

From: Cornell Brown <Cornell_Brown@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 6:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Testimony on CB19-2026, Joint Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement
Attachments: HCPSS_County Council Testimony_17Mar2026.docx

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Great evening,

Please see attached on the subject.

Respectfully,

Cornell S. Brown, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer
Office of the Chief Operating Officer|410.313.1550
Howard County Public School System



EQUITY FRAMEWORK	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	FOCUS AREAS
Belonging Instructional Excellence Opportunity and Access Engaged and Inspired Learners	Excellent Staff Early Childhood Career Pathways Customized Instruction Accountable Operations	Attendance Proficient in Math Reading by Grade 3 College and Career Ready Effective Discipline Practices

Oral Testimony – Howard County Council Hearing on CB19-2026

Joint Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement

March 17, 2026

- Good evening, Chair Jones and members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) that is the subject of CB19-2026. I am Cornell Brown, Chief Operating Officer for the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).
- As outlined in the HCPSS **Sustainability Policy 6080**, the Board believes that sustainability within the school system is the responsibility of all individuals as well as the collective organization. The Board supports sustainable practices that create a healthy environment, engage our employees and students in developing environmental literacy, and strengthen our operations. Additionally, to align with the purpose, standards, and responsibilities of Policy 6080, Implementation Procedures on the topic of sustainability delineate the coordination of systemwide efforts, including HCPSS’s support for actively participating in achieving Howard County Government’s (HCG) goal to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- **Joint Climate and Sustainability MOU between the Partners:**
On August 11, 2025, HCG, HCPSS and Howard Community College (HCC) executed a collaborative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on climate and sustainability initiatives. One initiative under the MOU required that we engage the market for the purpose of executing a Joint Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement.
- HCG, HCPSS, and HCC, as Partners, seek to jointly enter into a renewable energy power purchase agreement (PPA) with a power provider (CI Renewables) for a period of 25 years. This PPA will provide renewable energy in the form of solar electricity with substantial savings estimated over the expected 25-year term of the PPA. As part of the PPA, the power provider is responsible for the capital costs related to the installation of solar panels and associated components.
- As reflected in Board policy and the MOU, it is our goal to align this Clean Energy requirement with other sustainability initiatives being planned. Most notable is HCPSS’ effort to implement **Energy Performance Contracting and**

Behavior-based Energy Conservation Programs by engaging Energy Service Companies for the purpose of financing upgrades to HCPSS facilities through energy savings generated by energy conservation measures and organizational behavior modifications. Additionally, this effort will include an **Education and Community Engagement** component focused on collaborative activities, programs, and publications to strengthen environmental education for students, boosting public awareness, leveraging data and information to advance best practice, and promote other efforts that strengthen environmental sustainability and climate action.

- Under this effort there are eight (8) HCPSS sites contemplated for solar development and they include:

Site Name	Address	Type	Expected Capacity (kW DC)	Anticipated Placed in Service Date
Route 40/Marriottsville Road Property	2865 Marriottsville Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042	Ground	2579	2027
Harper's Choice Middle School	5450 Beaverkill Rd, Columbia, MD 21044	Rooftop	665	2026
Murray Hill Middle School	9989 Winter Sun Rd, Laurel, MD 20723	Rooftop	383	2026
Triadelphia Elementary School	13400 Triadelphia Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042	Rooftop	444	2026
Guilford Elementary School	7335Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia, MD 21046	Rooftop	396	2027
Wilde Lake High School	5460 Trumpeter Rd, Columbia, MD 21044	Rooftop	571	2026

Central Office	10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042	Rooftop	298	2027
Clemens Crossing Elementary School	10320 Quarterstaff Rd, Columbia, MD 21044	Rooftop	331	2026

- The installation of rooftop solar would be staged in a way to avoid disruption of student instruction. These sites remain subject to adjustment or removal under the terms of the PPA, including the results of detailed, site-specific feasibility studies to assess their suitability for solar.
- It is proposed that HCPSS’ undeveloped Marriottsville Road Property (located on Route 40) be developed to house ground-mounted solar panels. An additional fiscal benefit includes HCPSS receiving an annual lease payment starting at \$10,000 and increasing to \$25,000 based on securing federal tax credits.
- Again, the PPA creates no additional capital expenditure. The nature of a PPA is such that the power provider is responsible for the capital costs related to the installation.
- This PPA is estimated to yield long-term operating budget savings. The savings estimated or HCPSS range from about \$8.2 million to \$9.7 million dollars.

