



Board Meeting

June 9, 2003

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

The regular business meeting of the Board of Education of Harford County was called to order by Board President **Terry R. Troy** at 6:33 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2003, in the cafeteria of Havre de Grace Middle School. Mrs. Troy asked for a quorum call which revealed that all Board Members were present. Acting on the motion of Board Member **Karen L. Wolf** and the second of Board Past President **Eugene C. Chandler**, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as printed. Board Vice President **Robert S. Magee** led those present in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION

Student Representative to the Board of Education **Molly P. Harris** presented those present with information on two sets of Recognitions which were conducted during the meeting. The first involved recognition of Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA) state champion student-athletes from Harford County. Presented Board certificates by Mrs. Troy and Superintendent **Jacqueline C. Haas** were **Kelli Buck**, C. Milton Wright High School sophomore who won the Class 4A state title in the girls 1600 meter run; **Lauren Dunn** of Edgewood High School, who won the 2A girls triple jump championship; and **Henry Campbell** of Aberdeen High School, who won the boys 2A 1600 meter run. In addition, the following Harford County Public School regional champion student-athletes had their names read by Ms. Harris: **David Rollins**, **Phillip Brown**, **Greg Williams**, **Jackie Cook**, and **Nikita Saunders** (Aberdeen High School track); **Matt Hofherr**, **Mark Dettbarn**, and **Bryan Thom** (Bel Air High School track); **Megan Ravenscraft**, **Samantha Beltz**, and **Jesse Slowikowski** (C. Milton Wright High track); **Kaila Ranines**, **Anita Sahu**, **Carlie Smith**, **Johnny Ahn**, and **Roger Torres** (C. Milton Wright High tennis); **Marcus Worthy**, **Kamil Maclin**, **Tomeika Dyer**, and **Gwen LeFlore** (Edgewood High track); **Matt Bowen** and **Kristan Baxivanos** (Fallston high track); **Allison Oates** (Harford Technical High track); **Kevin Walsh** (Havre de Grace High track); **Liezl Samios-Uy**

(Joppatowne High tennis); **Stephen Penn, Andre Antoine, Mark Carter, and Marc Isaac** (Joppatowne High track); **Matt Bauer, Mike Zeller, Matt Mitchell, and Randy Doak** (North Harford High track).

In addition, the four state champions in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Tournament held in Hagerstown earlier this school year, along with the seven others who finished second in that tournament (both groups having qualified for the National FBLA Conference competition to be held in Dallas, Texas, June 24 through 28), were recognized. State first place finishers were **Kristen Gagnon** of C.

Milton Wright High, who won first in Word Processing I; **Kevin Rate** of C. Milton Wright High, who won first place in Business Math; **Stephen Comaty** of Fallston High, who won first place in Technology Concepts; and **Phillip Jankieicz** of Fallston High, who won first place in Marketing, were presented certificates by Mrs. Troy and Mrs. Haas. In addition, the following second place state tournament winners received certificates: **Phillip Heuman** of Edgewood High; and **Nick Driver, Christine Billings, Dakota LeMaster, Danielle Wirtanen, Zak Whichard, and Matt VanSant**, all of North Harford High.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heather Johnson, a ten-year art teacher at Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School who lives in Bel Air, appealed to the Board to restore the position of Art Supervisor in the Harford County Public Schools. She said she was "shocked" to learn that the Art Supervisor's position had been merged with two other areas of supervision as a result of the instructional supervisory reorganization being implemented for next school year. She said there are 80 art teachers who depend on the supervisor for guidance and 500 students who enter their work in art shows who benefit from the leadership.

Sandy Palmer, North Bend Elementary School PTA president, said she and the vast majority of parents at North Bend support the school's current principal and assistant principal and that the parents would do whatever they could to demonstrate that support.

Mary Almsay of Bel Air urged the Board to do what it can to see that all schools are completely air conditioned

by the 2004-05 school year. She said that "hot, sticky" conditions make students "sleepy and distracted" and urged the County government to "forward fund" the projects to complete air conditioning throughout all county schools.

Cindy Mumby of Bel Air, a member of the Bel Air Middle School PTA, said the "time is right" to pursue funding for full air conditioning at the county school buildings where that does not now exist. She said revenue sources and new funding strategies are being discussed as part of the County government's Adequate Public Facilities Task Force and that students should expect nothing less in the area of air conditioning than those who are incarcerated in jails.

