



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Joint Meeting of County Council and Board of Education - Minutes - Approved

Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland
George Howard Building, Banneker Room
Monday, December 11, 2023
11:00 a.m.

Chair Jung opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Council Members present: Deb Jung, Council Chair; Liz Walsh, Council Vice Chair; Christiana Rigby; Dr. Opel Jones; and David Yungmann

Board of Education Members present: Jennifer Mallo, Chair; Yun Lu, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Antonia Watts; Linfeng Chen, Ph.D.; Jacky McCoy; Jolene Mosley; and Robyn C. Scates, Esq.

Council Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Lynne Blume Rosen, Legislative Analyst; and Owen Clark, Acting Auditor

Public School System Staff present: Michael J. Martirano Ed.D., Superintendent; Jahantab Siddiqui, Chief Administrative Officer; and Daniel Lubeley, Director Capital Planning and Construction

AIAI representatives present: Carlos Lopez Vilardell, Vice President, Business Development USA, Invesis; and Lisa Buglione, Executive Director, AIAI

Agenda

1. Transportation Update

Dr. Martirano provided an update on bus transportation of students from the start of the school year to date, including adjustment of school start time to make sure bus drivers had enough time to get students to school between tiers; end of bus driver shortage; micromanagement to ensure delivery and pick up of students; after action reports to examine reasons why the transportation issues occurred; procurement process to select auditor; currently there are no school start times before 7:50 a.m.; and Board of Education directive that no schools will start before 8:00 am. next school year.

The Council Members, the Board of Education Members, Dr. Martirano, and Mr. Sidiqqi discussed transportation issues highlighting the following topics: various impact of start time on students and cost; 2 mile walk zones; challenges faced which caused busing issues; evaluation of contracts with local vendors and Zum; State regulations and mandates for transportation needs of students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs); students who were exempted from attending Guildford Park High School; considerations for students at risk; comparison to other jurisdictions and consideration for HCPSS to own their own fleet of buses.

Council Members requested more information from Mr. Sidiqqi regarding State and federal reimbursement for transportation needs of students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

2. P3 Presentation from AIAI – Association for the Improvement of American Infrastructure

Dr. Martirano and Mr. Lubeley introduced presenters from the Association for the Improvement of American Infrastructure (AIAI) to review the role of a Public-Private Partnership (P3) in the delivery of K-12 school projects.

Representatives from AIAI presented an overview of a P3 model and provided information about how this applies to Howard County.

The Council Members, the Board, Mr. Vilardell and Ms. Buglione discussed the possible application to building schools. Highlighted topics included: implications of various P3 funding models; alternative funding sources; challenges a P3 model is expected to solve; comparison of proposed P3 model to other jurisdictions and the Court House; various State funding and legislative impacts; and the possibility of convening a work session hosted by the Board of Education to discuss this topic in further detail.

3. Local revenue streams being considered to better fund school needs and bridge existing gaps

The Council Members and the Board of Education members discussed topics related to funding and the existing revenue stream including: Dr. Wu's plans for State legislation; trends, projections, and challenges of transfer tax, recordation, and income tax revenue stream; need for State enabling authority to revise the County tax structure; use of P3 to deliver future public school buildings; Spending Affordability Committee reports; and local match for the Built to Learn Act State funding;

4. Site for HS #14

There was no discussion on the agenda item site for High School #14.

5. Search process for New Superintendent

Chair Mallo reviewed that the Board of Education will appoint an Acting Superintendent this Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. The next step is to contract with a search firm to assist with a nationwide search. The Board will seek community feedback for the desired qualities and qualifications of the candidate, announce the appointment of finalists in the Spring, and select a candidate who is ready to begin on July 1, 2024.

Chair Jung presented Superintendent Martirano with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.