

Minutes (approved, June 18, 2007)
Meeting of the County Council and the Howard County Board of Education
June 6, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson Diane Mikulis at 8:17 a.m. on April 25, 2007, in the Board's Conference Room B.

Council members present: Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, Greg Fox, Courtney Watson arrived at 8:25 a.m.; Jen Terrasa arrived at 8:55 a.m.

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

Resolving Parents' Issues: Linda Wise, Assistant Superintendent for School Administration, distributed a brochure explaining the procedure for resolving parents' issues on school matters. The brochure is available on the web, and the Board is willing to provide additional copies for members to distribute to constituents. The process focuses on resolving the problems at the lowest level possible, beginning with the classroom teacher, if possible.

Elementary Technology: Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent, and Bob Glascock, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, reported that elementary school teachers will be getting an additional hour of planning time and that elementary schools will be getting technology teachers, who will fulfill two functions: they will help the schools meet the statewide technology instructional goals, and they will free up time for the other teachers' planning hour.

Graduations: Diane Mikulis thanked Council members for attending the high school graduations. She and Sydney Cousin, Superintendent, discussed the logistical difficulties of keeping graduations in the County.

School Visits: Sandra French invited Council members to visit schools and noted that Jen Terrasa had visited Laurel Woods Elementary School with her recently. Bob Glascock invited members to attend the curriculum revision work shops and distributed a schedule. Courtney Watson said that the Mock Congressional Hearings that she and other members attended were a wonderful experience.

High School Facility Study: Ray Brown, Chief Operating Officer, and Ken Roey, Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management, reported that a consultant has completed a study of high school facilities. The staff will make a recommendation on the study to the Board at their June 28 meeting. The staff also will recommend that a consultant be retained for a second phase of the study to include all schools.

Bus Drivers: Diane Mikulis said that a consultant, Glen Johnson, had completed a study of the transportation system. The staff expects to take this study to the Board with a recommendation on August 16.

Future Board Meetings: Diane Mikulis announced that the Board will meet only once each in July and August. The meeting on the capital budget will be held August 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Calvin Ball announced that today is Council member Jen Terrasa's birthday.

Action: None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.