1                    BOARD OF EDUCATION

2                    BALTIMORE COUNTY

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8    PUBLIC WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

9          BROADCAST VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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12                  FEBRUARY 22, 2022

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20    Transcribed by:

21    Paul A. Gasparotti

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<sup>1</sup> BOARD MEMBERS:

<sup>2</sup>

<sup>3</sup>   Julie C. Henn, Board Chair

<sup>4</sup>   Rodney R. McMillion, Vice Chair

<sup>5</sup>   Kathleen Causey

<sup>6</sup>   Moalie S. Jose

<sup>7</sup>   Erin R. Hager

<sup>8</sup>   Russell T. Kuehn

<sup>9</sup>   Lisa A. Mack

<sup>10</sup>   John H. Offerman, Jr.

<sup>11</sup>   Lily P. Rowe

<sup>12</sup>   Makeda Scott

<sup>13</sup>   Christian Thomas, Student Member

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I N D E X

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PROCEEDINGS

<sup>2</sup>     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Good evening.  This is

<sup>3</sup> Chairwoman Julie Henn.  I now call to order the

<sup>4</sup> meeting of the Board of Education of Baltimore

<sup>5</sup> County for Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022.  I

<sup>6</sup> invite you to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to

<sup>7</sup> the Flag to be led by Mr. Christian Thomas.  We

<sup>8</sup> will then have a moment of silence in recognition

<sup>9</sup> of those who have served education in Baltimore

<sup>10</sup> County.

<sup>11</sup>     (Pledge of Allegiance.)

<sup>12</sup>     (Moment of silence.)

<sup>13</sup>     Tonight's Board of Education meeting is

<sup>14</sup> being held in person and virtually, and broadcast

<sup>15</sup> on line through Microsoft Teams, and through

<sup>16</sup> BCPS TV, Comcast Xfinity Channel 73, Verizon FiOS

<sup>17</sup> Channel 34.

<sup>18</sup>     In order to efficiently conduct this

<sup>19</sup> meeting, all voting items this evening will be

<sup>20</sup> done by rollcall vote.

<sup>21</sup>     The first item on the agenda is the

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1  consideration of the February 22nd agenda.

2  Dr. Williams, are there any changes or additions

3  to tonight's agenda?

4          DR. WILLIAMS:  I am unaware of any

5  changes or additions to tonight's agenda.

6          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Kuehn?

7          MR. KUEHN:  Ms. Henn, I'd like to make a

8  motion to include a state mask mandate update

9  between Items H and I for this evening's

10  discussion.

11          MS. CAUSEY:  Second, Causey.

12          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, Mr. Kuehn,

13  thank you, Mrs. Causey for the second.  Is there

14  any discussion?  Mr. Kuehn, would you like to

15  speak to your motion?

16          MR. KUEHN:  I'll just speak briefly to

17  my motion.  Today the Maryland Board of Education

18  took action regarding the state mask mandate and

19  I would like to have that discussion, a

20  discussion about what Baltimore County is doing

21  here, and I believe that this item would cover

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1  that discussion.

2          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

3  Mr. Thomas, did you have a comment or question?

4          MR. THOMAS:  Yes.  I was wondering, is

5  staff prepared to answer any questions or for a

6  discussion on this matter for this evening?

7          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Dr. Williams?

8          DR. WILLIAMS:  Thank you for that

9  question, Mr. Thomas.  We will make ourselves

10  prepared to respond if this is added to that

11  agenda based on what we know that happened at the

12  State Board of Education today.

13          MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  And is the

14  purpose to discuss what happened at the State

15  Board of Education meeting today, or is it BCPS'

16  response, or is it both?

17          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Kuehn, would you

18  like to respond?

19          MR. KUEHN:  Thank you, thanks for the

20  clarification.  I want to talk about what we're

21  doing regarding masks but you can't talk about it

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1  in a vacuum without first talking about the

2  direction the state's going, so thank you for the

3  clarification.  I'm not quite sure, you know, we

4  could basically talk about COVID mitigation

5  protocols and updates if you'd like to rename it

6  or modify it, but I'm open.

7          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.  Any other?

8  Mrs. Causey?

9          MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you, Madam Chair.

10          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  I'm sorry,

11  Mrs. Causey, Ms. Jose was first and then I'll

12  come back to you.

