School modernization and agreement has been reached on maximum state allocation if the project is approved. In addition, based on the 3 ½ year phasing plan and potential cash flow during the project, both state and local funding requests have been spread over a four year period. The Board is due to vote on the proposed changes at its November 18th work session.

BOARD'S MASTER PLAN INPUT

Mrs. Haas told the Board that the school system has collected input during six Town Meetings and through a number of other sources from various parts of the public in connection with the Master Plan, being prepared as a result of mandates from the Maryland General Assembly SB 856 ("Bridge to Excellence") passed during the 2002 session.

Embedded in the act is a requirement that all school systems in Maryland submit a five-year Master Plan for meeting the requirements for full-day kindergarten, prekindergarten for all students living in poverty or otherwise at-risk, and for meeting requirements to address the

achievement gaps in student assessment performance. The Master Plan has been combined with the federal requirements for a consolidated plan to meet the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind" act. Since Board of Education members are charged with providing the vision and direction for the HCPS, the Board was asked to provide its input to the four questions that had been posed to the public. Question one asked what the public expects students to have when they complete their 13 years in the public schools. Board suggestions included: lifelong learners, prepared for all post high school options, being able to pass high school assessments, have a concept of where they would like to go with flexibility to pursue arts and sciences, and every child should have at least one teacher who made a difference in the self concept of students. The second question asked what the HCPS is currently doing well. Board responses included an outstanding transportation system, food services, recruiting and retaining teachers, professional development, student achievement, overall quality of professional staff, quality facilities, safe and secure schools, and support for students. The third question asked what Harford schools need to improve upon and responses included: the need to do more to upgrade facilities (including air conditioning in all schools), the need to build new facilities and maintain the ones in existence, more special education services, prepare all children to their greatest potential, need to make sure 'No Child Left Behind' doesn't prepare some students for failure who are left behind in achieving rigorous standards, the Master Plan which is being pulled together "overnight" will have the fingerprints of all involved including the Board which must live up to its requirements, the need to educate the public about the "flip side" of "No Child Left Behind" in that the system needs to continue to work for "what's right for all the children it serves," and a caution not to leave the "borderline" student behind. The fourth question asked what the system can do to prepare the community for changes that are coming and Board responses included communicating what is happening and why to the public, bring parents and other stakeholders into the process, and work with parents of children who are not yet in school (zero to five years old). Mrs. Haas said the staff will incorporate Board priorities into the Master Plan.

APPROVAL OF TESTIMONY FOR HARFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MSDE QUALITY TEACHER TASK FORCE

Acting on the motion of Mrs. Rich and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to approve proposed testimony from the school system and the Harford County Office of Human Resources to the Quality Teacher Task Force established by the Maryland State Board of Education. The testimony is to be presented to the Task Force on November 19th. The purpose of the Task Force is to identify problems in recruiting teachers and other professionals. Mrs. Haas said the testimony will urge the Maryland State Department of Education to be cautious in its interpretation of the definition of "highly qualified" educators so as not to put Maryland in a precarious position compared to other states in those requirements.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas told the Board that preparation of the Master Plan, especially considering the constricted timeline, is "an awesome task." She said the system was promised regulatory

language explaining the requirements of the 'No Child Left Behind' act in July, then December, and now it appears it will be January. She said the Master Plan is being prepared with the Board's four goals in mind. She said the focus will be on what the major job of the school system is all about - instruction. Mrs. Haas reminded the Board that the first pass of the Master Plan has to be ready to be incorporated into the FY 04 Operating Budget proposal due to the Board on December 8th. She said the guidance that will be coming from the State in January will be "too late" to help the local system with its Master Plan which is due to County officials in August and to the state by October 1, 2003. She said a particular area of concern is the as yet unpublished definition of "persistently dangerous" schools. She said current thinking is that the definition would be based on several years performance, not a single incident or year.

OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO PRESENT NEW BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mrs. Troy noted that the Harford County Board hosted one of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) "What Counts" session on October 29th. She said there have been a series of meetings in the state where information has been gathered from key members of the community. That information will be combined with data accumulated from meetings in other states to provide a set of guidelines outlining what is considered important in education throughout the country. Mr. Magee congratulated those who were honored in the recent Minority Achievement Awards ceremony including Allyn Watson, Edgewood Elementary Principal, Rev. Al Reeves, a mentor for many Harford students, Devan Dewitt, Patrice Brown, and Joyce Byrd. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler said he had been a guest speaker at a Veterans Day ceremony at Hall's Cross Roads Elementary that day, while Mrs. Troy had attended a similar ceremony at Fountain Green Elementary, and there were others elsewhere in the county. He said the students and staff "make all us veterans proud." Mr. Wolkow mentioned a December 4th ceremony at Martin's West which will honor Dr. Percy V. Williams, former president of the Board of Education of Harford County and pioneering educator in the state. He added that the new auditorium stage lighting system recently installed at Edgewood High School will be on display at the school's fall play, November 21 through 23.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on the motion of Mr. Wolkow and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board will continue its business meetings at Bel Air Middle School through the December quarter, with regular meetings slated for November 25th, December 9th, and December 16th. The Board will hold a series of budget work sessions and other public work sessions. Consult the HCPS web site for a complete listing of the upcoming meetings.

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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