



# Howard County Council

George Howard Building  
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## 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 and Board of Education Meeting - Approved**

Wednesday, October 11, 2023  
9:45 a.m.

Chair Watts opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

**Councilmembers present:** Christina Rigby, Council Chair; Deb Jung, Council Vice Chair; Liz Walsh; Dr. Opel Jones; David Yungmann

**Board of Education members present:** Antonia Watts, Chair; Yun Lu, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Linfeng Chen, Ph.D., Jacky McCoy; Jolene Mosley; Robyn C. Scates, Esq.; and April Harrison, Administrator

**Council Staff Present:** Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator

**Public School System Staff Present:** Michael J. Martirano Ed.D., Superintendent; Anissa Dennis, Chief School Management and Instructional Leadership Officer; David Lerner, Chief Human Resource & Professional Development Officer; Jahantab Siddiqui, Chief Administrative Officer; William Barnes, Chief Academic Officer; Darin Conforti, Executive Director of Budget; Daniel Lubeley, Director Capital Planning and Construction; and Tim Rogers, School Planning Manager I

## **Agenda**

### **FY2025 Operating Budget**

Dr. Martirano discussed ongoing budget planning, presentation of the budget in January, budget projections with implications from Blueprint, managing expectations, defining the school system needs in accordance with the law, and the impact of variables, including negotiations.

Mr. Conforti reviewed the timeline for the budget process. The FY2025 Fiscal Outlook will be presented at the October 26, 2023 Board of Education meeting. Strategy meetings will continue through October and November. December will be budget compilation. Presentation of the budget is tentatively set for January 12, 2024. Board work sessions will begin on January 18, 2024. Transmission of the budget to the County Executive will occur on or about March 1, 2024.

Chair Watts discussed that the Board members will engage in setting Board priorities.

Council Member Rigby discussed changes to the delivery model to comply with Blueprint and the importance of a reality-based budget.

Council Member Yungmann discussed the work of the Blueprint Resources Planning Workgroup and requested information about the efforts of HCPSS to engage with the State Delegation to receive more State money.

Dr. Martirano discussed that the Board of Education (Board) will meet with the State Delegation on October 19, 2023 regarding the legislative platform and conversations are occurring throughout the State between School Superintendents and their respective State Delegations regarding State funding. He discussed local budget challenges regarding required Blueprint funding that is the law. The requirements will impact on which programs the school system can continue to offer at the local level. He also discussed concerns regarding the overdependence of using one-time dollars to cover recurring costs.

### **FY2025 Capital Budget and FY26-FY30 Capital Improvement Program**

Dr. Martirano discussed the process for approval of the Capital Budget, the CIP, and the 10-year Master Plan. He discussed moving Oakland Mills High School up in the long-range master plan.

Mr. Lubeley reviewed the capital budget process and its submission to the Board on October 4, 2023. Board Members will discuss the budget at future Board meetings. The Board has voted on the Capital Budget. Board discussions remain on the CIP and the 10-year master plan. Budget work sessions are scheduled for January and February 2024.

Council Members and Board Members discussed the following topics:

- Scenarios for moving Oakland Mills High School up in the long-range master plan as a renovation/addition and the majority of the work being finalized prior to the final delivery date;
- Building maintenance conditions in need of attention at Oakland Mills High School, including the HVAC system;
- Renovation/addition will add 400 seats to Oakland Mills High School;
- In most recent feasibility study, Oakland Mills High School is at 102 percent utilization;
- Facilities Condition Index scoring;
- Standards of school capacity and utilization;
- Built to Learn funding and P3 funding;
- Industry standards for use of life of HVAC systems;
- Future scheduling of information sessions relating to P3 funding;
- School surcharge that is based on the 10-year master plan and the impact of changes to the master plan;
- Impact of capacity additions on State school funding;
- Budget variables and factors and how to calculate the school construction index;

- Impact of adding capacity at Oakland Mills Middle School; and
- Importance of utilizing data driven approaches to the budget process;

### **Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance**

Mr. Rogers discussed the requirement under County law for the joint meeting with the Council and the Board to discuss school capacity needs and the school capacity charts.

Council Members, Board Members, and HCPSS staff discussed the following topics:

- Future plans to remove portable classrooms from schools;
- Importance of HCPSS identifying its needs in the Capital budget;
- Impact of the pandemic on enrollment;
- Impact of the opening of Faulkner Ridge for pre-K programs on elementary school capacity;
- All public school classrooms will continue to be needed due to Blueprint requirements;
- Inadequacies of the APFO charts, the need for more information in the charts, and future modifications of the charts;
- County matches for Built to Learn funding and not leaving State money on the table;
- Capacity of middle schools;
- Lack of accomplishment of the purpose of APFO, which is to delay construction that will impact overcrowded schools;
- Importance of the presence of the County Executive during conversations relating to APFO;
- Factors and trends impacting housing student yields; and
- Importance of ongoing conversations with the Council and the County on HCPSS needs.

### **Transportation Update**

Dr. Martirano discussed that adjusting start times on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 have addressed the significant delays. All 507 transportations routes are covered and field trips are occurring. Athletic transportation needs are being addressed and resolved. Staff is currently engaged in an after-action process to include an independent review to address earlier issues. The results of that process will be shared. As a result of time limitations, Dr. Martirano will provide additional transportation updates in writing.

Mr. Yungmann requested that transportation be added to the beginning of the next joint Board of Education and County Council meeting agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.