

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CHARLES COUNTY
La Plata, Maryland 20646
Meeting No. XIV-28-2009
February 10, 2009

The Board of Education of Charles County held a regular meeting on February 10, 2009, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, Radio Station Road, La Plata, Maryland. The meeting opened at 12:05 p.m.; convened in executive session at 12:05 p.m.; recessed at 12:40 p.m.; convened in open session at 1:03 p.m.; recessed at 1:41 p.m.; reconvened in open session at 2:48 p.m.; recessed at 2:53 p.m.; reconvened at 4:30 p.m.; recessed at 5:34 p.m.; resumed at 5:59 p.m.; and adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

1. BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Donald M. Wade, Chairman; Roberta S. Wise, Vice Chairman; Jennifer S. Abell; Collins A. Bailey; Charles E. Carrington; Maura H. Cook; Pamela A. Pedersen; Diane Berringer, Student Board member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

James E. Richmond, Superintendent of Schools
Ronald G. Cunningham, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Paul T. Balides, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Business Administration and Technology
Judy W. Estep, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Charles L. Wineland, Assistant Superintendent for Supporting Services
Keith Hettel, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Eric Schwartz, Staff Attorney
Kessandra Stubblefield, Executive Assistant to the Elected Board

OTHERS PRESENT

Caillyne Skym, Alternate Student Board Member, North Point High School
Emily Dickey, Student Liaison, Henry E. Lackey High School
Joey Frenette, Student Liaison, Maurice J. McDonough High School
Brittany Libert, Student Liaison, La Plata High School
Rachel Zaccarelli, Student Liaison, Westlake High School
Gretchen Phillips, *Maryland Independent*

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Carrington made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Cook, to go into executive session as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, Section 10-508(a) (1), (7), (8), (9), and section 10-503(c) of the State Government Article to discuss personnel matters, specifically the Superintendent's recommendations on certificated positions; information concerning the parameters for negotiations; legal advice concerning the Open Meetings Act; high school assessments; administrative matters concerning budget negotiations and a new Superintendent's rule. Present were: Donald M. Wade, Chairman, Board Members: Jennifer S. Abell; Collins A. Bailey; Charles E. Carrington; and Maura H. Cook. Absent were: Roberta S. Wise, Vice Chairman; and Pamela A. Pedersen. Also present were: James E. Richmond, Superintendent of Schools; Ronald G. Cunningham, Deputy Superintendent of Schools; Paul T. Balides, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Business Administration and Technology; Judy W. Estep, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction; Keith A. Hettel, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Eric Schwartz, Staff Attorney; and Kessandra Stubblefield, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education. The executive session adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

The vote go into executive session was unanimous.

3. OPEN SESSION

Chairman Wade opened the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL'S JROTC UNIT

Chairman Wade explained that Mrs. Wise and Mrs. Pedersen would be joining the meeting later as they were returning from a legislative meeting in Annapolis.

C/LCDR Soto; C/LTG Banks; C/PO1 Marbley; C/PO1 Fountain; C/SA McClurkin posted the colors.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent James Richmond updated the Board on the success of Maryland schools in the area of advanced placement. Other topics highlighted were school closings/delays during inclement weather, particularly how decisions were made on January 27, 2009, due to snow; Channel 4 reporter Joe Krebs' "Up 4 the Challenge" visit to Westlake High School to teach for business teacher Ryan Erickson; the rescheduling of Senator Benjamin Cardin's visit to North Point High School to February 23, 2009; an information session on an alternative route to teacher certification; and upcoming events such as Read Across Charles County; the Spelling

Bee and the Charles County Drill Classic.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mrs. Cook updated the Board on a recent meeting she and Mrs. Pedersen attended where they provided information on the format of the Board's "What Counts in Education" meeting held last year. Mr. Carrington updated the Board on his attendance at Thomas Stone High School's annual JROTC Dining-In ceremony.

7. EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF CHARLES COUNTY UPDATE (EACC)

William Fisher, President of the EACC, greeted the Board and staff and read a prepared update urging Board members to ask the Commissioners for their annual level increase as a line item in their budget. He said he is hopeful that President Obama's stimulus package would provide funds to Maryland to support education and he encouraged the Board to read at a later time the National Education Association's position on funding as outlined in the update. He also said he would be attending the Future Educators of America convention in Denver and thanked Board members for their support.

8. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER UPDATE

Student Board member Diane Berringer updated the Board that the January 29, 2009, Charles County Association of Student Councils meeting was cancelled due to the inclement weather and would be rescheduled at a later date. She said she would advise the Board of when the meeting is rescheduled. Also highlighted were; more than 100 students representatives attended legislative session as delegates and 15 students were chosen to serve as trainers; and the CCASC planning the Senior Citizens' Prom scheduled for March 13, 2009.

9. MARYLAND TEACHING, EMPOWERING, LEADING AND LEARNING (TELL) SURVEY

Mr. Cunningham provided a brief update to the Board on the TELL survey. He said Governor Martin O'Malley is encouraging all school-based certificated educators to participate in the on-line, confidential survey. The survey is anonymous; questions relate to teaching and learning conditions that impact teaching and learning in our schools; the questions focus on time, facilities and resources, student conduct, community engagement, empowerment, school leadership, professional development, student learning, new teacher support and mentoring. The intent is to provide teachers in the classroom and other educators in public schools a direct link to the Governor to share opinions about working conditions and provide concrete

data for schools and districts. The goal is 100 percent participation in each school. Mr. Cunningham said at least 50 percent participation is needed for the school system to get results of the survey and a district report.

10. CIP UPDATE

Jerry Barrett, Coordinating Supervisor of Planning and Construction, and staff presented a PowerPoint presentation on projects underway throughout the school system. Mr. Barrett told the Board that the redistricting committee would be meeting February 11, 2009, and minutes from previous meetings are available. Additionally, he noted Governor Martin O'Malley's excitement during a recent visit to North Point High School and pointed out how Governor O'Malley commended the school system for its many exciting programs for students. Mr. Barrett briefly commented on the possible benefits to the school system should President Barak Obama's stimulus package pass in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES ORAL UPDATE

Keith Hettel, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, updated the Board on the progress of the School Year 2010-2011 calendar. He said staff will receive input on the calendar from the EACC; the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; parent and student groups. Additionally, information on the calendar will be made available via the school system's website. Mr. Hettel said Declaration of Intention statements will soon be sent to all staff and statements must be returned to Human Resources by March.

12. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Some of the issues highlighted for the Board by Staff Attorney Eric Schwartz were that the Governor's budget does not reflect great news for public education; a move to amend a current law that would guarantee a hold-harmless level which would cause counties to get less funding from the state for teacher retirement; possible changes in county funding from the federal government; a fewer amount of bills this year in part due to the poor economy and the dire situation with funding. Mr. Schwartz also highlighted two proposed bills: Senate Bill 673 which is a labor relations bill; Senate Bill 569 which is not a bill that local Boards would want to support; and Senate Bill 710 which would shift some of the cost of teacher retirements to local boards.

13. RECESS

Chairman Wade recessed the meeting at 1:41 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:48 p.m. Mrs. Wise and Mrs. Pedersen were present from this point of the meeting on.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Wade told the Board that they would convene in Executive Session shortly.

15. NEW BUSINESS

None

16. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Carrington asked for a future discussion on financial literacy and the possibility of making it a mandatory course for students. He also wished to find out how many students are currently taking Freshman Seminar and how many schools are still offering it. Mrs. Wise noted that there is a bill in the Senate and the House regarding financial literacy becoming a mandatory course. Superintendent Richmond said that staff would provide the information to the Board in a Weekly Update. Mrs. Pedersen also asked if business electives and the number of students in them and information on enrollment, particularly at North Point High School and Mattawoman Middle School, could be included in the Weekly Update.

