



# Howard County Council

George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

## COUNCILMEMBERS

**Opel Jones, Chair**  
District 2  
**Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair**  
District 3  
**Liz Walsh**  
District 1  
**Deb Jung**  
District 4  
**David Yungmann**  
District 5

## Minutes - Approved

Joint Meeting with County Council and Board of Education

Monday, February 9, 2026

Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and via WebEx)

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>

10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, Maryland

10:00 a.m.

**Board of Education Members Present:** Meg Ricks, Linfeng Chen, Antonia Watts, Jolene Mosley, Jacky McCoy, Jennifer Mallo, Andrea Chamblee.

**Council Members Present:** Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby, Deb Jung, and David Yungmann.

**HCPSS staff present:** Bill Barnes, Superintendent; Dan Lubeley, Executive Director, Capital Planning and Construction; Cornell Brown

**County Staff present:** Michelle Harrod, County Council Administrator; Yosef Kebede, Director of Public Works; Kris Jagarapu, Engineer Manager II; Abdul Akbari, Engineer Manager I; and Chris Eatough, Planning Manager.

## Agenda

### 1. Opening of Meeting

Chair Mallow opened the meeting at 10:03am.

### 2. Local Facility Update

Mr. Brown and Mr. Lublely from Howard County Public School System, (HCPSS) gave an update on the evaluation of education facilities and the development of the master plan. Mr. Brown discussed the firm retained to carry out the study, the data being prepared, and how the information will be used for future capital budget cycles. Mr. Lublely discussed ongoing and planned site visits and the creation of the utilization index.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Lubley responded to questions from the Board and the Council on the ratio of administrative buildings to educational buildings; the status of the Faulkner Ridge project; and the feasibility of adding HVAC to Wilde Lake High School. There was additional discussion about the status of the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) study; if the information collected in the assessment is confidential; and the role of culture in CPTED. Those present also discussed the growth in the number of students per square foot in schools; the cost per square foot for school construction; how the increase in construction costs has impacted capital budget planning; the reduction in the number of operation personnel; and the use of contracted workers for service and maintenance positions.

### **3. Financial Software for Blueprint Implementation Discussion**

Ms. Rigby discussed background on issue of the Blueprint deadlines. Mr. Hull discussed changes from the State for the deadline for minimum school funding and the status of Howard County's compliance with those standards. Dr. Walker discussed proposed changes in the AIB's proposed legislative package and how it impacts implementation timelines. Mr. Hull, Dr. Walker, and Mr. Barnes responded to questions from the Council on the cost of the financial software; the staffing needed to implement the Blueprint requirements; how the school district is modifying staffing structures to meet student needs and mandatory funding levels; the need for relief from the current State requirements; the status of legislation at the State that might change State resources available to local school districts; and if there has been any consideration for partnering with existing trade organizations.

### **4. Staffing**

Dr. Webster responded to questions from the Board and the Council on how HCPSS handles temporary workers in special education positions; why temporary employees can be filled while full time employees are not available; and the long term cost of hiring contract employees rather than full time employees.

### **5. CB20-25 And CB10-26 - Excess Surplus Revenue Legislation**

Ms. Mallow asked if the legislation passed. Ms. Jung discussed the role of the County Executive in setting the budget and the needs of the school system for deferred maintenance. Mr. Yungmann discussed how PAYGO allocations may decrease for capital projects. Ms. Rigby discussed the intent of the legislation and the uses of PAYGO for school projects. Dr. Chen discussed the need for long term planning on funding contributions for deferred maintenance. Mr. Lubley discussed the current status of the school system's FY2027 proposed capital budget and the value of deferred maintenance. There was a general discussion on how investment

incomes may offset increased budget costs. Ms. Jung asked if the school system was shovel ready for deferred maintenance and if any money could be saved by procuring one contractor for each category of work across multiple projects. Ms. Rigby asked about cost saving opportunities in the HCPSS fleet.

## **6. Proposed FY27 Pedestrian Safety or Sidewalk Projects**

Representatives from HCPSS and the Department of Public Works responded to questions from the Board and the Council on upcoming projects that will benefit pedestrian access; the impact of the recent snow storm; the prioritization of snow removal; whether the County plans on finding residents for not removing snow; various traffic calming measures; and how RTA stops are evaluated; the status of school facility conditions.

## **7. Adjournment**

Chair Mallow closed the meeting at 12:01pm.