



# Howard County Council

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

## COUNCILMEMBERS

Opel Jones, Chairperson  
District 2  
Christiana Rigby, Vice Chairperson  
District 3  
Deb Jung  
District 4  
Liz Walsh  
District 1  
David Yungmann  
District 5

Joint Meeting – Minutes (approved)  
County Council and Board of Education

Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and via WebEx)  
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>  
Monday, September 19, 2022  
9:30 a.m.

County Council Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Attendees:

**Council Members** – Chair Opel Jones, Vice-Chair Christiana Rigby, Deb Jung, Liz Walsh, and David Yungmann

**Council Staff** – Michelle R. Harrod, Council Administrator; Theodore Wimberly, Administrative Manager, Gary Kuc, Solicitor, Amanda Mihill, Senior Assistant County Solicitor, and Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant

**Board of Education Members** – Chair Vicky Cutroneo, Vice-Chair Antonia Watts, Christina Delmont-Small, Dr. Yun Lu, Jennifer Swickard Mallo, Jolene Mosley, Dr. Chao Wu, and April Harrison, Administrator

**Board of Education and Howard County Public School System Staff** – Superintendent Michael Martirano, J. Stephen Cowles, General Counsel, Anissa Dennis, Chief School Management and Instructional Leadership Officer, Scott Washington, Chief Operating Officer, Jahantab Siddiqui, Chief Administrative Officer, William Barnes, Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Caroline Walker, Executive Director of Program Innovation and Student Well-Being, Daniel Lubeley, Director of Capital Planning and Construction, Brian Nevin, Director of Student Transportation, Timothy Rogers, Manager of School Planning, Herb Savje, Director of Building Maintenance and Facility Operations, John Davis, Coordinator of Athletics, Darin Conforti, Executive Director of Budget, and David Larner, Chief Human Resources and Professional Development Officer

Chair Jones established the meeting agenda.

Dr. Martirano provided an update to the Council and Board Members that all schools are open, and there is a return to a level of normalcy. He reported on the hiring of more than 500 individuals who attended new educator orientation, and that there are 63 vacancies in the school system. Enrollment continues to rise to about 57,500 students, including pre-K.

## Agenda

### 1. Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance

- Housing Allocation
- School Capacity
- Howard County Code requirement to conduct a meeting with the Council, HCPSS and the County Executive to discuss school capacity that exceeds APFO threshold.
- FY24 Capital Budget and FY25-FY29 Capital Improvement Program

Council and Board Members discussed issues relating to housing allocation, school capacity, and the Howard County Code requirement to conduct a meeting with the Council, HCPSS, and the County Executive to discuss school capacity that exceeds the APFO threshold.

Council Members discussed the need to review how different housing types drive student numbers, the need to have a more effective Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, and the need to focus on overcapacity issues in schools at a granular level. A separate County Code required joint meeting with the Council, HCPSS, and the County Executive to discuss school capacity that exceeds the APFO threshold will be scheduled.

Mr. Washington, Mr. Lubley, and Mr. Rogers discussed that the Superintendent's proposed capital budget is based on multiple factors, one of those being the capacity needs identified in the most recent 2022 feasibility study. Mr. Rogers provided more detail regarding the needs and strategies that were proposed in the feasibility study and are included in the long-range master plan and the enrollment methodology that is used each year, in addition to the current redistricting process to address capacity needs at the high school level.

Discussion further included the differences between the Superintendent's proposed capital budget and the vote by the Board of Education to prioritize Oakland Mills High School, the need to look at housing allocation based on the number of students produced by different types of housing, the process of housing allocation based on Plan Howard 2030 regions not matching up to school planning regions, and the various growth management tools that are not working together. Recommendations for future action included aligning planning regions, studying allocation by housing types, and considering the age of housing.

Ms. Mosley presented slides reviewing the current processes and methodologies that are used for Capital Investment Planning, with Oakland Mills High School as an example. Mr. Washington discussed the priorities for the development of the 2024 capital budget based on data points required by the State and with collaboration from the County, the Board of Education, and the State.