Following this discussion:

MRS. WISE MOVED, SECONDED BY MRS. COOK, FOR THE BOARD TO RECESS AND CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

VOTING YES: CHAIRMAN WADE, MRS. WISE, MRS. ABELL, MR. BAILEY, MR. CARRINGTON, MRS. COOK AND MRS. PEDERSEN. VOTING NO: NONE.

17. RECESS

Chairman Wade recessed the meeting at 2:53 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 4:28 p.m.

18. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Wade went out of order to revisit New Business for the Board to take

action on the Superintendent's contract.

MRS. WISE MOVED, SECONDED BY MRS. PEDERSEN, TO RENEW SUPERINTENDENT JAMES E. RICHMOND'S CONTRACT AS WRITTEN AND TO REAPPOINT HIM FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS FROM 2009-2013.

VOTING YES: CHAIRMAN WADE, MRS. WISE, MRS. ABELL, MR. BAILEY, MR. CARRINGTON, MRS. COOK AND MRS. PEDERSEN. VOTING NO: NONE

Superintendent Richmond received a round of applause.

The Board resumed the order of the agenda.

19. **RECOGNITION**

Students:

Naloni Johnson, fifth grade, Berry Elementary School, Academic Achievement, Principal: Darryl Evans

Riana Everette-Scott, fifth grade, Eva Turner Elementary School, Personal Responsibility, Principal: Kathleen Morgan

Christopher Corbin, tenth grade, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, Personal Responsibility, Principal: Thomas Weirich

Chelsey Seman, fifth grade, J.P. Ryon Elementary School, Career Readiness, Principal: Virginia McGraw

Superintendent Richmond left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Employees:

Evangeline H. Turner, Counselor, Berry

Clyde A. Abbey, Building Service Manager, Turner

Kimberly Stillwell, Science Teacher, Ryon

J. Earl Swann, Building Service Manager, La Plata

R. Chris Hoepfl, Secretary, Stethem

Superintendent Richmond returned at 5:13 p.m.

Resolutions:

Read Across Charles County: Accepting: Jane Hobbs, Elementary Reading Specialist; Syrentha Anderson, Reading Resource Teacher; Janice McGeehan, Reading Resource Teacher; Don Swaniger, Reading Partner; Mary Gaines, Reading Recovery Teacher; Nancy McNaulty, Reading Recovery Teacher;

Elizabeth Brown, VP of the EACC

Mr. Carrington read this resolution into the public record.

Women's History Month: Accepting: Christine Parker, Chair, Charles County Commission for Women; Diane Warren, Vice Chair, Charles County Commission for Women

Ms. Berringer read this resolution into the public record.

Fine and Performing Arts Month: Accepting: Sara Jones, student, Milton Somers Middle School; Georgia Benson, student, Somers; Nicki Snead, student, Thomas Stone High School

Mrs. Cook read this resolution into the public record.

20. RECESS

Chairman Wade recessed the meeting at 5:34 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 5:59 p.m.

21. PUBLIC FORUM – 6 P.M.

Mr. Schwartz read aloud the rules for Public Forum.

Brian McCarthy, sixth grade language arts teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School

Mr. McCarthy told the Board that he does not understand why the Superintendent's FY2010 proposed budget does not include a step increase for teachers. He said it's only fair to give teachers what they deserve. He asked Board members to explain. Mrs. Wise explained to Mr. McCarthy that Board members do not respond during Public Forum. Mrs. Abell suggested to Mr. McCarthy to "stick around" for when the budget would be voted on later in the meeting.

Meg MacDonald, UniServ Director, Maryland State Teachers' Association

Ms. MacDonald said she really did not have too much more to say regarding step increases for teachers in light of all of the e-mails Board members had received from teachers. She reminded the Board that their job is to represent the needs of

the school system and asked that salary increments "at least" be included in the Superintendent's proposed FY2010 budget before it is presented to the county commissioners.

