

Open Work Session

June 20, 2017

Wicomico County Board of Education Quarterly Work Session

School Board Nominating Commission

Mr. Cannon said they will sort through the Board of Education Nominating Commission and see what they need to do. He said it is a work in progress, as it is the first time they had to do this. He said a part of the law that was put into place did have administrative responsibilities for assistance for this group. Dr. Hanlin said Commission members have called and talked with Nicki Vestal and Andrea Douling in her office, and they have provided the assistance they needed as far as she knows. Mr. Fitzgerald said the School Board Nominating Committee meeting will be at Bennett High School. Mr. Cannon said the letters that went out, initially, Council had them come to our office, but to avoid any conflicts, Council staff made sure they were sealed and that they immediately went to that board without anybody in our office opening them so that they could at least have some central location for the application to be mailed because the committee did not have that, and in the future, they would establish that as a regular procedure. Mrs. Hurley said that there were some applications that were opened, initially, but then it is her understanding that the ones that came in later were just forwarded on to Mr. Ben Brumbley. Mrs. Hurley said they were opened and date stamped. Mr. Cannon said opened at the Council office probably because they initially came in, and they opened up all of the mail. Mrs. Hurley clarified, some of the applicants actually hand delivered them and wanted a receipt, so staff would date stamp that as well. Mr. Cannon said they have enough time to fine-tune this. He said right now he knows Council just sent a letter out in reference to background checks. Mr. Fitzgerald said they had not received it yet. Mrs. Hurley said the letter went out in the mail yesterday, so they should be receiving it either today or tomorrow. Mr. Cannon said the purpose of that letter was to let them know, from Council's position, that they felt the Board of Education needs to assist this Commission on the background checks, simply because that would be considered part of the administrative assistance. The Commission had voted to send the names to the Council and let the Council do the background checks. Mr. Cannon said he had tried to emphasize to them that the last thing Council wanted to do is publicly receive these names and then have to publicly rescind some names because of any problems with background checks. He said then they would have to nominate people all over again. He said he thought it should be part of the initial process, rather than something to be done at the end. Dr. Hanlin clarified they would assist them with doing the background check on those names before they forward them to Council, to which Mr. Cannon responded, yes. Mr. Fitzgerald asked, if a background check should be done on all 14 names, or just the 6 that are coming to Council. Mr. Cannon responded, he

thinks before they send the 6 names to Council, they should go to Mr. Fitzgerald, and if he finds any problems, they take the name back and then they find one or two more candidates. Mr. Fitzgerald said, you would have to pay that fee for 14 candidates and they really only need 6 candidates. Dr. Hanlin said she wanted to check with Mr. Vince Pavic, Human Resources Director, on the turnaround time to do a background check, to which Mr. Pavic responded, it is usually a couple of days. Mr. Fitzgerald clarified the last 6 names that the Commission will submit to Council, they will do the background checks on. Mr. Cannon asked Council if they agreed. It was a consensus, yes. Mr. Cannon asked if there was anything else to discuss about the Commission. Mr. Fitzgerald said it is a learning curve, they jumped in, but he thinks they should have jumped in and fine-tuned things a long time before now, but we cannot go back. Mr. Cannon said he thought it took them all by surprise. The Commission now has some serious work to do by July.

