

## Memorandum from the Howard County Council School System Budget Review Committee

February 2, 2017

TO: Chairman and Members, Howard County Council  
CC: Allan Kittleman, Howard County Executive  
Chair and Members, Howard County Board of Education  
Renee Foose, Superintendent Howard County Public School System

Subject: Preliminary Recommendations, FY 2018 HCPSS Budget

### Background

Council Resolution 88-2016 created the School System Budget Review Committee. The Committee's mandate covers 8 specific tasks. One of those tasks is to "Provide recommendations for any improvements to the fiscal year 2018 budget."

This memorandum constitutes the first set of recommendations put forward by the Committee.

**Recommendation #1:** To improve transparency, opportunities for meaningful public engagement, and to reduce the levels of miscommunication and distrust that were evident between key stakeholders during the FY 2017 budget process, the Committee recommends that the County Executive, County Council, and HCPSS Leadership should hold a "school system budget summit" prior to the end of the BOE budget work sessions, which conclude on February 16, 2017.

**Recommendation #2:** The Committee feels that individual educators and other HCPSS staff should be given the opportunity to propose and champion innovative programs. The Committee recommends that the County Council propose to HCPSS that, in addition to current measures to support innovation, the School System should also designate a dedicated amount of its operating budget each year for such programs.

**Recommendation #3:** The Committee recommends that the County Council work with the School System to identify funding to hire a consultant to study the allocation of certificated staff and central office staff to ensure alignment with the System's mission, vision, and strategic plan.

**Recommendation #4:** The Committee recommends that the County Council work with the School System to identify funding to hire a consultant to study the allocation of supervisory and non-supervisory non-certificated staff to ensure alignment with the System's mission, vision, and strategic plan.

**Recommendation #5:** The Committee recommends that the County Council work with the School System to identify funding to pay for a study of school utilization, with a particular focus on under-utilized schools, to make recommendations that could have a positive educational and fiscal impact.

**Recommendation #6:** The Committee recommends that the County Council propose to the County Executive that the Executive create a position of educational liaison.