

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION AND
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

MINUTES

March 17, 2009

A Joint Meeting of the Board of Education (BOE) and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) was held in the Board of Education's Board Room.

In attendance from the BOE were President Jean A. Smith, Vice President Bonnie M. Borsa, Daryl A. Boffman, Donna J. Crook, Angie L. Fish (entered at 2:05 p.m.), Kathryn B. Groth, and Michael E. Schaden. Also present were Linda D. Burgee, Superintendent/ Secretary-Treasurer, and Nuala McCarthy, Recording Secretary.

In attendance from the BOCC were President Jan H. Gardner, Vice President David P. Gray, Kai J. Hagen, Charles A. Jenkins, and John L. Thompson, Jr.

Mrs. Smith called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Schaden moved approval of the minutes of the February 17, 2009, Joint BOE/BOCC minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hagen and carried with one abstention from Mr. Boffman. Mrs. Fish was not present.

**REQUEST FROM INTERAGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (IIT)
TO TRANSFER PRINTING OF PAY STUBS TO FREDERICK COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS (FCPS)**

Dr. Burgee asked the BOCC members for the status of the IIT's request to transfer responsibilities that are currently covered under a Memorandum of Understanding between the IIT and Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS). She noted that if this were to occur in FY10 we would need to plan ahead in order for FCPS to deliver the same services that IIT is currently providing.

Commissioner Gardner noted the County Commissioners are not aware of this request. County Manager Ron Hart noted that this discussion is in the very preliminary stages. He will discuss it further with his staff to see if it would affect FY10 and report back to Dr. Burgee by the end of the week.

STATUS OF HEALTH INSURANCE RESERVE

Mrs. Smith referenced a letter that was sent to the BOCC advising that the BOE wishes to return to the BOCC \$1 million on July 1, 2009, to assist with its budget deficit. The \$1 million was provided by the BOCC in July 2003 to support the FCPS Self Insurance Fund and reduce the fund deficit at that time. Dr. Burgee noted we have a healthy reserve, our rates are where they should be in order to maintain that reserve, and we are confident that we can provide \$1 million without a negative impact on our Self Insurance Fund.

Dr. Borsa commended the Insurance Council for developing ways to build up a reserve and noted that it is to the council's credit and our employees that by raising co-pays and increasing premiums we have built up a healthy reserve.

John Kroll, Director of Finance, responded Commissioner Thompson's suggestion to reduce the BOE 2010 budget by \$1 million in place of BOE providing the funds to the BOCC. Dr. Borsa noted that we cannot spend the \$1 million because it is part of a reserve fund, but we can provide it to the BOCC to assist with its budget deficit.

Following discussion, Commissioner Gardner noted that she appreciates recognition of the county's budget situation and clarified that the BOE's intent is to make a one-time contribution out of the reserve from the Self Insurance Fund to help the BOCC close the budget deficit, not to reduce Maintenance of Effort and that this will be confirmed in writing by the BOCC.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BUDGET AMENDMENT 09-12

Ray Barnes, FCPS Executive Director of Facilities Services, noted that this amendment for roof repairs for two schools was previously denied by the BOCC. This amendment temporarily transfers funds from the West Frederick Middle School project in order to start the project during the summer and complete it before school starts in the fall. Funds will be returned at the end of the next fiscal year. Commissioner Gardner noted that the amendment makes perfect sense.

DISCUSSION OF THE USE OF STIMULUS FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE BOE

Dr. Burgee provided an overview of the restrictions on stimulus funds allocated to FCPS for two years and she and staff are seeking more information on the rules for spending these funds.

Hal Keller, Frederick County Public Schools' (FCPS) Executive Director of Fiscal Services, noted that everyone is waiting for the details of how these monies can be spent. He also noted that there are other minor sums of money available but they are on a competitive application basis.

(Mrs. Fish entered the meeting.)

Dr. Burgee noted that we are confident that even though these funds are restricted in nature, we can maximize the use of these funds and spend them as soon as possible.

