



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Calvin Ball, Chairperson
District 2
Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson
District 1
Jennifer Terrasa
District 3
Mary Kay Sigaty
District 4
Greg Fox
District 5

Budget Work Session
C. Vernon Gray Room
Friday, April 29, 2016
8:30 am

Minutes - Approved

The Chairperson opened the work session at 8:44 a.m.

Members Present: Calvin Ball, Chairperson; Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson; Greg Fox; Mary Kay Sigaty; Jen Terrasa.

Staff Present: Jessica Feldmark, Council Administrator; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor; Jim Vannoy, Senior Assistant County Solicitor

Operating Budget Overview: Holly Sun provided an overview of revenue projections included in the budget and discussed the Executive's proposed budget for the school system.

School System - Capital: Renee Foose and Beverly Davis provided an overview of the Board's requested capital budget. Ellen Flynn Giles, Cindy Vaillancourt, Bess Altwerger, Janet Siddiqui, Joel Gallihue, Camille Jones, and Denny Moore were also present to answer questions from the Council.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- An updated copy of the deferred maintenance list in priority order with an indication of how long each project has been on the list
- An update on the assignment of relocatable classroom

School System - Operating: Beverly Davis provided a brief overview of the Board's operating budget request. Ellen Flynn Giles, Cindy Vaillancourt, Bess Altwerger, Janet Siddiqui, Joel Gallihue, and Paul Lemle were also present to answer questions from the Council.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- A detailed breakdown of the \$26.8M placeholder for salary increases by each bargaining unit/unrepresented group and by salary/benefits
- Updated presentation on health fund balance and efforts to limit costs

Howard Community College: Kate Hetherington and Lynn Coleman provided an overview of the proposed capital and operating budgets and answered questions from the Council.

Howard County Library System: Valerie Gross, Angela Brade, and Ann Gilligan gave an overview of proposed library capital and operating budgets and answered questions from the Council.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- Administration response on closing out L0012 *Miller Branch/Historical Center*

School System – Operating: Discussion of the Board’s operating budget request continued.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- Electronic copies of all handouts provided at the work session
- Source of funds for the first payment for the early retirement program (FY16)
- Additional detail and cost estimates for the employer group waiver plan
- A comparison of the cost and benefits under that plan to the existing retiree health benefits
- Confirmation of the number of special education legal cases in which the Board’s decision was not upheld
- Additional detail on legal services cost comparison with other jurisdictions to include:
 - In-house or outside counsel
 - Number of students in the system
 - Number of students with IEPs
 - Legal services cost as a percent of total system operating budget
- The percentage of students with IEPs whose cases go to court
- A breakdown of legal fees by type of cases (special education, public information requests, etc.)

The Chairperson announced that the Council will continue its discussion on May 18, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.