13          MS. CAUSEY:  Certainly.

14          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  My apologies.

15  Ms. Jose?

16          MS. JOSE:  Thank you, Ms. Henn.

17  Dr. Williams, that meeting was just held today

18  and my question is that based on the approved

19  metrics after you discus with Baltimore County

20  Health Department and other health experts, you

21  will then provide an education plan to the Board

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1  based on how you do that, and that is operations;

2  is that correct?

3          DR. WILLIAMS:  So if added, I'll be able

4  to respond to the direction that the state board

5  shared today and what our reaction may be.  We

6  provided ongoing updates to the Board about our

7  mitigation strategy, so we can speak to our

8  understanding of the masking discussions by the

9  state board and what those next steps may look

10  like.

11          MS. JOSE:  Thank you.

12          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mrs. Causey?

13          MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you, Madam Chair.  I

14  appreciate my colleague requesting this addition.

15  There's already counties in Maryland that have

16  taken action regarding the fact that the state

17  board was known to be discussing this today, and

18  also the fact that the metrics are improving

19  rapidly, and we, the Board will not have another

20  meeting for two weeks, and the off ramps from the

21  previous regulation did give instances in which

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1 the board of education for local districts could

2 make decisions regarding mask lifting or mask

3 wearing.

4      So it's a time sensitive issue and it is

5 one of great interest to our students and staff

6 and community, we have been hearing a great deal

7 about it.

8      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Jose,

9 I see that you have a question.  I'd like to open

10 the floor to any board members who have not had a

11 chance to ask questions yet and then I will

12 return to you.  Have any board members that have

13 not had a chance to speak yet on the motion on

14 the floor, would you like to ask a question or

15 comment?  Hearing none, go ahead, Ms. Jose.

16      MS. JOSE:  Again, my question is to you,

17 Dr. Williams.  Regardless of when the Board

18 meets, you as the superintendent of the district,

19 if you were to make that decision in the next two

20 weeks, to keep masks or make it optional, that

21 will be your decision as the superintendent, you

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1 do not need the Board's approval for it, correct?

2      DR. WILLIAMS:  Well, what we can do,

3 Ms. Jose, is clarify the off ramp that was shared

4 by MSDE.  And additional information as to even

5 if the Board has a discussion today, there's some

6 next steps that must take place beyond this

7 Board, and so we can tee that up when we present

8 the information if this is added to the agenda.

9 Just what does it mean, what are potential next

10 steps, what we look like now and potentially down

11 the road, so we can provide a quick update about

12 masking here in Baltimore County.

13      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you,

14 Dr. Williams.  Mr. Thomas?

15      MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  So I guess my

16 question is, is the intent to take action tonight

17 when we're discussing this, or just to have a

18 discussion?

19      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  I'd like to comment on

20 that.  So in order to take any action, we first

21 must add it as an agenda item, so the motion on

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1 the floor just adds it as an agenda item.  So I'm

2 concerned that we are venturing into the

3 discussion now before it is an agenda item, so

4 I'm going to end discussion on the topic itself,

5 because we have not added it as an agenda item,

6 and I hope that answers your question.

7      MR. THOMAS:  Okay, I understand, thank

8 you, yes.

9      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Okay.

10 Hearing no further questions, may I have a

11 rollcall vote, Ms. Gover?

12      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

13      MS. ROWE:  Yes.

14      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

15      MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

16      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

17      MS. MACK:  Yes.

18      MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

19      MR. MCMILLION:  Yes.

20      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?

21      MS. JOSE:  No.

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1      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Thomas?

2      MR. THOMAS:  Yes.

3      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

4      MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.

5      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?

6      MS. SCOTT:  Yes.

7      MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

8      DR. HAGER:  Yes.

9      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

10      MR. KUEHN:  Yes.

11      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

12      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.

13      MS. GOVER:  Thank you.

14      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, the motion

15 carries.

16      And that item has been added to the

17 agenda.  Mr. Kuehn, that was between Items H and

18 I, I believe was your motion?

19      MR. KUEHN:  That's correct.

20      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  The

21 revised agenda is approved.

