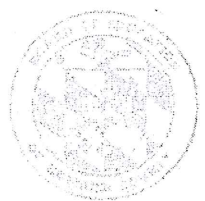


Allen Dyer
6/15/15
CR49-2015

HOWARD COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

January 26, 2010

The Honorable Courtney Watson, Chairperson
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043



Board of Education
of Howard County

- Ellen Flynn Giles
Chairman
- Janet Siddiqui, M.D.
Vice Chairman
- Frank J. Aquino, Esq.
- Lawrence H. Cohen
- Allen Dyer, Esq.
- Sandra H. French
- Patricia S. Gordon
- Josh T. Manley
Student Member
- Sydney L. Cousin
Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer

Re: A Minority Report on CB 58 and CB 59 Educational Infrastructure

Dear Chairperson Watson,

Thank you again for inviting the Howard County Board of Education to review and comment on the sufficiency of educational infrastructure in CB 58 and CB 59.

On January 14, 2010, the Board voted to support the Howard County Council's education amendment to CB58. As an individual member of the Board, however, I cannot support postponing the reservation of an elementary school site. I am most directly concerned that the construction of 5,500 new residences in the middle of Columbia will require the County either to build a new elementary school there or to bus the new students to existing schools. The public policy of Maryland, per the recently enacted High Performance Building Act,¹ strongly favors sustainable sites for all public buildings so as to save energy. Plainly, building a school in a new community would be far more sustainable than busing the new students to other neighborhoods; and the County and this Board would be remiss not to reserve a site now.

Moreover, local boards of education must try to reconcile the need to create sustainable schools with the duty to achieve the student diversity goals of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. In an era of increasing social, economic, and environmental pressures, public schools can ill afford high density, school sized, enclaves of racial or economic uniformity and the associated transportation costs to bus students in and out of such enclaves.

Of special import, therefore, is the challenge/opportunity provided by high density housing such as the 5,500 residential units contemplated in CB 58 and CB 59.² As a member of the Board of Education of Howard County, I am concerned that CB 58 and CB 59 do not include tools to insure that the cultural, racial and economic mix of this new urban residential community will reflect countywide demographics.

¹ See: *LEED for Schools Rating System*, Sustainable Sites Prerequisites and Credits.
² The Howard County Public Schools System already has one school — Stevens Forest Elementary — that is "walkers only."

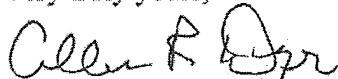
Accordingly, in my opinion the Board should recommend that the County Council anchor the planned new residential community with a new elementary school site without delay and use that prospective new public school as a catalyst for creation of a mixed community of families that accurately reflects the cultural, racial and economic diversity of Howard County. Specifically, the Board should recommend that the County Council:

1. Amend CB 58 to require the granting of a sustainable, walkable elementary school site to the Board of Education;
2. Amend CB 58 to restrict new residential units to locations within a safe walking distance the new town center school site;
3. Amend CB 58 to require new housing demographics to accurately reflect the overall racial and economic diversity of Howard County;
4. Amend CB 58 to include previously proposed provisions regarding checkpoints for determining whether additional schools are needed; and,
5. Having amended CB 58, postpone enactment of CB 59 so as to allow the Planning Board to create and incorporate the tools necessary to make the racial and economic goals of the amended CB 58 possible.

The problem is not whether a school site is needed and where it can be located: the Maryland Education Article delegates sufficient authority to the Board of Education to locate and condemn school sites. The challenge is crafting an enlightened land use policy and working with the developer of this new urban residential community to showcase the cultural, racial, and economic diversity that is Howard County. The Board of Education can build the schools and staff them with the best educators in the country, but only the County Council and the developer can surround that school with a microcosm of Howard County.

Such is the minority advice of this Board member, but, that advice is bundled with a promise to strive mightily to support the County Council and the developer if they choose to take the next step in fulfilling the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Very truly yours,



Allen R. Dyer, Member
Board of Education of Howard County
Speaking as an individual member

cc: Board Members
Ms. Mary Kay Sigaty, Vice Chairman, Howard County Council
Dr. Sydney Cousin, Superintendent