22. MINUTES

MRS. WISE MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. BAILEY, TO ACCEPT THE REGULAR MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2009, BOARD MEETING; THE WORK SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2009, AND THE TELEPHONE CONFERENCE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2009.

Mrs. Abell asked to divide the motion.

MRS. WISE MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. CARRINGTON, TO ACCEPT THE REGULAR MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2009, BOARD MEETING; AND THE WORK SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2009.

Student opinion was affirmative.

VOTING YES: MRS. WISE, MRS. ABELL, MR. BAILEY, MR. CARRINGTON, MRS. COOK AND MRS. PEDERSEN. VOTING NO: NONE. ABSTAINING: CHAIRMAN WADE.

MRS. WISE MOVED, SECONDED BY MRS. PEDERSEN, TO ACCEPT THE TELEPHONE CONFERENCE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2009.

Student opinion was abstained.

VOTING YES: CHAIRMAN WADE, MRS. WISE, MR. BAILEY, MR. CARRINGTON, MRS. COOK AND MRS. PEDERSEN. VOTING NO: NONE. ABSTAINING: MRS. ABELL.

23. PERSONNEL

MRS. WISE MOVED, SECONDED BY MRS. PEDERSEN, TO ACCEPT PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS COVERING THREE CERTIFICATED APPOINTMENTS AND ONE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE.

VOTING YES: CHAIRMAN WADE, MRS. WISE, MRS. ABELL, MR. BAILEY, MR. CARRINGTON, MRS. COOK AND MRS. PEDERSEN. VOTING NO: NONE

24. NEW HEALTH CURRICULUM

MR. BAILEY MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. CARRINGTON, TO ACCEPT THE NEW HEALTH CURRICULUM WITH ALL ITS REVISIONS AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2009.

Student opinion was affirmative.

VOTING YES: CHAIRMAN WADE, MRS. WISE, MRS. ABELL, MR. BAILEY, MR. CARRINGTON, MRS. COOK AND MRS. PEDERSEN. VOTING NO: NONE

MR. BAILEY MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE NEW HEALTH CURRICULUM TO INCLUDE FOUR MORE SUGGESTIONS THAT HE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD EARLIER TODAY.

The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

25. FY2010 BUDGET

Mr. Balides gave a brief overview of the budget and asked the Board for action on it.

MRS. ABELL MOVED, SECONDED BY MRS. PEDERSEN, TO ACCEPT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S FY2010 PROPOSED BUDGET.

Student opinion was affirmative.

VOTING YES: CHAIRMAN WADE, MRS. WISE, MRS. ABELL, MR. BAILEY, MR. CARRINGTON, MRS. COOK AND MRS. PEDERSEN. VOTING NO: NONE

MRS. COOK MOVED, SECONDED BY MRS. WISE, TO AMEND THE SUPERINTENDENT'S FY2010 BUDGET TO ADD THE COST OF THE SALARY STEP AND LEVEL AT \$4.1 MILLION, AND INCREASE THE TOTAL REQUEST TO THE COUNTY TO \$9,460,500 AND SET THE BOARD'S PROPOSED BUDGET OPERATING BUDGET FOR FY2010 AT \$308,737,000.

VOTING YES: CHAIRMAN WADE, MRS. WISE, MRS. ABELL, MR. BAILEY, MR. CARRINGTON, MRS. COOK AND MRS. PEDERSEN. VOTING NO: NONE

26. ADJOURNMENT

MRS. COOK MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. CARRINGTON TO ADJOURN.

Student opinion was affirmative.

VOTING YES: CHAIRMAN WADE, MRS. WISE, MRS. ABELL, MR. BAILEY, MR.
CARRINGTON, MRS. COOK AND MRS. PEDERSEN. VOTING NO: NONE

Chairman Wade adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

DATE APPROVED /DATE SIGNED