

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CECIL COUNTY
Elkton, Maryland 21921

Work Session – July 18, 2005

A Work Session of the Board of Education of Cecil County was held on Monday, July 18, 2005, at 4:02 p.m. at the Administrative Offices, 201 Booth Street, Elkton, Maryland. Present were: Anthony L. Wong, President; William W. Herold, Vice President; Lisa A. Koch, Member; Earl M. Piner, Member; Stewart C. Wilson, Member; Michael R. Martin, Student Member; Carl D. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools; Henry A. Shaffer, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services; Mary Etta Reedy, Executive Director for High School Education; Peter L. McCallum, Executive Director for Middle School Education; Carolyn J. Teigland, Executive Director for Elementary School Education; Robert L. Davis, Executive Director for Human Resources; D'Ette W. Devine, Executive Director for Staff Relations; Perry A. Willis, Executive Director for Support Services; Karen L. Emery, Public Information Officer; members of the staff and other interested persons.

Mr. Wong called the meeting to order.

The Board reviewed their information items for the month.

Dr. Roberts stated Anatomy and Physiology is a course associated with the Career Cluster pathways. The textbook for this course, *Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology*, was inadvertently not submitted to the Textbook Review Council. Dr. Roberts distributed a description of the course. He noted it is a junior/senior course. The Division of Education Services would like to pilot the course under the condition that the textbook be reviewed in the fall. The Board and all parents would have the opportunity to review the textbook in advance. If the textbook is not approved in the fall, it will not be used for subsequent years. Dr. Roberts stated this course is a graduation requirement for some students. If this textbook is not endorsed, supplemental materials will have to be used until the book can be presented to the Textbook Review Council. In response to a question from Mr. Wong, Ms. Reedy stated the alternate plan would be to purchase the textbook approved for the nursing program; however that textbook is designed to address medical problems. Dr. Roberts stated Board members will be given a copy of the book to review and specific information regarding the textbook will be e-mailed to them.

Dr. Roberts noted Mr. Marvin Harrigan, the Cecil County Public Schools parent who presented information to the Board during the June 27, 2005 meeting, will meet with him to address his concerns. Dr. Roberts stated that after that meeting, with the Board's permission, he will draft a letter of response to Mr. Harrigan.

In response to a question from Mr. Herold, Mr. Shaffer stated the school system has not reached an agreement with the bank regarding financing for performance contracting.

At 4:23 p.m., Ms. Koch made a motion that the Board of Education go into closed session to discuss matters related to personnel, pending litigation, and collective bargaining negotiations pursuant to State Government Article 10-508(a)(1), (8), and (9) and Education Article 4-106. Mr. Herold seconded the motion; it carried unanimously. The Board discussed the following human resource items: teacher resignations, teacher appointments, teacher retirements, rehired retired teacher resignations, and rehired retired teacher appointments. No action was taken during this session.

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 4:45 p.m..

Mr. Herold made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Koch, that the Board of Education approve the May 9, 2005 Work Session minutes as presented. Mr. Wilson made a motion to amend the minutes to reflect that his meeting with Mr. Michel Gorbachev was not a breakfast

meeting. The minutes were approved as amended. (Mr. Martin voted in the affirmative.) Upon a motion by Mr. Piner that was seconded by Mr. Herold, the Board of Education unanimously approved the May 23, 2005 Work Session minutes as presented. (Mr. Martin voted in the affirmative.)

Mr. Wong invited questions regarding agenda items. There were none.

Calendar Related Items

July 21&22 - Board of Education Retreat - Principio Furnace

August 15 & 16 - Opening of School Education Leadership Meeting - Rising Sun Banquet Hall

August 16 (*Tuesday*) - Board of Education Meeting - 4:00 p.m.

[Note: On August 8, due to a scheduling conflict, this meeting was rescheduled for August 15.]

August 25 - First Day of School for Grades 1-12

August 30 - First Day of School for Pre-K & K

Business Services Budget Update

Mr. Shaffer stated July 15 was the deadline to closeout FY05. Auditors will arrive on August 1. On August 16 the preliminary FY06 prior year balance will be identified for the Board and an update on the auditing process will be presented. On September 12, the Board will be asked to approve the prior year balance for FY06.

Board Member Committee Assignment Reports

Mr. Wong stated beneficial information was presented at the Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium (ESMEC) Retreat. He noted attendance was lower than at past retreats. Dr. Roberts stated the retreat should be more of a workshop for board members than just presentations of information.

Presentation of Proposed Revisions to Policy IKAE, "Elementary Grading and Reporting"

Dr. Teigland stated this policy provides teachers with procedural guidelines for grading elementary students and reporting those grades. She stated the proposed revisions are not substantial; they are mostly changes in language. She presented the revisions. In response to a question from Mr. Wilson, Dr. McCallum described the research that indicated second grade was the best time to begin reporting letter grades for students. Mr. Herold stated he would like to see more parent involvement when revisions are made to this type of policy. Dr. Teigland noted parents and teachers were surveyed on these issues. Feedback received from them was reviewed and categorized by themes. Every parent who receives the form was surveyed. Questions are addressed in November during parent/teacher conferences. Dr. Roberts reiterated that the Board is considering revisions to Policy IKAE, not revisions to the administrative regulation in the handbook. In response to a question from Mr. Wong, Dr. Teigland noted which schools have access to the report card online and which forms in the handbook are accessible electronically.

The Board adjourned the Public Work Session at 5:26 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
Carl D. Roberts, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Secretary