

Minutes (approved)  
Meeting of the County Council and the Howard County Board of Education  
October 10, 2007

The meeting was called to order by County Council Chairperson Calvin Ball at 8:35 a.m. on October 10, 2007 in the Ellicott Room, George Howard Building.

**Council members present:** Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jen Terrasa, and Courtney Watson.  
**Board of Education members present:** Diane Mikulis, Frank Aquino, Larry Cohen, Sandra French, Ellen Flynn Giles, Patricia Gordon, Janet Siddiqui

**High School Facility Study, Status:** Ken Roey, Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management, reported that the final report on all high schools will be complete in December. Middle schools are being visited now. The deadline for producing a report on the facilities of high schools and middle schools is March 2008. By October 2008, the study will also incorporate elementary schools. Findings of the high school study so far are consistent with expectations and would not suggest a need to change the proposed FY 09 capital budget request. He reported that it would take \$5 million per year just to maintain the high schools over the next twenty years.

**FY 09 Capital Budget Request:** Ken Roey distributed a handout summarizing the focus of the FY 09 capital budget request. The Board reported that it expects to receive less than the \$23 million in capital funds received from the State in FY 08. The balance of their \$118 million capital request will need to be funded from other sources. Board Chairperson Diane Mikulis reported that the Board supports renovating rather than replacing Mt. Hebron High School. The specific program of renovation has not yet been determined, but there was discussion of the merits of building an annex. Mr. Roey reported that there are no code violations at Mt. Hebron, although portions of the building were constructed under earlier versions of the building codes. Dr. Sydney Cousin, Superintendent, stressed that the addition will deal with the effective delivery of the educational program as the priority.

**Financial Literacy:** Dr. Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, distributed a description of three courses offered or expected to be offered that focus on financial literacy. While these courses may be elected by students, principles of financial management also are integrated into the American government class, which is required, so that every student has exposure to financial management. Dr. Glascock reported on a survey of counties regarding the prevalence of financial management instruction in other counties. Of the eleven responding counties, only one, Carroll, has a required curriculum in financial management. Other districts, including Howard, have integrated components of financial management into other courses required in the curriculum.

**School Improvement Strategies:** Terry Albin distributed a summary of school achievement under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and explained how the schools needing improvement were identified. Standards for achievement under NCLB were determined by the States. Maryland's decision to include any group having five or more students as a subgroup that must achieve under the Act makes it particularly difficult to meet the standards. Furthermore, progress is measured from a baseline level of achievement, so otherwise high achieving schools may be deemed to be in need of improvement if one or more subgroups fail to make sufficient progress from that high baseline. There are three steps for identifying schools needing attention; schools in need of improvement are at the second step. Dr. Glascock and Linda Wise, Assistant Superintendent for School Administration, explained that Howard County has intervention plans for schools and students with achievement that is below standards. Those interventions include concentrating resources at schools needing improvement and at schools with demographic profiles that may require additional resources, developing individualized educational plans based on data derived from students' diagnostic tests, and extensive communication with the school community regarding the needs of and plans for the schools' improvement. In Howard County two schools, Oakland Mills Middle School and Murray Hill Middle School, have been deemed in need of improvement.

**Calendar:** The members of the Board and Council approved a proposed calendar of meetings for 2008, as follows:

Wed., Feb. 20 @ BoE  
Wed., April 16 @ George Howard, Ellicott Room  
Wed., June 11 @ BoE  
Wed., Oct. 15 @ George Howard, Ellicott Room

The Council commended the Board on its recent legislative breakfast.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.