Compensation for Elected School Board Members

Mr. Cannon said he thinks the compensation for elected school board members is a State mandate. He said he knows that Joe Ollinger actually did a breakdown across the State of Maryland, as what the compensation was for them to follow, and how they might choose. Mr. Fitzgerald said, yes, Mr. Ollinger did do that. He said his thoughts are because they come in front of this Council for extra money, how can he come ask Council to put in something to increase his salary at this time. He said elections are coming up, and those people that are elected may want to do that, but he does not think it is right for the Board of Education to do it at this time. Mr. Fitzgerald clarified, for Council to go to the Legislature and ask for an increase for the Board of Education. He said it is roughly, in his case, \$2,700. He said if that is going to hold somebody back from putting their name in to be on the School Board, or staying longer, they are in it for the wrong reason. He said when he took office he did not know how much he was going to get and did not care. Mr. Cannon told Mr. Fitzgerald that he agrees with him. He said that brings up another question, once everyone is in, in order to make any changes, this Commission will have to properly review and recommend the salary increase just as they do now for the Council members, for the Executive, and for the Sheriff, because these are elected officials. This is going to be a base salary right now. Mr. Cannon asked Mrs. Hurley if she thought the Compensation Allowance Committee will now have to include the Board of Education, to which Mrs. Hurley said, no, they only review the salary of elected officials. Mr. Cannon said they will be elected officials. He meant after this election process. Mrs. Hurley said, she sees what he means. Mrs. Hurley said she can double check. Mr. Cannon said, the next thing they have to do is look into see whether or not there is anything that they need to present answers to pass legislation, or through resolution, that assigns that responsibility to the Compensation and Allowance Committee. Mrs. Hurley said they can make mention of that now to them, as that is something that they can research. Mr.

Cannon said that would be good. He said to Mr. Robert Taylor, he guesses it does not hurt if they discuss it and give Council a recommendation. It does not require a formal piece of legislation. He said and then again, it is not coming to Council either, it is going to be going to the Board of Education, it is only a recommendation. Mr. Kilmer said the Board of Education does not set their salaries, and Council does not set their salaries, the State Legislature sets the salaries. They would have to go to their delegation, and that might be a much better body to look at this.

Choices Academy

Mr. Cannon said they looked at the relocation of the Choices Academy. Dr. Hanlin said Council had that placed on their list, and she did not know if there were any remaining questions. Mr. Cannon said he thought Mr. Larry Dodd was the one Councilperson that had questions about it, but Mr. Dodd is not here today so he can address it with her tomorrow. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if the land was purchased, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, yes, it is under contract. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if there was a building there now, to which Dr. Hanlin said there is a gym on the property that comes with the purchase, and it is adjacent to the three-acre parcel where they are going to relocate Choices. Mr. Joe Holloway then asked if they are going to build a new building there, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, eventually, yes. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if the gym gets torn down, or are they going to use that, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, it is staying in place right now until they determine what they are going to do. Mr. Cannon clarified that it is across the street, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, yes, not the church, just the gym comes with the property. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if they would use portables until they get the building built, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, yes. Mr. Davis asked if the building is going on the dirt there or are the portables going on the dirt, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, she thinks the dirt is for the portables. Ms. Leisl Ashby came before Council. She said a lot of this has come together rather quickly, but the entire three-acre site is to include a future building. She said where the dirt is moving now is where the modular will be located, and a new building can be built down the road. They can stay in the modular and then the modular would go away after they occupy the new building. Mr. Cannon asked if that will be a new item in the CIP as far as a new building, etc., to which Dr. Hanlin responded, not likely. They are going to look for alternative ways to fund that. She said what they have talked about is a prefab metal building that, of course, they are going to be in partnership as you have read, with the City, looking at how they can have multiple uses for that building, where they can have a community center in the evening, and on the weekends for students in the neighborhood. She said, at this point, they are not looking to include it in the CIP. Mr. Cannon then asked if that is kind of like a collaborative thing the Board of Education does with Recreation and Parks right now, or after school programming, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, similar. Mr. Joe Holloway said he knows somewhere in the Charter or the Code that any

properties that are owned, they revert back to the County, so you would want to look to see how that is going to work. Dr. Hanlin said the property is in the Board of Education's name, but that would be important information for the City to be aware of, yes. Mr. Joe Holloway said, yes, if you build a building on it.