Council and Board Members discussed how to address priorities such as substandard HVACs and mold issues that are not fixed for many years. Council and Board Members discussed community areas of concern with Oakland Mills High School and the underinvestment in deferred maintenance. Mr. Washington and Superintendent Martirano discussed the

limitations on dollars and the need to develop data driven plans and the prerogative of the Board of Education to make changes.

Ms. Rigby reviewed the various revenue streams for school construction and the structural changes that were made to those funding streams to increase funding. Mr. Rogers discussed that the planning regions that DPZ uses are not aligned with the regions of the APFO chart. Mr. Lubley discussed issues regarding regional areas with Oakland Mills High School and Centennial High School, the current data relating to how to address capacity needs, and the impact of High School 13. The participants discussed the role of the Board of Education regarding long term planning of priorities and the transition of the Capital budget from the Superintendent to the Board of Education. Mr. Washington overviewed how capacity needs are met. Discussion included alternatives for funding sources implemented in other jurisdictions, including private partnership programs. Mr. Lubeley discussed the P3 program in Prince George's County and the private partnership programs in other jurisdictions and the current wait and see status. Additional topics included the priority order of elementary schools and the data driving those decisions, including the Jessup Elementary School and the Turf Valley Elementary School. Ms. Jung discussed the unassigned revenue surplus in State budget for school renovation and construction funds and suggested seeking additional State funding.

## **2. School Start Times**

## **3. Transportation**

Mr. Nevin provided an overview of the implementation timeline of early start times and the analysis of the revision of bell times. Council Members, Mr. Nevin, and Mr. Washington discussed issues relating to in-sourcing of transportation, bus driver shortages, and double runs. The Council Members and Board of Education members discussed the impact of redistricting on transportation routes, bus service, and walker routes, and later elementary school start times and the challenges on working parents of getting kids to schools. Mr. Nevin discussed the parameters for start time tiers. The Council Members and Board Members discussed the increasing number of walkers to Glenelg High School and how can the school system work with the County to put in sidewalks for walking or biking to reduce the number of bus drivers and impact on start times, the need to identify priorities for sidewalks, and the process and funding challenges for building sidewalks. Mr. Nevin discussed school board policies and projects relating to sidewalks. The participants reviewed proposed school start tiers and the lack of sidewalks at specified schools, safety concerns relating to transportation challenges, the desire of the rural west to have sidewalks, and the expense of sidewalks. Ms. Jung discussed the impact of early start times on the well-being of high school students, and if there will be any action taken this school year on the issue. Mr. Nevin discussed the goal of early activation of contracts for bus drivers this school year and looking at loads on the school buses to consolidate routes to eliminate double backs. Mr. Washington discussed improvements during the course of the school year.

#### 4. Athletic Trainers

Mr. Davis overviewed the current shortage of athletic trainers and what is being done to remedy the shortage. Pivot has the current contract, and the contract was amended to address salary and other issues. An RFP was announced in response to the increased requirements for licensure of athletic trainers, including a master's degree. The pandemic and athletic trainers staying in school to obtain a master's degree added to the shortage. More trainers will be hired after they complete their master's degrees. There is currently a rotation for the eight athletic trainers to float among the 12 high schools. There is a physician at each high school football game. Mr. Davis reviewed discussions with Pivot to hire additional trainers. He discussed shortages in neighboring jurisdictions. Further discussion included the impact of the exclusive contract with Pivot on obtaining more athletic trainers. Dr. Martirano reviewed position shortages throughout the school system.

#### 5. Timeline for Budget Adoption

Dr. Wu requested the discussion of an earlier adoption of the budget and noted the earlier timeline used in other jurisdictions. Mr. Siddiqui discussed efforts to provide numbers as soon as possible. Mr. Larner reviewed the aggressive hiring of teachers. When the budget is adopted new teachers can be hired and assigned to schools. Ms. Rigby discussed working in advance to look at Spending Affordability Committee recommendations in a March April timeframe to understand fiscal reality and the need to grow the tax base. Mr. Yungmann discussed shifting of dates to get the budget passed several weeks earlier.

Dr. Jones adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.