Deb Merlock, vice president of legislation for the Harford County Council of PTAs, discussed issues raised at the recent leadership training seminar conducted by the organization. She said the group opened the door to discussions of overcrowding in schools. She said they also expressed their opposition to PTAs being called upon to fund grade level field trips, encouraging them instead to support the use of cultural arts programs in schools. Mrs. Merlock also urged the Board to adopt a policy regarding field trips with a provision that they be admission-free for students.

Ken Cook of the Bel Air High School PTA said the school he represents is now ten percent over capacity (1,580 students) and has eight relocatable classrooms. He said the school principal has said Bel Air High will get 90 to 100 more students next year and be 17 percent over capacity with two additional relocatables. Mr. Cook said the school had hoped to get three additional teachers, but now is expected to get just one, meaning

some courses will have to be discontinued and other classes will experience larger numbers of students.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Board Member **Robin R. Rich**, the Board voted unanimously to approve items on the Consent Agenda including: Affirmation of Monthly Contract Awards; Minutes of the April 1 and April 14, 2003 Board Business Meetings; Approval of Transfer of School Bus Contracts; Approval of Award of School Bus Contracts; Approval of Jarrettsville Elementary School Roof Replacement; and Affirmation of Appeal Hearing Decisions in Cases: 08-02-03, 09-02-03; 10-02-03; and 11-02-03.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL

FACILITIES USE POLICY

Public school facilities in the county are used extensively by outside groups for various activities. During the current school year, approximately 2,500 activities will have been conducted by outside groups in the schools. Maryland law provides a structure for the use of public school facilities by non-school groups and the Board of Education at each school system enact policies and procedures to manage that use. Assistant Superintendent for Operations **Joseph P. Licata** brought a proposal to alter the existing Board Policy to the Board in February with the major intention of recouping some of the cost to the school budget involved with the use by outside groups. Mr. Licata, who has returned to the Board at four subsequent meetings with adjustments to the proposal, said there is no major change in the policy except to recover the cost of "expendables" such as paper towels, soap, and other materials. Board Member **Robert B. Thomas, Jr.** said he had problems with one county agency (school system) charging another county agency (Department of Parks and Recreation) fees which would represent nothing more than county money going from one hand to the other. He and other Board members said they would like to see a delay in being asked to take action on the proposal until they can see some numbers on what the cost of the "expendables" is. Many said that it might be more logical to put that amount of money in the budget request to the county. The Board reached a consensus on those points and directed that Mr. Licata come back to them at the August 11 meeting (Fallston Middle School, 7:00 p.m.).

NEW BUSINESS

ACTIONS

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS/

PROMOTIONS – ELEMENTARY/

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS

The Board of Education took action on a series of proposals from the Superintendent to appoint/promote principals in the elementary and secondary schools. Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to appoint **Sharon Lang** as principal of Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School. Acting on the motion of Mr. Thomas and the seconds of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and Board Member **Mark M. Wolkow** the Board voted unanimously to appoint **Creighton P. Leizear** as principal of Riverside Elementary School. Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Thomas, the Board voted unanimously to appoint **Kim A. Spence** as principal of William S. James

Elementary School. Acting on the Motion of Mr. Magee and the second of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler, the Board voted unanimously to appoint **Wayne D. Thibeault** as principal of Havre de Grace High School. In addition, Mrs. Haas announced the transfer of the following principals **Gail Connolly** (from Hall's Cross Roads to Hickory elementary); **Richard Russell** (from Norrisville to Jarrettsville elementary); and **Duane Wallace** (from Riverside to Norrisville elementary).

PRESENTATIONS

REVIEW OF REVISED

STUDENT DRESS

CODE POLICY

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and the second of Mr. Wolkow, the Board voted unanimously to approve a revised Student Dress Code Policy. The policy, as adopted, provides a framework for schools to ensure clothing students wear is safe and conducive to a positive school environment. The policy directs that schools develop regulations and procedures to implement the policy and that administrators at the schools have authority to make decisions required to enforce the policy. The newly adopted policy removes the guidelines that had been in the previous policy and moves that information to the Administrative Guidelines. The policy also outlines the method by which uniforms can be adopted in a school as student attire. The Board approval continues the process of a yearly review of the policy. The action also specifically removes reference to footwear in the policy. The Board, which does not act on administrative procedures, did review those procedures (check the Harford County Public School website --- www.hcps.org --- for a complete listing of the new dress code policy and administrative procedures).

PRESENTATION UPDATE OF THE OVER PRESSURIZATION PROJECT

Acting on the motion of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler and second of Mrs. Rich, the Board voted unanimously to discontinue the school system's involvement with the Over Pressurization Project program at Edgewood High, Middle, and Elementary schools as well as Deerfield Elementary School on or about November 2003, upon completion of the neutralization process for chemical agents at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Director of Facilities Management **Jeffery Ayers**, accompanied by Emergency Operations Center Administrator **Douglas Richmond**, told the Board that the project of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) began in 1989; and included the installation of a positively over pressurized ventilation system in pre-determined safe areas of the four schools involved. That process was completed in 1995 and training was conducted on the system. The Federal government increased safety and security measures following the events of September 11, 2001, including the expedited neutralization of the agents remaining from testing done on the installation since its founding during World War I. Once the mustard agent present on the site has been disposed of, the mechanical systems that were installed to assure extra protection in the event of an incident will no longer be needed, Mr. Ayers and Mr. Richmond told the Board.

PRESENTATION OF 2003

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

MASTER PLAN

Supervisor of Planning and Construction **Kathleen Sanner** presented the Board with a first reading of the 2003 Educational Facilities Master Plan, which must be approved by the Board and provided to the State Department of Education by July 1, 2003. Mrs. Haas said the Master Plan is a precursor to consideration of the

FY 2005 Capital Budget. Mrs. Sanner said the plan provides an overview of projects to be undertaken by the local school system during the upcoming decade. She emphasized that the plan does not commit the local school system or funding authorities to following through on the projects listed, but does give a framework for projects to be considered. Mrs. Sanner said the State will fund only about \$100 million each year for the next several for all school systems in Maryland to use in construction projects. She said that equates to about \$6 million for Harford County each year – most of which will be "eaten up" by the North Harford High School renovation for the next four years. The Board was to have begun consideration of the FY 2005 Capital Budget at its June 16 work session (HEAT Center).

DISCUSSION

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Haas reported to the Board on the Maryland School Assessment testing program which will contain a criterion reference section that will permit student test takers to be judged "basic," "proficient," or "advanced." She said the MSAs are administered in March with scores this year due back in late August. She said the State Department of Education will set standards in July which will form the basis to judge future year's "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) in which each school will receive ratings schoolwide and for disaggregated groups. Mrs. Haas added that the previous Friday at an Educational Leadership meeting with school administrators during which she told them the reorganization that impacts several instructional supervisors and teacher specialists is intended to provide "job-embedded professional development" as outlined in the MGT Report. Mrs. Haas also outlined those positions which remain to be filled as a result of retirements/resignations or other reasons.

BOARD NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Troy asked that the Board's Safety and Security Committee look into the issue of the use of Garrett Wands (hand held metal detectors) and report back to the Board. Mr. Thomas said he had been "embarrassed" by the actions of some graduating seniors, their families, and others at the commencement exercises at Joppatowne High School and at least one other school this year. He called on the Superintendent and her staff to set parameters of protocol for the commencement ceremonies which, he said he believes, should be conducted with decorum. He cited Harford Technical High School's commencement as a model for the kind of behavior that should be expected at the graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Wolkow said that Title 1 has less funds available this year than in the past at the same time that MSA tests and the school system Master Plan is requiring more investment of funds. He said the new Adequate Public Facilities Task Force met the previous Thursday and discussed a variety of potential recommendations.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Chandler asked that Board members be informed of those seniors who will not graduate rather than be blindsided by calls from parents. Mrs. Haas said the school system was "caught off guard" by the late return of results of those who did not pass the Functional Test this year.

CLOSING

Mrs. Troy declared the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education of Harford County was to have held its final business meeting at Havre de Grace Middle School on Monday, June 23 (6:30 p.m.) before moving to Fallston Middle School for its July/August/September 2003 quarter. The summer meetings will be held July 21 (7:00 p.m.) and August 11 (7:00 p.m.) with September meetings resuming their normal second and fourth Monday sequence (September 8, 7:00 p.m./September 22, 6:30 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: don.morrison@hcps.org; 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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