West Salisbury Elementary School Update

Mr. Cannon said the next item is the West Salisbury Elementary construction update. Ms. Ashby said it is not quite done, but it is moving well. She said for a brief update, these are construction activities that are currently being performed: sidewalk work begins tomorrow, full visas and conduit for perimeter site lights ongoing, the concrete slabs are complete, miscellaneous equipment pad concrete work is ongoing. She said load bearing masonry walls in the classroom wing are complete and they are now moving onto the kitchen walls and CMU and the main entrance corridor. Ms. Ashby said 95% of the structural steel is in place, experimental stud wall work is about 85% complete, interior wall studs complete in the administration area, metal trusses are being set at the main entrance area, trusses of classroom wings start this week, and metal deck will follow. She said this week they are installing roofing insulation, ice and water shield over the gym area. Ms. Ahsby continued, all geothermal wells are drilled and they are all tied into the building. The primary electrical service conduits from Choptank are complete and the main feeders in the building are about 85% complete. She said the project is currently on schedule, and they anticipate substantial completion in June of 2018. She said goals for the occupancy by the administration are in July of 2018, and by the students in September of 2018. Mr. Cannon clarified there are no cost heirlooms or anything, to which Ms. Ashby responded, no, they are currently on budget. Mr. Davis asked, if the geothermal, is enough if they want to expand the school. He said years ago when Delmar did that they had to go back and put some more in. Ms. Ashbly responded, for this particular project, no, the HVAC system was not oversized to accommodate a future addition. Mr. Davis said if an addition is added in the future they have to go back. Ms. Ashby said, if they do that, the geothermal is combined with the BRF so there could be an option for an addition to go air-to-air BRF instead of geothermal. Mr. Cannon said the initial expansion module was considered. Ms. Ashby said she thought it was established a part of that 15% reduction at CGI.

Parkside High School Construction Project Update

Ms. Ashby said demolition has started on the second floor of Area E which is the two-story classroom wing. It started on June 14th as soon as students got out for the summer. She said in preparation for a quick summer start, the second floor classrooms were relocated to that modular building adjacent to the two-story classroom, and they are going to remain there until project completion. She said they worked hard with their instructional folks to try to come up with a plan that would disrupt instruction at a minimum. She said it is a phase occupied

renovation. There are a total of six phases with various durations. She said the main focus of the project is the HVAC, and ceilings and lights in areas B, C, D and E. She said, essentially, they are working in all areas except for the CTE areas, which were done in the late 1990's. She said there are additional life safety systems that are going to be required due to the scope of work, which includes sprinklers and fire alarms. She said the School Building Commission reviewed and recommended the GMP in May, and the Board subsequently approved it in the June meeting. She said, fortunately, GMP included the acceptance of all three alternates. Alternate 1 will provide corridor walls and doors for classrooms on the first floor of area E, which is very significant for security and acoustical reasons; Alternate 2 will provide new floors throughout Area E; and Alternate 3 will provide a new locker scenario. She said the GMP for the project including the alternates is \$18,157,543, and the project is currently on schedule. They are only a week and a half into it, but they anticipate substantial completion of Phase 6 by December of 2019.

Technology – One-Time Request Updates

Mr. Cannon said they are anxious to see how that all played out. Dr. Hanlin said they have their Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Mrs. Ruth Malone, and Supervisor of English Language Arts, Ellen Harlan, here to give Council a little detail on how they plan to use that funding. Mrs. Ruth Malone said they are very grateful, and many thanks to the Council for providing that extra one-time funding for this particular expenditure. She said they can trust that the technology will be put in the hands of students, and that it will indeed benefit their instructional program. Ms. Ellen Harlan thanked Council for the funding for the computers. She said technology is important for students. She said their goal is to make them college and career ready, and the world that they are going into, whether they are going to further their education, or they are going to go into a career, they are going to need technology. She said they need to be able to use it on a daily basis, and by giving them technology, they are able to have more students access that technology in language or in English. She said in the high schools, the teachers use it, and they have students actually reading online, annotating, and they are taking notes and actually doing their writing on there. They are having them submit their work online as students who are going into college that is what they do now. You do not hand in a paper anymore, as everything is turned in online. If they are not giving their students that opportunity in high school, then they are certainly not preparing them for the world they are going to live in. They know that the technology makes a big difference, and if they walk through those classrooms just to see student engagement, their teachers are so excited, they are putting online notebooks on there, materials, and things that students can access at home, in school, and on a daily basis, so they thank Council. Mr. Cannon said Mr. Matt Holloway made the proposal. Ms. Harlan said it makes a big difference. Mr. Cannon said there was not anybody that refused. Ms. Harlan said it is a great

