



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Minutes - Approved

Joint Meeting with
County Council and Board of Education
Monday, June 9, 2025
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and via WebEx)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland
George Howard Building, C Vernon Gray Room
9:45 a.m.

Opening of Meeting

The meeting started at 9:56 a.m.

Council Members Present: Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby, Deb Jung, David Yungmann

BOE Members present: Dr. Linfeng Chen, Meg Ricks, Andrea Chamblee, Antonia Watts, and James Obasiolu.

Staff Present

HCPSS: Bill Barnes, Superintendent; Brian Hull, Chief Financial Officer; Ebony Langford-Brown, Executive Director of Curriculum Instruction, and Assessment; Dan Lubeley, Executive Director, Capital Planning and Construction; Cornell Brown, Chief Operating Officer; Timothy Rogers, School Planning Manager; and Dr. Caroline Walker, Chief Equity and Innovation Officer.

County Council: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; Brenda Smith, Administrative Assistant.

Agenda

Update on Budget FY2026

Superintendent Barnes and the members of the Board of Education discussed the Fiscal Year 2026 Howard County Public School System ("HCPSS") budget and strategies to manage the HCPSS budget shortfall. There was general discussion regarding Board of Education budget

Scenario 7 which was approved by the Board of Education to manage the HCPSS Fiscal year 2026 budget shortfall. Council members asked where *Scenario 7* originated and were told that individual members of the Board of Education met with HCPSS staff to discuss various budget scenarios. Ebony Langford-Brown then discussed the HCPSS Gifted and Talented (GT) program.

Budget Process and Timeline for FY2027

There was general discussion about ideas and process changes to the HCPSS budget process. Proposals discussed included generating additional revenues including transportation and athletics participation fees and reviewing school schedules and start times.

Upcoming Redistricting

Cornell Brown, Chief Operating Officer, David Lubley, Timothy Rogers School Planning, presented the HCPSS upcoming redirecting process to address the student populations of schools in the west Columbia and Ellicott City area. They described the redistricting process including important milestones for public and Board of Education input. HCPSS stated they anticipate presenting options and recommendations in July for the Board of Education to consider. The Board of Education will then commence their role in the redistricting process in the fall of 2025 and anticipates a voting on a decision in November 2026. Council members asked about transportation and students who walk to school. There was general discussion between the Council Members and HCPSS staff about enrollment, development, the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning projections and historical data taken into consideration.

Update on Federal Impact

Dr. Caroyne Walker Chief Equity and Innovation Officer provided an update on Federal Government funding to the HCPSS. Dr. Walker stated that for Fiscal Year 2026 a majority of previously dedicated federal funds are still available and are currently funding school programs. She stated that for Fiscal Year 2027 it is anticipated that there will be more Block Grant funding to the states for education. She stated that this new funding mechanism may lead to less funds and possible elimination certain program including English language development and free and reduced lunch programs among other programs. Dr Walker indicated that she would provide a HCPSS memorandum on the anticipated federal government funding changes to the Council Members.

Meeting adjourned at 12:42

Joint Meeting with Board of Education - Participants
Monday, June 9, 2025

HCPSS/BOE

Bill Barnes
Dan Lubeley
Darin Conforti
Karalee Turner-Little
Cornell Brown
Tim Guy
Brian Hull
Jennifer Mallo
Meg Ricks
Linfeng Chen
Andrea Chamblee
Jacquelin McCoy
Jolene Mosley
Antonia Watts
Terrell Savage
Michael Carson
Jen Robinson

Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001 or email CouncilADA@howardcountymd.gov