

Robyn Scates – Final Remarks**March 20, 2023**

Good evening, Chairwoman Rigby and members of the Council. My name is Robyn C. Scates and I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you today as you consider my appointment to the Howard County Board of Education for District 1. I am humbled and honored to be here and that County Executive Ball has put forth my name to serve the residents of Howard County in this capacity. I would also like to thank the County Executive for placing his trust in me with this appointment.

Over the past three weeks, I have also had the honor of meeting with most of the Councilmembers and have scheduled meetings to meet with the remaining members this week, Members of the Board of Educators, the Superintendent, amazing educators and a host of other outstanding members of the Howard County community. Your careful attention to my appointment demonstrates your dedication to ensuring the success of our most valuable resource, our youth. And I thank you!

If confirmed, I will welcome the opportunity to work with the Howard County Board of Education to drive the vision of ensuring the academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps.

I grew up in a family of educators who were first generation college students. They knew and believed in the power of public education. My parents believed and taught my sister and I that a public education offers our children exposure to an array of educators, students and experiences that work to play a vital role in preparing our children for success academically, socially and professionally.

To share a little about my background, I have dedicated my life to ensuring the academic and social-emotional well-being of young people. My work experience includes time as a behavioral counselor in the Baltimore City Public School system, helping students at Patterson High School and Forest Park High School meet their educational goals.

I also served as Executive Director of the Maryland Legal Services Program, ensuring the legal rights of all abused and neglected youth in the State of Maryland. Through my work as the Vice President of Risk Management, General Counsel & Chief Diversity Office for College Summit, I worked to increase the college attendance rate of lower income youth by working directly with high schools and colleges across the United States.

Currently, I am proud to work as a Professor and Academic Adviser at Morgan State University, where I teach and help undergraduate students navigate their educational goals.

I have been a resident of District 1 in Elkridge since 2007, and my children are graduates of the Howard County Public School System, having attended Elkridge Elementary School, Elkridge Landing Middle School, and Howard High School. I have seen firsthand the incredible