



Howard County Council

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County Council and Board of Education Leadership Meet to Set Tone for the New Year

Ellicott City, MD (December 15, 2016) – On December 5, 2016, the County Council voted to name Jon Weinstein Council Chairman and Dr. Calvin Ball, Vice Chairman for their 2017 legislative session. That same evening the Board of Education swore in three new members and selected Cynthia Vaillancourt and Dr. Bess Altwerger, their Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively. On Thursday, at the invitation of Chairman Weinstein, the four leaders met to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations and discuss shared interests.

“I believe this meeting was important to demonstrate a positive relationship between our two organizations,” said Weinstein. “We had a productive meeting where the leadership from both organizations set the stage for the constructive conversations we’ll engage in throughout the year. The Council looks forward to working together with the entire Board of Education to serve our children, their families, and the County’s citizens.”

The four discussed a wide array of topics, including the actions taken at the new Board of Education’s meeting on December 5, relating to the Board’s auditing practices and structure and oversight, responding to and preventing racial incidents in schools, and the status of outstanding issues related to the Council’s audit and mold studies. As the FY18 budget nears, they identified ideas and methods for improving information sharing during the process. To illustrate a renewed partnership, the Council and Board leadership worked together to draft the agenda for their upcoming quarterly meeting on January 19, 2017.

“The new board is looking forward to a productive relationship with the County Council and opportunities to collaborate on the various topics we discussed.” said Vaillancourt.

The Council and Board of Education conduct a quarterly meeting that is open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. at the Board of Education, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD. The Council’s website has a complete listing of [current legislation regarding Howard County Public Schools](#).

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