need that will help their students, as it gives them access in that comfort level, and they will be able to go out into the world and be successful. Mr. Cannon said they did not really want to overstep what work they had prepared, but he knows that their first priority was the whiteboard, but Council felt that the laptops would probably impact a lot more areas, and a lot more schools. Mrs. Ruth Malone said they have teachers working this summer on innovative projects and making sure that they are ready for that digital conversion when they have access for every student to have a laptop in a given classroom. Mr. Cannon asked how many laptops are in a cart, to which Ms. Ruth Malone responded, it depends. She said they have been purchasing laptop carts of 15. Given their class sizes in this particular configuration, they are looking at laptop carts of 30. Ms. Harlan said that accommodates any class that they go into.

Public Information Officer

Mr. Joe Holloway said he saw in the paper the other day that they hired a Public Information Officer, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, a new Director of Communications. This was something she believed she had shared early on with Council that one of the things that she heard a lot when she first came back to the school system was the difficulty in communicating as much as they needed to, on the great things that were happening in their school system. She said in this day and age it is very difficult for one person to do that with multiple forms of media, social media, the written communications, resources to businesses, that sort of thing. Dr. Hanlin said they spent a long time looking at a job description, the many responsibilities, in fact, when it was first proposed, she had some responses from people in the community, wow, how is one person going to do all of this. It is a big job, and now it is a two-person department, so they are very excited that Paul Butler is joining their team from WBOC. She said as you well know, he has a very strong background not only in broadcast journalism, but also in public relations. She said he will be reporting directly to her, and working on getting good news out, and resources out in the community so that they have the ability to be even more transparent in the community. Mr. Joe Holloway clarified they have two Public Relations Officers now, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, yes.

Beaver Run Elementary School Updates

Mr. Joe Holloway then asked, if Beaver Run, is the next school in line for either replacement or remodeling, to which Ms. Leisl Ashby said, yes, they started a feasibility study last Fall, and they wrapped that process up this Spring. The options were presented to the School Building Commission. There was a subsequent work session with the Board, and they had selected Option C, which is essentially a replacement option as the most economical one. She said it was in line with the previous fiscal year CIP request that they had put forward for Beaver Run. She said this Summer they are replacing the kitchen piping so that will be addressed for the immediate use of the kitchen staff in the Fall. She said

the feasibility studies have been submitted to the State, MSDE, for approval. Mr. Joe Holloway clarified the demolition of the whole school, to which Ms. Ashby responded, yes, that would include demolition of the whole school. Mr. Joe Holloway then asked if they could go back over the timeline when things will happen with that. Ms. Ashby said it all depends on funding, so she is not sure she can say that right now. She said they are proceeding with structuring the fiscal year 2019 CIP requests around that approved recommendation, assuming that MSDE will come through as well, which so far they have not indicated otherwise. She said, depending on how the money comes through, they will be structuring a schedule based upon that. She said they just got through the master plan process, and they are flushing out the funding request right now. Ms. Ashby said they could probably give Council a better answer in August.

