

Minutes (approved, 4/22/08)
Meeting of the County Council and the Howard County Board of Education
April 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order by County Council Chairperson Calvin Ball at 8:15 a.m. on April 16, 2008 in the Ellicott Room, George Howard Building.

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

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

Test data by Student Groups: Terry Alban, Executive Director of the Strategic Planning, Assessment, and Program Evaluation division of the Board of Education, presented summary data on student performance on standardized tests by discipline and student group. Pam Blackwell, Director of Student Services, described various interventions that the school system is taking to improve student performance. These include partnerships, outreach to families, anti-bullying programs, and other programs. She also described special initiatives being undertaken for specific target groups, including special education, African-American students, and students receiving free and reduced-price meals (FARMS). These groups were targeted based on behavioral data.

Council Chair Courtney Watson urged Council members to take part in the cultural proficiency classes offered by the school system.

Marie DeAngelis, Director of Elementary Curricular Programs, described a collaborative math plan. Dr. Evans, Director of Secondary Curriculum, described training institutes in mathematics and promised to provide additional information in writing.

Dr. Sydney Cousin, Superintendent, described the co-teaching pilot, which has had an excellent effect on performance of special education students.

Enrollment Projections: Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning, reviewed enrollment data, both historical and projected. He noted that error rates overall are generally less than 5 percent. He invited Council members to come to his office to see the model for projecting enrollment. He said that the Board is expected to redistrict elementary schools in 2010.

Donations: Mary Schiller, Manager of the Partnerships and Educational Foundation Office, reported on donations to schools. She promised to provide a list of the members of the Foundation Board.

Council Relocation: Council Chair Courtney Watson told the members that the Council will be displaced from the George Howard Building for about a year during renovations and reported on discussions with the Superintendent about the possibility of using the Board's meeting room for legislative sessions, hearings, and work sessions. Bob Glascock estimated a cost of \$12,000 for custodial staff and \$5,000 to reprogram their television equipment to work with the GTV station. There would be additional costs if their staff film the Council's sessions. They agreed that the Council Administrator and Superintendent would work together on the details for sharing space.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.