Year and amount of solar generated on HCPSS sites	Electric Bill Savings at \$0.1096/kWh	Electric Bill Savings at \$0.12/kWh
FY27 (1,172,633 kWh)	\$36,727	\$24,531
FY28 (4,156,599)	\$141,119	\$98,128
FY29 (5,967,932)	\$218,462	\$157,078
Lifetime of the PPA – 25 years	\$9,734,803	\$8,285,551

- Some of the HCPSS solar projects would be completed in FY27 and FY28, with all HCPSS sites to be completed by FY29. As a result, the bulk of HCPSS’s annual cost savings would materialize after FY29.
- With that, I am available for discussion or to respond to questions.

From: Lattimer, Timothy
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 9:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Shepter, Brian; Facchine, Felix; Sager, Jennifer; Gelber, Lizzie; Miller, Leah
Subject: Key Points on Amendment No. 1 to Council Bill No. 19-2026 (new PPA)
Attachments: Key Points on Amendment 1 to CB19-2026 - Solar PPA.pdf

Dear Council Members and Colleagues:

On behalf of County Executive Ball, I am pleased to share the attached and below background and points regarding Amendment No. 1 to CB19-2026. We hope this is useful and would be happy to address any questions. Many thanks and best regards, Tim Lattimer

- **Large Savings for HCPSS, the County, and HCC:** Our conservative estimate remains that this PPA will save the purchasers about \$11.8 million to \$13.9 million over 25 years, most of which will accrue to HCPSS. Of that total, the County government’s savings will be \$3 million to \$3.5 million.
- **Update Since March 17 Testimonies:** HCC Board of Trustees and the Howard County Board of Education approved the PPA on March 25 and 26, respectively.
- **Time-Sensitive Next Steps due to Expiring Federal Tax Credits:** County approval on **April 6** is critical to enabling the power provider to expend the minimum required **by July 4, 2026** for solar equipment needed for PPA projects, as required under the “One Big Beautiful Bill” to secure “safe harbor” for federal tax credits of up to 30%, thus keeping project costs to a minimum and ensuring financial viability.
- **Amendment No. 1** captures changes to the Feb. 19 pre-filed draft text of the proposed solar power purchase agreement (PPA) between the County, HCPSS, HCC, and the power provider.
- **Remaining the Same.** The fundamentals of the PPA remain the same in terms of:
 - the fixed price per kWh of electricity to be generated by the projects contemplated under the PPA;
 - the 25-year duration of the agreement; and
 - the timetable for PPA projects to be completed.
- The power provider will continue to bear the up-front costs for development, construction, operation, and maintenance of the projects. The County, HCPSS, and HCC will gain **the benefit of a secure lower cost** for the electricity generated by the solar systems under the PPA’s fixed price (lower than what we now pay).
- **Summary of Changes.** Most of the changes in Amendment No. 1 consist of format fixes, new and updated exhibits, and other minor corrections to clarify certain references or to eliminate redundant language. Key changes include:
 - Changes the name of the power provider from “CI Renewables HPCS LLC” to “CI Renewables Osprey,” a wholly-owned subsidiary formed by CI Renewables for purposes of securing project financing.
 - Definitions added to articulate the meaning of “Purchaser Delay” and “Solar Ready Date” for purposes of the PPA.
 - Addition to Section 2.3 to include provisions on “Roof Warranty Termination.”

- Changes to Section 2.4 to clarify conditions under which time extensions may be granted to the Power Provider.
- Addition to Section 4.3.D to require background checks for Power Provider employees that would work at HCPSS sites.
- Changes to Section 6.1 to allow for potential inclusion of additional solar facilities in Exhibits A, B, or C with a solar ready date after 12/31/2027 and related pricing provisions thereto.
- Adjustments in project site details (e.g., solar ready dates) listed in Exhibits A, B, and C.
- Revised Exhibit G (Form of License Agreement for project sites) to, inter alia, clarify how disputes will be handled regarding the causes of any roof damage and to specify that the License shall control in any conflict between PPA and License provisions.



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Key Points related to Amendment No. 1 to Council Bill No. 19-2026

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Key Points related to Amendment No. 1 to Council Bill No. 19-2026

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 - Revised Exhibit G (Form of License Agreement for project sites) to, inter alia, clarify how disputes will be handled regarding the causes of any roof damage and to specify that the License shall control in any conflict between PPA and License provisions.
- **Questions.** If there are any questions about the PPA and Amendment No. 1, please contact Timothy Lattimer at TLattimer@howardcountymd.gov, 410-313-6551 (work), or (443) 546-0124 (mobile).