Public Comments

Mr. Cannon said President Ashanti was speaking before them during public comments, and he knows that they are in receipt of her email in reference to this student called "Sam." He said he thought he would at least bring it to their attention, because Council received that as well, and he is curious as to how that might have played out and what their take is on that. Dr. Hanlin said she has to be very careful because of confidentiality issues with students. She said she can tell them that they are working very closely with the family on this matter. She said everything that you read in the letter may not have been entirely accurate. She said they are working through their Special Education Department with the school administration to make sure the student's educational program is appropriate and that he is receiving an appropriate public education. She said the bottom line is they are working closely with the family.

Mr. Cannon said the other item Ms. Ashanti touched on was something to do with the federal government. He said he got the impression that a federal investigation was initiated about a year or so ago, where there was a concern at the time as to whether or not schools were taking community measures from reference to minorities. Dr. Hanlin asked if he was referring to the Department of Justice investigation, to which Mr. Cannon responded, yes. The Department of Justice was investigating those concerns and he did not know what the results were, and during public comments, Ms. Ashanti suggested that the Council ask the Board of Education what the results were. Dr. Hanlin said, sure, in fact she can send Council what she sent out at the time after they reached an agreement with the Department of Justice. She said they felt very good about the agreement because there was not anything in the agreement that they would not be doing anyway. Dr. Hanlin said she would be happy to send Council a copy of that agreement again. Mr. Cannon said he was more concerned that it was discussed publicly, as long as they know publicly that it is being addressed, that was his concern. Mr. Cannon asked if she thought there

was anything else that has come up that Council is not aware of that may have been referenced, where there has been any oversight at the federal level, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, no, not that she is aware of. Mr. Cannon clarified everything is in compliance as of now, to which Dr. Hanlin responded, absolutely. Mr. Cannon said that was a question that was asked, so he thought it was beneficial to bring it up. He said it is great to have the answer today.

Invitations

Mr. Cannon said whenever the Board of Education has events and meetings, to please invite the Council. He said it seems like the Teacher of Year notices, they missed those. Mr. Fitzgerald said he is sure Council was invited. Mr. Cannon said he did not remember receiving that invitation. Dr. Hanlin said they will definitely make sure Council is included because it is a wonderful celebration. She said they appreciate Council's collaboration and support.

CTE Programs

Mr. Cannon said he is very anxious to see how they are expanding their CTE Program or where that is heading, and what ideas they might have on expanding it and more collaboration, more public-private partnerships. He said he will probably be talking about that for a year. Dr. Hanlin said she did not know what he wanted to know specifically. She said she is a very strong supporter of Career Connections making sure students see relevance in what they are learning, and there is no better way to do that than Career Technology Education. She said she knows they will be continuing to look at the fields that students may not only be interested in, but would also serve our community, where there is a need in the industry in our community. Mr. Cannon said it is a big discussion that always comes up whether you are dealing with SWED, Chamber of Commerce, or the Tri-County Council. Whenever they are talking about anything that has to do with economic development in trying to move forward, it always seems to gear towards some types of efforts that are needed for workforce development to help match the industries that are here, or they may want to encourage to come to this area. He said it involves collaboration with a lot of areas. Mr. Fitzgerald said he has been to two meetings in the last three days. He said when Council has an opportunity, pull up Senate Bill 1, it has what they have to do for CTE programs for 2025, increasing the number of students who graduate with some exposure to career technology education.


Signatures on next page.

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June 20, 2017
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John T. Cannon, President

(absent) _____
Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3



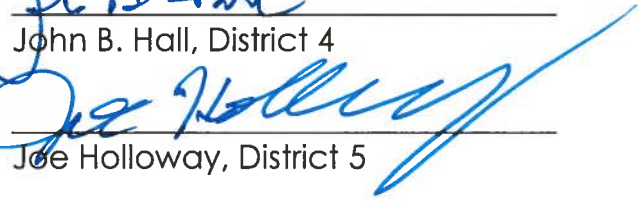
Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Marc Kilmer, District 2

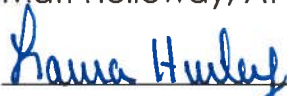


John B. Hall, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5

Matt Holloway, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator