

David Yungmann
14750 Addison Way
Woodbine, MD 21797

This testimony is in support of CR-83, a resolution to confirm the appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to the Board of Education.

I am thrilled that we are here to confirm a new member of the Board of Education. This moment was made possible by engaged parent leaders, brave teachers and central office employees, an army of voters and volunteers last year, committed candidates and supportive elected officials.

These people came together for a common cause – to change the leadership of our school system. However, the people in this diverse movement wanted change for many different reasons. Special education parents, minority groups, the teachers' union, parents with kids in unhealthy buildings, fiscal conservatives and many other interests were represented in the common goal of change. Now it's time to rebuild and it's natural for everyone to want their specific interest front and center.

I believe the two most important roles of our Board of Education are to be the steward of our tax dollars and to balance competing needs to serve as many citizens as possible with the resources provided. This takes high caliber financial, analytical and management skills, along with current connection with the community and our schools. What I don't think we need is an advocate or someone who sees a seat on the Board as a way to advance a specific agenda, no matter how hard they might have worked to get us to this place.

In my opinion, Ananta Hejeebu is a perfect choice to fill this seat on our Board of Education. I've worked with Ananta on numerous boards and committees. He's incredibly smart and analytical, has sharp financial skills and can drill down to the heart of issues with ease. I have always found Ananta to be the person who didn't need to prove how smart he is by talking non-stop in meetings performing for an audience. He's the one who listens, analyzes and only speaks when he has something valuable to offer – and his question or comment is usually one of the most insightful of any discussion. He has a quiet confidence without the slightest hint of superiority or dismissiveness. He has a current connection to the school system through his three school-age children and experience dealing with the school system as a special needs parent. He has become an expert on the complex budget a skill which still needs to be enhanced on the Board. He has a track record of results and achievement and is well-liked and respected throughout his industry and our community.

As a taxpayer, homeowner and father of a school age child, I urge your confirmation of Ananta to serve on our Board of Education.

To: Howard County Council
From: Barbara K. Lawson
Re: Ananta Hejeebu - Board of Education Vacancy
Date: June 19, 2017

I am here to support the appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to the Howard County Board of Education. Each of you will read his bio and resume to learn about his work history and family, but I want to tell you about Ananta's personal qualities that will be valuable to the Board.

I first met Ananta in 2006 when I was President of the Columbia Foundation. He had joined the Salvation Army Board of Directors at a time when they were expanding services in Howard County. Ananta wanted to understand how the Salvation Army could best serve county residents and collaborate with other nonprofit services rather than duplicate.

A year later having identified a need for children's summer programs he asked for my help funding the cost of sending children to a summer camp in West Virginia. He first understood the need and then acted on it. He raised the funds that year and 40 children, who otherwise would never have had a camp experience were the recipient of his efforts.

Since that time we have worked together on the Leadership Howard County board and on community projects where his extensive technology knowledge and business acumen have been put to excellent use. It is from this personal experience that I share with you the qualities I most admire!

1. Ananta has earned a reputation for integrity and honesty. This is demonstrated in his family, his business, and his community life.
2. Ananta is a discerning listener and responds thoughtfully. He respects differences of opinion. When he speaks he elevates the conversation and leads others to inclusive, creative and realistic problem solving.
3. Ananta lives his life by giving time, talent and treasure – in fact he is eager to give and to help others – believing that do so is simply the way to live ones life and to enrich others.
4. Ananta strives to have all his relationships be “win-win.” He works collaboratively and cooperatively with others, a trait of a leader who is capable of accomplishing much in life.

