

Brian England
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CR134-2019 – A RESOLUTION calling on those offering homes for sale in Howard County to omit references to schools and school zones in certain advertising

I really appreciate the goal of this resolution and I request that you all support it.

The spread off misleading information about Howard County schools has in the past been by neighbors and by some real estate agents but now the source is from the real estate industry in general with their links to sites like Great Schools Dot org.

The data provided by these sites can be helpful to a professional like a principal but in the wrong hands it can be used to enforce stereotypes and be misinterpreted in other ways.

Great Schools Dot Org has comments that show how they justify their "Race" category..

For example: "Big differences may suggest that some student groups are not getting the support they need to succeed".

It sounds very nice if that's how the data is going to be used.

But how is the layperson supposed use data about "Race" an evil construct from the 17th century to evaluate our local schools?

From my experience in buying 3 homes in Columbia the spread of negative views about local schools came up and was repeated by new neighbors who acted on it and some even paid for their children to go to private schools.

A generation later the same happened when my daughter moved to Oakland Mills! Her husband heard negative comments about Talbot Springs Elementary School and said I think we should move before our children are old enough to go to school.

Well they did move but only down the street!

They love their neighborhood and they love their neighborhood school and don't want their son redistricted from Talbot Springs Elementary School.

Thank you, please support this resolution.

<https://www.greatschools.org>

Testimony in support of CR134-2019 - October 21, 2019

The idea of **redlining** in real estate refers to the practice of defining specific neighborhoods or areas on a map as more or less desirable to live. Areas defined by a red line, or designated in red, were considered to be less desirable. In 1977 redlining in real estate was found to be **discriminatory**. I believe the advertising of a school zone in promotional materials in order to steer potential home buyers to specific school zones is not only unethical, it could be illegal.

The practice of including school attendance areas when publicly advertising homes for sale improperly discriminates against both seller and buyer. It discriminates against sellers of property in neighborhoods with lower ranked schools by deflating a property's value, and it discriminates against buyers in higher ranked school areas by inflating the cost of housing to them. Furthermore, it is misleading, as redistricting can occur at any time.

Another consequence of this practice is that promoting one school zone over another creates an "us versus them" dynamic and becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, thereby contributing to divisiveness in a community. Purposely steering higher income families to specific school zones and away from others segregates schools by socioeconomic status and deprives all students the important life skill of interacting with and learning from others whose life experiences may be different from their own.

CR134 applies specifically to directional signs and promotional materials. These materials and signs are public proclamations that create a first impression that Howard County is not the inclusive and welcoming place it is meant to be. First impressions are important. Please pass CR134.

Respectfully submitted,

JD Smith

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Baltimore and Howard Counties

Ways and Means Committee

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In support of CR134-2019 - Real Estate Signs - School Information

October 21, 2019

Chair Rigby, Vice Chair Jones, and Members of the Howard County Council:

My name is Eric Ebersole and I serve in the Maryland House of Delegates representing District 12. I am pleased to offer testimony today in support of CR134-2019. I would like to thank Councilmember Opel Jones for sponsoring this resolution.

Before I was first elected in 2014, I was a public school teacher here in Howard County for over 30 years. I taught math at Wilde Lake High School for over 20 years, and then both Reservoir and Marriot's Ridge High Schools when they first opened. I have spent my entire teaching career in this County and I know just how good each school here is.

Advertising homes for sale as located in specific school districts can be misleading. The School Board can redistrict whenever it needs to, but buyers may see this sort of advertising as an indication of a perpetual assignment. Those making an investment need to be protected. It is important to help ensure that buyers have a clear and honest picture about a purchase of this magnitude.

In addition, this sort of advertising is also dangerous because it creates and/or promulgates the damaging and, in my opinion from my years of teaching here, false premise that one school is better than another.

Many selling homes adhere to a policy on prohibiting this sort of advertising, but not all. This resolution, then, is worthy of your support. And, in fact, today I announced that I will introduce Howard County Delegation Bill 02-20, which will, in a manner similar to the suggestion of the resolution, prohibit the identification of a specific school assignment in any advertising for real estate or new residential construction in Howard County.

I am pleased to offer my strong support of this resolution, both in my testimony and by introducing legislation. I urge members of the County Council to join me in my support of this commonsense action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric D. Ebersole".

Delegate Eric Ebersole

Planning Board Testimony: 10/3/2019

Good evening, my name is Dan Lubeley, Acting Director of Capital Planning and Construction. Before you, this evening is the Board of Education's proposed FY 2021 capital budget, FY 2022-2026 capital improvement program, FY 2021-2026 long-range systemic renovation projects and FY 2021-2030 long-range master plan.

I am here to give a brief overview of the proposal, highlighting several Board amendments to the Superintendent's proposed budget. The Superintendent presented his budget to the Board on September 10, 2019, and the Board amended the proposed budget on September 19, 2019.

The Board proposed budget for FY 2021 totals \$99.101 million and the total FY 2022-2026 CIP request is \$408.827 million. The FY 2021-2026 Long-Range Systemic Master Plan is a total of \$145.383 million and the FY 2021-2030 Long-Range Master Plan is \$781 million.

The FY 2021 Board proposed budget additions to the superintendent's proposed budget includes \$15.129 million for the Talbott Springs Elementary School Replacement project and \$27.955 million for the Hammond High School Renovation and Addition project.

The FY 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Program includes budget requests that support

- Construction of New High School #13, scheduled for opening in September 2023; (CD approved 9/19/19)
- Construction of the Talbot Springs replacement school, scheduled for opening in September 2022; (DD to Board of Ed 11/7/19)
- Construction of Hammond HS renovation/addition, scheduled for final completion in September 2023; (CD to Board of Ed 11/21/19)
- Planning and construction of New Elementary School #43, scheduled to open in September 2027;
- Planning and construction of Dunloggin MS Renovation and Addition, scheduled to be completed in September 2028;
- Relocatable classrooms;
- Site acquisition and Technology;
- Multiple systemic renovations and modernizations that include projects for HVAC, Roofs, exterior windows and doors, and emergency reserve funding. (details are listed on budget page #3);
- Thank you, and we are here to answer any questions.