

Minutes (approved 5/7/07)
Meeting of the County Council and the Howard County Board of Education
April 25, 2007

The meeting was called to order by County Council Chairperson Calvin Ball at 8:25 a.m. on April 25, 2007, in the Tyson Room, George Howard Building.

Council members present: Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, Greg Fox, Courtney Watson arrived at 8:35 a.m.; Jen Terrasa arrived at 8:40 a.m.

Board of Education members present: Diane Mikulis, Frank Aquino, Larry Cohen, Sandra French, Ellen Flynn Giles, Patricia Gordon, Janet Siddiqui

Playing Fields: Mike Williams, Coordinator of Athletics, discussed the usage of the playing fields and prohibitions in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) on charging fees for field usage.

Mt. Hebron Project: Ken Roey, Director of Facilities, discussed the status of the Mt. Hebron project, including the feasibility study. He also said that the most recent leak at Mt. Hebron was caused by the flushing of unnatural material in a toilet. That clog was repaired. The Board will do a modification to the plumbing this summer designed to minimize overflow problems. This maintenance project will cost about \$25,000.

Responding to Courtney Watson's question about the Board's request in FY 08 for funding for Mt. Hebron, Diane Mikulis and Frank Aquino said that the Board did include funding in their FY 08 request; however, Ray Brown, Associate Superintendent, said that the execution of the project has been pushed back by the feasibility study and that the Board would not be able to spend money for construction in FY 08, if it were appropriated. Greg Fox and Courtney Watson clarified that the Board could save dollars appropriated in FY 08 to use when the project is executed. Sydney Cousin offered that the Board's expected FY 09 request will be greater than the County's ability to pay, so receiving Mt. Hebron funds in FY 08 for later expenditure would relieve pressure on the FY 09 budget.

A discussion followed about the Board's efforts, with Council support, to win support from the State delegation for authority for a sustainable source of funding for school projects.

Planning Board Response: Courtney Watson said that she was satisfied with the Board's written response to the Planning Board. Sydney Cousin said that the Board already is doing the kind of long-range planning that the Planning Board recommended. He said that the Board will invite the Planning Board and Council to a session in which the feasibility study and long-range planning will be discussed.

Financial Literacy: Bob Glascock reported that the current curriculum contains elements of financial literacy. The staff are working with their business partners and with the Advisory Board for the Academy on Finance to begin drafting curriculum for a semester-long, elective course in financial literacy. He projects that a proposal will go to the Board of Education in October. He anticipates the possibility of an on-line version. He reported that Baltimore and Carroll Counties have financial literacy classes, and Harford, Howard and others are exploring them.

Donations to Schools: A summary was distributed showing donations to schools by districts. Linda Wise reported on efforts the school system makes to provide additional support to schools who may not have the same fund-raising success, including supplementing faculty and providing grant and other extra funds. Ellen Flynn Giles noted that the summary distributed omits some kinds of donations and shouldn't be seen as a comprehensive review of donations or resources.

No decisions were made nor action taken at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.