

Minutes Approved 2/18/09
Meeting of the County Council and the Howard County Board of Education
February 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education Chairman Frank Aquino at 8:20 a.m.

Councilmembers present: Mary Kay Sigaty, Chairperson; Calvin Ball; Greg Fox; Courtney Watson

Board of Education members present: Frank J. Aquino, Chairman; Ellen Flynn Giles, Vice Chairman; Lawrence H. Cohen; Allen Dyer; Sandra H. French; Patricia S. Gordon; and Janet Siddiqui

. **Budget:**

- Dr. Sydney Cousin discussed the public hearing on the proposed FY 2010 operating budget that was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2009. He stated the meeting was very positive and the budget was supported by the community.
- Ray Brown, Chief Financial Officer, presented the statewide general fund budget outlook. At this point HCPSS will only receive \$1.9 million which is a \$3 million dollar reduction.
- In the cost sharing of non-public placements, state will only pay 50% instead of 80%.
- HCPSS will lose approximately 4.5 million from state funding.
- For the current year HCPSS needs to return \$1.5 million to the state due to their change in the formula.
- This budget does not include any raises for HCPSS staff.
- Regarding the federal stimulus package, HCPSS could potentially receive \$2.1 million for construction and \$5.1 million for special education. Unknown strings could be attached.

2. High School Capacity

- Terry Alban, Chief Operating Officer, discussed in general the Board report that was presented at the January 26th Board meeting regarding changing the high school capacity formula. She also explained the components of capacity calculations. The present formula is $63 \times 23.5 \times .90 = 1332$ for high school. This formula was regular education students only. There is a board policy of 110% utilization.
- The proposed capacity formula is $\#TS \times 25 \times .85 = \text{Range: } 1403 \text{ to } 1573$. The impact of this is to gain 2000 seats in the high schools, delay redistricting, conformance to state funding formula, efficient use of capital dollars, and more opportunity for academic programs.

- This is not the ultimate fix for redistricting, but it could delay it a number of years.
- The next steps are to confirm actual number of teaching stations in each high school, have a public hearing on February 26, 2009 and take action on March 26, 2009.
- There was detailed discussion regarding the different formulas. It was suggested to reconsider magnet schools to fill schools that are difficult. It was also stated that this new formula does not increase class sizes.

3. Renovation Guidelines

- Ken Roey, Director, Facilities Planning and Management, presented the guidelines on how HCPSS would renovate an older school. The guidelines outline the process for balancing building infrastructure and educational program needs within the existing building footprint and budget available.
- The guidelines were brought to the Board as a report on January 22, 2009. Board member comments are being incorporated into the document and it will be brought back to the Board on February 6, 2009 for final consideration and approval.

4. Legislative Platform

- Ms. Watson stated that the Council had received the Board of Education's Legislative Platform. It was also stated that this document was tremendous and a great improvement from the past. She appreciated all the hard work that went into it.

5. General Business

- Ms. Sigaty introduced the new Council Administrator, Mr. Stephen LeGendre, who replaced Sheila Tolliver.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.