



# Howard County Council

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

## COUNCILMEMBERS

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

## Minutes – Approved

Joint Meeting of the Howard County Board of Education  
and the Howard County Council  
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)  
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>  
10910 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042  
October 16, 2024  
9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

### **OPENING OF MEETING**

Meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

**Councilmembers present:** Deb Jung, Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby, David Yungmann.

**Board of Education Members Present:** Jennifer Mallo, Yun Lu, Linfeng Chen, Jacky McCoy, Jolene Mosley, Robin Scates.

### **Staff Present**

**HCPSS:** Bill Barnes, Superintendent; Jennifer Robinson, Chief Schools Officer; Timothy Guy, Director of Assessment & Reporting; Dr. Caroline Walker, Chief Equity and Innovation Officer; Dr. Terri Savage, Chief Academic Officer; Cornell Brown, Chief Operating Officer; Brian Hull, Chief Financial Officer; Dan Lubeley, Executive Director, Capital Planning and Construction; Michael Carson, Human Resources Executive Officer; Darin Conforti, Executive Director of Budget; and April Harrison, Board Administrator.

**County Council:** Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; and Ervens Jean-Pierre, Legislative Analyst.

### **AGENDA**

#### **Discussion of Howard High School Incident**

Before going through the agenda items, Superintendent Bill Barnes discussed with Council and Board members the details about an event at Howard High School on October 15<sup>th</sup> which involved coordination from law enforcement and Juvenile Services.

Superintendent Barnes stated he would be releasing a statement on the incident, but committed to remain vigilant in their investigation, how they can improve this type of event from happening again and pledged continued collaboration and communication with the Police Department, the Maryland Dept of Juvenile Services, and all affected students, staff, parents and other stakeholders.

Discussion ensued, with Council and BOE members, about details of the incident and what options HCPSS and the BOE have at their disposal to anticipate prior issues with students coming from another school district.

Superintendent Barnes answered that HCPSS are looking at tightening up security and safety measures. Ms. Robinson stated the Police Department, and the Administration acted as quickly as possible, and will continue to remain transparent with the community about these updates.

### **Blueprint Implementation**

HCPSS Staff introduced themselves before the presentation on Blueprint Implementation

Timothy Guy, HCPSS Director of Assessment & Reporting, gave a brief overview on how state funding formulas have changed since the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation implementation, including new funding formulas.

Mr. Guy then reviewed the Five Pillars of Blueprint (*1. Early Childhood Education, 2. High-Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders, 3. College and Career Readiness, 4. More Resources to Ensure All Students Are Successful, and 5. Governance and Accountability*), and discussed HCPSS's progress towards compliance with the Five Pillars and what next steps they intend to take going forward.

Discussion followed the presentation regarding designation and staffing of Community Schools, tradeoffs associated with school funding priorities, early childhood/pre-K education, and strategies to engage the community on funding priorities.

### **Budget Discussion**

Brian Hull, Chief Financial Officer and Darren Conforti, Executive Director for Budget, gave an overview of the FY26 Budget Considerations, Fiscal Outlook, and the HCPSS budget process, including the timeline, and their plans on how to engage stakeholders early on. Stakeholders mentioned include the Board of Education, the County Council, the County Executive, Howard County Delegation, and several other community groups.

Discussion and questions ensued. Topics of discussion included the need for more money in the HCPSS Capital Budget to address underfunding in school operations and maintenance costs, managing expectations on budget asks, and school building conditions and expansion needs.

Cornell Brown, the HCPSS Chief Operation Officer, gave a brief overview on Strategic Planning for Capital Facilities. Mr. Brown stated that HCPSS intends to come back to the Board with a

recommendation to engage a consultant to evaluate facility conditions and up with further recommendations for long term planning of capital facilities.

Ms. Rigby requested that the discussion of school facility needs be continued at next Joint BOE/Council session in December. Ms. Mallo confirmed it's on the agenda.

Ms. Walsh proposed the County Council discuss the capital facility budget and school facility needs at next Council Work Session on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mallo requested invitation to October 28<sup>th</sup> Work Session for the Board of Education Members.

**Adjournment** – Meeting concluded at 11:45 am