Lastly, I share a short story. After serving in the Army, Ananta worked his way through college by selling children's books door to door and being the top producer of the company. Door to door sales has to be among the most difficult of jobs. You do not succeed at a stranger's door unless you are immediately perceived as a person to be trusted. I trust Ananta is the right person for the Board of Education and that he will dedicate himself to maintaining Howard County's world-class education system. Thank you

June 19, 2017

Testimony on CR 83-2017: Appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to the Howard County Board of Education

My name is Cole Schnorf and I reside at 4912 Valley View Overlook, Ellicott City, MD. It is a great pleasure to testify tonight in favor of the appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to fill the vacant seat on the Howard County Board of Education. Although I often testify for various organizations, I am here tonight testifying as an individual Howard County citizen. The Chamber of Commerce has a policy against endorsing candidates for elected office, which this will eventually be, but several Chamber Board Members have individually expressed support for Ananta.

I have known Ananta for several years, primarily as fellow members of the board of the Howard County Chamber, but also in other community organizations. Rather than recite Ananta's qualifications which you can all read, I prefer to tell you of my experiences with Ananta which I think illustrate why he will be a great addition to the Board of Education.

Ananta will be an outstanding advocate for Special Education, not just because he has a son who receives Special Education services, but because he genuinely cares about children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. All of you have met my daughter Julia, as has Ananta. Ever since he met her, the first thing Ananta asks when he sees me is, "How is that beautiful daughter of yours doing?" Since I have two beautiful daughters, I am obligated to ask, "Which one?" but I know which one he is asking about. If Julia is with me, Ananta strikes up a conversation with her before talking to me. Ananta is so comfortable and caring in his interactions with Julia, there is no doubt in my mind he is the same way with others with special needs.

Ananta will bring much more to the Board of Education than just his interest and expertise with Special Education. Ananta has a knack for speaking up when he has an opinion, doing so forcefully, but calmly and inoffensively. I have witnessed this in discussions about the Chamber's Strategic Plan, nominations to the Chamber's Board of Directors, and the Chamber budget. His comments are insightful and often spawn additional discussion. This manner of debate will be helpful on the Board of Education, which has sometimes failed to debate issues fully and collegially.

As a father of four myself, I am pleased that on this day after Father's Day, you consider adding a father to the Board of Education. Ananta is not only the father of a Special Needs child, but Ananta has two other children and had the wisdom to send his oldest child away to college at Georgia Tech, assuring that he will get Greg Fox's support. It is without hesitation that I recommend that you approve the appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to the Howard County Board of Education.

Testimony to support the appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to the Howard County Board of Education

June 19, 2017

by

Brian S. Walter, 13721 Barberry Way, Sykesville, MD 21784

Thank you to the Howard County Council members for this opportunity to testify in support of Ananta Hejeebu's appointment to the Howard County Board of Education.

My family moved to Howard County in 1999. Like many people, one of the primary attractions of moving to Howard County was the reputation of its public school system. From 1999 to 2014 we had at least one of our three children in the Howard County school system and we were delighted with the education each of them received.

Over the past few years however I have been troubled by a lack of openness and transparency by the school system and the oftentimes adversarial posture taken against the community and government officials. Based on this, I support the decision to move in a different direction with the appointment of Dr. Martirano as Interim Superintendent and am encouraged by his early efforts to improve relationships and transparency. It is critical that we have a school board equally committed to this effort while also maintaining its relentless focus on what is best for our children. It is for this reason that I enthusiastically support the nomination of Ananta Hejeebu.

I have known Ananta for many years in a variety of settings and based on my experience I am certain that he will make a fine addition to the Board of Education. Ananta's character is best captured by the term "servant leadership". On numerous occasions Ananta has stepped into leadership roles for no reason other than to serve others. Ananta's business and financial acumen will certainly be assets for the Board, but it his character and focus on children which will be most valuable.

As the father of a special education teacher, I am especially excited about the perspective and advocacy that Ananta will bring in representing those families with special needs.

The school system is clearly in a time of transition, a time offering both risks and opportunities. Leadership is critical in successfully navigating through periods such as this. Ananta is a leader who will bring people together, be open and honest, and always do what is right and best for those he serves. He will make an excellent addition to the Board and our community will undoubtedly benefit from his service.

Thank you very much.



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

Testimony to the Howard County Council

June 19, 2017

Nomination of Ananta Hejeebu to Howard County Board of Education

Given by Melissa Rosenberg

I am here this evening on behalf of the Howard County Autism Society to express our strong support for the appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to the Howard County Board of Education.

There are several reasons we feel that Mr. Hejeebu is a great candidate for this position.

First, he has a track record of extensive, meaningful involvement in our local Howard County community. He is a member of the Howard County Commission on Transitioning Students with Disabilities; is a graduate and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Leadership Howard County; serves on the Executive Committee of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce; and is an active member of Grace Church, participating in the special needs ministry there. He's volunteered with the Community Foundation of Howard County, the Baltimore Area Salvation Army and Howard County Youth Sports.

Second, he brings years of business and leadership experience to this position as the founder of Howard Tech Advisors, a firm located here in the county. Prior to launching his own business, Mr. Hejeebu gained valuable experience in raising venture funding, developing marketing strategies and leading global sales efforts with Workspace.com. He rode the trail of Global Accounts with F5 Networks from a startup to a publicly traded billion-dollar firm. In the early days of his career, he worked with the Southwestern Company and as an officer in the US Army 18th Airborne.

Third, Mr. Hejeebu arrives well-versed in the HCPSS budget issues as a member of the Board of Education's Budget Review Committee, a position he was appointed to by the Howard County Council. His understanding of the budget process and business experience will be of great benefit to HCPSS.

- 1 -

Providing Support • Promoting Awareness • Advocating for Change

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 308 • Columbia, MD 21046
410-290-3466 • www.howard-autism.org • info@howard-autism.org

Finally, Mr. Hejeebu will bring a unique and much –needed perspective to the Board of Education as a parent, along with wife, Stacia, to a son with autism and two children without disabilities. Full disclosure; the Hejeebu’s have been members of HCAS since 2009 and have participated in our events, programs and in our 5K Run/Walks. As we work through our organization to advocate on behalf of individuals with autism and their families, we welcome the addition of a BOE member with a strong grasp of the challenges faced by HCPSS families who must navigate its special education system.

Since 1993, HCAS has served individuals on the autism spectrum, their families, and community by providing information, support, and advocacy; promoting awareness of autism that values the dignity and uniqueness of each individual; and working to improve the quality of and access to services and educational opportunities.

HCAS works to raise awareness and educate the general public about the complexities of autism, believing that people who understand autism are better equipped to welcome and support individuals living with autism into the community. And with the highest incidence of autism per capita in the State of Maryland – 8% in Howard County and 4% statewide – we must remain vigilant to maintain the quality of our special education and support services.

Mr. Hejeebu possesses the knowledge, compassion and caring that will make him an excellent servant for children of ALL abilities in HCPSS. We strongly encourage you to approve his nomination to the Howard County Board of Education.

Paul G. Skalny, Esq.
4312 Buckskin Wood Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Good evening Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council!

I am here this evening to testify in support of Ananta Hejeebu's appointment to the Howard County Board of Education.

I have had the distinct honor, and I sincerely mean honor, of knowing Ananta for approximately 10 years. During this period of time, I have come to know someone I would characterize as a true gentleman...a term which is lacking in the description of many people today.

Involved in many different aspects of our community, Ananta does so because he cares and because he has a passion about those things in which he is involved, not because he is supposed to be involved or because it makes him look better or because it's good for his business. Ananta always gives more than he takes and seeks nothing in return, other than wanting to know that he leaves organizations and institutions better and stronger than the way in which he found them.

Many businesses today support non-profit organizations and ask that their owners, executives and employees do the same. But few do it because it's woven into the very fabric of a company's culture. In Ananta's company, Howard Tech Advisors, giving back to the communities in which its personnel, its clients and its vendors live, work and play, is simply a way of life. There is just no other way.

