



# Howard County Council

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

## COUNCILMEMBERS

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

### **Joint County Council Board of Education Meeting Minutes - Unapproved**

Virtual – this meeting will **Hybrid** held In-Person and via WebEx  
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>  
Wednesday, April 12, 2023  
9:45 a.m.

Chair Rigby opened the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

**Councilmembers present:** Christiana Rigby, Chair; Deb Jung, Vice Chair; Opel Jones; and Liz Walsh

**Board of Education members present:** Antonia Watts, Chairperson; Yun Lu, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Linfeng Chen, Ph.D.; Jacky McCoy (joined late); Jennifer Mallo; Jolene Mosley; and April Harrison, Administrator

**Council Staff Present:** Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant

**Public School System Staff Present:** Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D., Superintendent; Karalee Turner-Little Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent; 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; Brian Nevin, Direct of Student Transportation; Tim Guy, Director of Assessments and Reporting; Drain Conforti, Executive Direct of Budget; John Davis, Director of Athletics

### **Overview of Maryland's Blueprint for the Future**

Dr. Martirano reviewed the purpose of the Blueprint and its impact on the budget. He discussed the proposed operating budget is not aspirational. The proposed operating budget incorporates the mandates of the Blueprint legislation and aligns the strategic calls to action with the Blueprint. The Blueprint mandates the timelines for its implementation, for example, the implementation of starting salaries for teachers. Dr. Martirano hopes to implement the \$60,000 starting salary for teachers before the mandated deadline.

Mr. Guy provided a PowerPoint presentation on the five pillars: 1) Early Childhood Education; 2) High-Quality & Diverse Teachers & Leaders; 3) College & Career Readiness; 4) More Resources for Students to Be Successful; and 5) Governance and Accountability. He reviewed the revised timeline for implementation of the plan. The timeline is one year behind, and the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) recently revised the five pillars. Dr. Martirano will monitor the implementation of the accountability plan because the requirements continue to change. The AIB will approve local Blueprint plans at its monthly meetings. Local implementation of the College and Career Readiness pillar will be accomplished through the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) coordinating with the Howard County Workforce Development Board to provide career counseling at the high school and middle school level.

Mr. Conforti reviewed funding for the five pillars through the State School Fund divided into major aid programs. The Blueprint legislation augmented the State School Fund and other funding formulas. He discussed how the funding formulas require State and local shares. Howard County is funding 155% above the required local share.

Chair Rigby discussed the need for ongoing review of the revenue, for example property taxes and income taxes, that is needed to meet the needs of HCPSS funding and the State requirements for the County.

Ms. Watts discussed that the Board of Education is focused on labor costs, particularly trying to increase the salaries of the lower-paid staff.

Chair Rigby asked if more software is needed to track salary funding.

Mr. Conforti explained that the reporting will begin on July 1, 2024. Staff are coordinating with the Maryland State Department of Education on data definitions.

Council Member Jung asked how many teachers have National Board Certification. Mr. Guy responded that there are approximately 180 teachers with the certification and that interest is increasing.

Dr. Jones asked about the recruitment of teachers of color. Dr. Martirano responded that HCPSS has been aggressive in this area and will continue to discuss the progress with the Council Members.

### **Safety of Students and Teachers**

Council Member Jung reviewed the impact of the increase in walking zones on sleep times.

Ms. Watts discussed partnering with the RTA bus drivers to provide bus service for students. Council Member Jung discussed the inability of the Council to make this request and that there may be other options to increase capital funding for this need. Councilmember Walsh also discussed concerns with the walking routes.

Mr. Nevin reviewed the process for implementing later school start times beginning with conversations in February 2022 and submission of approval for changes to the school start times for the 2023-2024 school year in February 2023. There have been changes to Policy 5200 to address the shortage of school bus drivers. Staff have been reviewing the transportation changes and providing adjustments. Parents must register students for transportation. There will be approximately 3,5000 students in non-transportation areas.

Council Member Walsh reviewed the issue of student transportation to athletic games. Mr. Davis addressed the issue of the decrease in bus drivers and the greatest impact in the Spring with more teams playing. The issue could be managed in the Fall and Winter but could not be managed in the Spring. The attempts to reach out to drivers in Frederick County and Carroll County were not successful. Mr. Davis reviewed adjustments to schedules to address the issue, including double headers for home games, combining varsity and junior varsity teams on buses, tennis teams and softball teams traveling together, and moving some baseball games to Saturdays.

Vice-chair Jung discussed that the safety of students in schools is an important topic of concern that should be addressed at a future meeting.

Chair Rigby thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.