STATUS OF THE BOE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Mr. Barnes recognized Maintenance and Operations Director Bob Wilkinson, and Energy and Communications Coordinator Charlie Dalphon, and he provided an overview of the FCPS recycling program. Mr. Barnes emphasized that FCPS is currently recycling paper and cardboard which accounts for 45-55% of our waste.

Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management Superintendent Phil Harris noted that his department has offered assistance to FCPS in obtaining educational kits for the new school year, developing recycling school teams, grant monies for containers, and assistance with custodial staff.

Mr. Barnes and Mr. Wilkinson responded to questions.

DISCUSSION OF SALARY COMPARISONS OF CERTAIN POSITIONS

Commissioner Jenkins noted his concerns with inequity in salaries between Frederick County Government and FCPS and that the comparison review was not completed. Dr. Burgee noted that she did not want to take up staff time researching information until the two Boards met to determine the purpose and scope of the information needed. She noted that the comparison would be “apples to oranges” because positions differ in responsibilities and some positions are not comparable; comparisons should be made between school systems in Maryland.

(Commissioner Thompson left the meeting.)

Dr. Schaden provided Commissioner Jenkins with a comparison of salaries (including FCPS, Frederick County, and the City of Frederick) completed five years ago and referenced salary differences in positions that can be compared. He said he feels each employer in good faith tries to compensate our employees fairly; benefit packages and other things vary, but we as a school system have to compete with other school systems.

Commissioner Jenkins said he will continue to express his concern with continuing paying salaries out of wack with Frederick County government.

(Commissioner Thomson re-entered the meeting.)

Dr. Borsa noted that salaries quoted on the Frederick News Post site compared 2009 FCPS salaries with 2008 Frederick County salaries. She also noted her concerns with erroneous, misleading comments made by Commissioner Jenkins when no one from FCPS is available to give the other side of the story.

Mr. Boffman stated that the BOCC is elected to run the county; the BOE is elected to run the school system. He asked that if Commissioner Jenkins or another member of the BOCC has a concern, that they pick up the phone and speak to us about it; there is open communication between the BOE and BOCC. Mr. Boffman said that during this period when our nation, our state, and our local government are already going through a stressful time, we don't need an organization that is supposed to be working with us to incite the community.

Commissioner Gardner asked that Board members read the letter from John Kroll, Director of Finance regarding a comparison of the two positions that Mr. Jenkins raised and let her know if it is accurate.

LINGANORE AT OAKDALE TENNIS COURTS

Mr. Barnes noted that staff is dissatisfied with the tennis courts built at Oakdale High School; they are being rebuilt at the expense of the contractor with no expense to FCPS and will be ready for the coming school year.

MONOCACY VALLEY MONTESSORI PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL (MVMPCS)

Commissioner Hagen asked for clarification of denying a request from MVMPCS for increasing enrollment.

Mr. Keller stated that there is no limitation on the number of students who can enroll; the limitation is on the amount of funding provided for a maximum enrollment as stipulated in their contract with FCPS. A strategic improvement would have been required to increase funding for the school and only one strategic improvement (Heather Ridge) was approved by the BOE.

Dr. Burgee noted that the contract can be renegotiated or a strategic improvement can be requested next year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stacey McGiffin

Ms. McGiffin spoke concerning *Investigations in Number, Data, and Space* mathematics.

Janice Spiegel, president, PTA Council of Frederick County

Ms. Spiegel expressed her disappointment in the type of discussion taking place between the two boards and noted that airing differences publicly through the media is not productive. She urged both boards to reinstate the Budget Collaboration Committee and work towards improving relationships.

(Ms. Groth left the meeting at 3:53 p.m.)

Gil House, Volunteer Member of the Frederick County Commission on Disabilities

Mr. House noted that he reviewed plans for the new central office building and will forward the initial report to both boards by email.


(Commissioner Gardner left the meeting at 4:01 p.m.)

COMMENTS

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.


Linda D. Burgee
Secretary-Treasurer

Jean A. Smith
President

Nuala McCarthy
Recording Secretary