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1 Earlier this evening the Board met in
2 closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act
3 for the following reasons: To one, discuss the
4 appointment, employment, assignment, promotion,
5 discipline, demotion, compensation, removal,
6 resignation or performance evaluation of
7 appointees, employees or officials over whom it
8 has jurisdiction, or any other personnel matter
9 that affects one or more specific individuals;
10 and nine, conduct collective bargaining
11 negotiations or consider matters that relate to
12 the negotiations. The minutes of the closed
13 session and informational summary can be found on
14 BoardDocs under this board meeting agenda date.
15 The next item on the agenda is election
16 of board vice chair. As chair, nominations are
17 now open for the office of board vice chair. Are
18 there any nominations? Mr. McMillion?
19 MR. MCMILLION: Ms. Henn, I'll nominate
20 myself.
21 MS. MACK: Second, Mack.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: No second is needed.
2 Are there further nominations for the office of
3 the board of vice chair? Mr. Offerman?
4 MR. OFFERMAN: Ms. Scott.
5 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Are there
6 any further nominations? Mr. Thomas?
7 MS. JOSE: Ms. Henn, this is Ms. Jose.
8 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Yes?
9 MS. JOSE: I would like to nominate
10 Christian Thomas.
11 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Are there
12 any further nominations? Hearing no further
13 nominations, the chair declares the nominations
14 closed. We will now open the floor for
15 discussion. Are there any comments or questions?
16 Ms. Scott?
17 MS. SCOTT: Yes, thank you, Ms. Henn. I
18 appreciate greatly Mr. Offerman's nomination and
19 belief in me. However, I would like to decline
20 the nomination because I do not feel that this
21 Board is open to my nomination and is progressive

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1 in the way that I am progressive as far as moving
2 this Board forward in the kinds of things that we
3 need to do. So I thank Mr. Offerman for that,
4 but I would like to respectfully decline the
5 nomination.
6 But I am glad that Mr. Thomas was
7 actually nominated, because I think that
8 Mr. Thomas could bring some great energy, a
9 student voice and perspective to the Board.
10 Thank you.
11 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you, Ms. Scott.
12 Any other discussion? Mr. Thomas?
13 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Ms. Henn, and
14 thank you, Ms. Jose, for the nomination. I do
15 accept the nomination. I do not know if I will
16 have the support of the rest of the Board
17 tonight, but I think this will be a very
18 inspiring thing for the students of BCPS if a
19 SMOB is elected as vice chair, and I think that I
20 have over the past months of my term of the Board
21 have shown that I can serve in a leadership

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1 position, as vice chair of the legislative
2 committee, and I hope that you will consider me.
3 Thank you.
4 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. There's a
5 comment in the chat. One second. Ms. Jose?
6 MS. JOSE: Yes, thank you, Ms. Henn. I
7 am proud to nominate our student member of the
8 board because he represents the student body and
9 he represents the 110,000 children that we are
10 here on the Board to serve. I just think as a
11 majority minority district, we have 66 percent
12 children of color in our district and it's
13 important to have representation, it's important
14 because representation matters, and Mr. Thomas
15 has shown that he is skilled, astute, and a lot
16 more mature than a lot of adult board members.
17 So even if you don't win, Mr. Thomas,
18 consider this a victory, and good luck.
19 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Any other
20 comments? Okay. Hearing none, we will now take
21 the roll in order of the nominations received.

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**Page: 5 (14 - 17)**

1 All those who vote for Mr. McMillion as vice
2 chair, please say yes when the roll is called.
3 All those opposed, please say no.  Ms. Gover,
4 would you please call the roll?
5         MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?
6         MS. ROWE:  Yes.
7         MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?
8         MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.
9         MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?
10        MS. MACK:  Yes.
11        MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?
12        MR. MCMILLION:  Yes.
13        MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?
14        MS. JOSE:  No.
15        MS. GOVER:  Mr. Thomas?
16        MR. THOMAS:  No.
17        MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?
18        MR. OFFERMAN:  No.
19        MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?
20        MS. SCOTT:  No.
21        MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