Uncharacteristic of my prior appearances before this Council, I will conclude before the expiration of my three minutes, but not before leaving you with a few words that come to mind when I think of my good friend and colleague, Ananta:

Gracious. Sincere. Selfless. Committed. Dedicated. Intelligent. Compassionate. And extremely likeable! What more could we want from someone poised to help our children and to shape their future?

I urge you to confirm Ananta's appointment to the Board of Education and would suggest that doing anything but that would be a mistake.

Thank you!

I (Raj Kathuria) support Ananta Hejeebu for the appointment to the open seat of Howard County Board of Education.

Ananta is a 23 years resident of Howard County and has been a model resident of Howard County

Mr. Hejeebu is very passionate about Howard County, as we have had in length discussions at an event about his ideas and his passion also his commitment to our County.

Ananta is a great businessman and also possess a wealth of Leadership qualities. Among many Leadership positions that he held, Ananta is a vice chair for Leadership of Howard County.

Ananta is a highly skilled in IT Industry and has a great understanding of the future growth of technology and education. With his proven track record of successful financial management Mr. Hejeebu will prove to be vital to the Howard County Board of Education.

As a parent of a special needs child Ananta has first-hand understanding of the issues facing special needs children and their families and will be a much needed voice of advocacy.

Ananta Hejeebu also adds important diversity to the Howard County Board of Education.

The Indian-American population in Howard County and Indian Americans students in our school system is growing rapidly. Representation of a member of our community is long overdue.

Many of our local politicians often ignore the Asian American population especially Indian, Chinese, and Koreans when talking about minority groups and diversity. This is a chance to prove otherwise.

While I am impressed with some incredibly strong new female board members I think a male voice will add to diverse thought as currently there are no male member on the Howard County Board of Education.

We pride ourselves on Howard County about being a diverse community, here in your chance as a council to prove it. A well respected community leader who is qualified and ready to serve, let's give him the opportunity he deserves.

Raj Kathuria



6021 University Blvd, Suite 490, Ellicott City MD, 21043

Elizabeth Benevides
Associate Director for Autism Programs, Hussman Foundation
Co-Chair, Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities

Council Resolution 83 – 2017
Confirming the Appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to the
Howard County Board of Education
June 15, 2017

DAWSON ROBERTSON
10208 CABERY RD
ELICOTT CITY, MD
21042

Position: SUPPORT

HC

The Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities supports CR. 83-2017, which would confirm the appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to the Howard County Board of Education.

The Commission, established by Resolution No. 141 (November 9, 2016), serves the county by making recommendations on ways to establish an effective, efficient, and comprehensive delivery of services that will most successfully meet the transition needs of Howard County students with disabilities. ~~Dawson Robertson~~ ^{BETH BENEVIDES} and I serve as co-chairs of the Commission, which is comprised of 31 members.

Mr. Hejeebu is an appointed member of the Commission, serving as a caring parent of a teenage son with disabilities, as well as a representative of the business community. He is a valuable and active member of the Commission, bringing insight of special education and expertise in business to our efforts, as well as a passion to create positive change for students.

Mr. Hejeebu is an excellent advocate. He approaches his advocacy role for transitioning youth thoughtfully and carefully, seeking input from others when he has questions or concerns about a particular issue. He readily contributes to every discussion of the Commission and its employment subgroup, and is able to make his points firmly, but respectfully.

His focus is on possibilities. He seeks to level the playing field for all students so that each student is well supported to progress in academics and in skills for everyday life.

The Commission strongly supports the appointment of Mr. Hejeebu to the Board of Education. He has already contributed so much to education advocacy and is well-equipped to serve students and families of Howard County. His vision inspires others to create meaningful opportunities for all youth transitioning from high school to adulthood.

Please support the appointment of Ananta Hejeebu to the Howard County Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,

DAWSON ROBERTSON
~~Elizabeth Benevides~~