

**Joint Meeting of the Howard County Board of Education
and Howard County Council Meeting Summary**
Hybrid

February 13, 2023
9:30 a.m.

Attendees were as follows:

Board of Education:

Antonia Watts, Chair; Yun Lu, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Linfeng Chen, Ph.D., Jacky McCoy; Jennifer Swickard Mallo; Jolene Mosley; Donna Forton, Executive Assistant; and April Harrison, Administrator

County Council:

Christina Rigby, Council Chair; Deb Jung, Council Vice Chair; Liz Walsh; David Yungmann; Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator; Craig Glendenning, Auditor; and Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager.

School System Staff:

Michael J. Martirano Ed.D., Superintendent; Karalee Turner-Little Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent; Ann Rungfarsangaroon, Assistant General Counsel; Anissa Dennis, Chief School Management and Instructional Leadership Officer; Scott Washington, Chief Operating Officer; David Lerner, Chief Human Resource & Professional Development Officer; Jahantab Siddiqui, Chief Administrative Officer; William Barnes, Chief Academic Officer; Caroline Walker, Ph.D., 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; Ebony Langford-Brown, Executive Director Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Janice Yetter, Director of Special Education; Kerrie Wagaman, Director Health Services; Justin Benedict, Executive Director Information Technology

Additional Attendees:

Jeff Bronow, Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning; Raul Delorme and Nicola Morgal, Howard County Recreation and Parks; Leslie Barnett, Columbia Association

Chair Antonia Watts called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

School Start Times

Ms. Watts and Dr. Martirano provided an overview of school start times. Ms. Watts shared that the Board examined the academic and mental health outcomes for students. As a result, there are two options for start times for Board consideration. She stated that the Board is seeking a low or no cost solution. Dr. Martirano added that action is scheduled for February 23, 2023.

Approved: February 23, 2023
Ms. Jung shared her observations and recommended that no high school students come to school before 8:30 a.m. She also shared that distance for high school students is two miles. Most walkers are in densely populated areas.

Mr. Nevin shared specifics from the consultant and explained the options of 8:00 and 8:40 a.m. start times. Mr. Washington added that operation costs are a base of \$7 million.

Dr. Martirano stated that staff has researched the topic and heard from the community. He added that more districts are moving to later times.

Staff from Howard County Recreation and Parks and Columbia Association shared the impact of proposed times to their staff. This includes a reduction in work hours and transportation challenges to and from work. Additional concerns such as extended after care hours, increased costs for parents, and community use of fields were discussed. Board Members asked clarifying questions and provided feedback on topics such as sunrise time and the importance of high school students gaining experience in childcare.

Infrastructure- Transportation and Walking

Board Members expressed concern for transportation needs to additional programming and safety concerns from increased walking.

Learning Loss Related to Pandemic

Ms. Rigby stated that she requested the topic so that the Council can provide support. Dr. Martirano stated efforts are on staffing and reporting data as it intersects with the Blueprint. There is a focus on reading which branches out to other content.

Mr. Barnes and Ms. Langford-Brown presented information on how the system is addressing learning loss. Significant work has been done including implementing new reading programs, teacher training, assessments, and budgetary requests for additional training. Mr. Barnes added that time for supporting learning, students' availability for learning, supporting students with disabilities, and updating IEP's have been implemented. Ms. Watts informed the Council that the Board has been asking questions regarding learning loss.

Ms. McCoy inquired about parental support. Dr. Martirano shared that support occurs during the budget, IEP process, conferences, and website resources. Board Members provided additional suggestions such as promoting opportunities at events and communicating with parents in their native language.

Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance

Mr. Lubeley and Mr. Rogers initiated conversation regarding APFO. This is a required meeting once the school capacity chart is released. The legislation does not specify timeline. The next chart is scheduled for release in May.

Mr. Bronow stated that his office provides the school system future building projections every September. He added that the types of future apartments will be different from the past. There will be more apartments built than single family homes. Higher yields will be reflected in projection.

Mr. Rogers explained that the September enrollment data could be a challenge. Staff can provide a school capacity chart and what the County needs to implement law. Mr. Lubeley stated that Policy 6010 identifies that the goal is to have schools at 100%. Mr. Rogers discussed solutions including relocation of the portables.

Ms. Walsh shared concern about not having the County Executive present and the lack of information for this discussion.

Dr. Martirano shared his hopes of having a discussion on allocating additional percentages or advocating at the State level for the release of funds.

Ms. Watts thanked everyone for attending.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.