1         DR. HAGER:  Yes.
2         MS. GOVER:  Ms. Kuehn?
3         MR. KUEHN:  Yes.
4         MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?
5         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.
6         MS. GOVER:  In favor is seven.
7         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
8 Mr. McMillion has received seven votes.  I am
9 pleased to announce that Mr. McMillion has been
10 elected as vice chair of the Board of Education
11 of Baltimore County.  Congratulations.
12     (Applause.)
13        VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Thank you very
14 much.
15        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The next item on the
16 agenda is personnel matters, and for that I call
17 on Ms. Anderson.  Good evening.
18        MS. ANDERSON:  Good evening.  Good
19 evening, Chairwoman Henn, Vice Chairman
20 McMillion, Superintendent Williams and members of
21 the Board.  I would like the Board's consent for

1 the following personnel matters:  Retirements,
2 resignations, recognition of service.
3         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Do I have a motion to
4 approve the personnel matters as presented in
5 Exhibits E-1 through E-3?
6         MR. OFFERMAN:  So moved, Offerman.
7         MS. MACK:  So moved, Mack.
8         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you,
9 Mr. Offerman and Ms. Mack.  Any discussion?
10 Mr. Thomas?
11        MR. THOMAS:  Thank you so much.  I
12 notice that with the resignations for this board
13 meeting, they are a little higher than usual, I
14 think I counted around 40 staff members who
15 resigned at this time.  I'm wondering if there's
16 something that's happening right now in our
17 school system or in the country, in the state of
18 Maryland, that kind of might be influencing this
19 or anything like that.
20        MS. ANDERSON:  Thank you for that
21 question, Mr. Thomas.  No, there's not any

1 anomalies that are occurring.  Where we are in
2 this particular school year, we've issued out our
3 declaration of intent to allow our employees to
4 indicate whether or not they are going to remain
5 with BCPS through the next school year, and based
6 on those declarations several of our staff
7 members have indicated that they are going to be
8 leaving BCPS, and so that's the number that
9 you're seeing that's a little higher than
10 typically.
11        MR. THOMAS:  Okay, thank you so much,
12 that clarifies my question, thank you.
13        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any other
14 comments or questions, board members?
15 Mrs. Causey?
16        MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you, Madam Chair, and
17 thank you, Ms. Anderson, for your presentation.
18        I just wanted to take a moment to
19 acknowledge Mr. Roger A. Ensor, who was an
20 outstanding building service worker at Hereford
21 High School, who passed away January of 2022

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1 after 29.6 years of service, just another

2 outstanding employee that just loved to take care

3 of the buildings and be engaged with the

4 students, so I just wanted to acknowledge that

5 loss and send sympathy to all of his family and

6 friends.

7     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you,

8 Mrs. Causey.  Okay.  Any other discussion, board

9 members?  Hearing none, may I have a rollcall

10 vote please?

11     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

12     MS. ROWE:  Yes.

13     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

14     MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

15     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

16     MS. MACK:  Yes.

17     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?

18     MS. JOSE:  Yes.

19     MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

20     VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

21     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Thomas?

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1     MR. THOMAS:  Yes.

2     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

3     MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.

4     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?

5     MS. SCOTT:  Yes.

6     MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

7     DR. HAGER:  Yes.

8     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

9     MR. KUEHN:  Yes.

10     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

11     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.

12     MS. GOVER:  Thank you.

13     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, the motion

14 carries.  Thank you.

15     The next item on the agenda is

16 administrative appointments and for that I call

17 on Dr. Williams.

18     DR. WILLIAMS:  Good evening, Madam Chair

19 Henn, Mr. Vice Chair McMillion and members of the

20 Board.  I'm bringing forth the following

21 administrative appointments for your approval.

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1     The first one is master scheduler in the

2 Department of Curriculum Operations, and the

3 second position is coordinator in the Office of

4 Psychological Services.

5     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Do I have a motion to

6 approve the administrative appointments as

7 presented in Exhibit F-1?

8     MR. THOMAS:  So moved, Thomas.

9     MS. CAUSEY:  Second, Causey.

10     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you,

11 Mrs. Causey, for the second.  Any discussion?

12 May I have a rollcall vote please?

13     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

14     MS. ROWE:  Yes.

15     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

16     MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

17     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

18     MS. MACK:  Yes.

19     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?

20     MS. JOSE:  Yes.

21     MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

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1     VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

2     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Thomas?

3     MR. THOMAS:  Yes.

4     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

5     MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.

6     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?

7     MS. SCOTT:  Yes.

8     MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

9     DR. HAGER:  Yes.

10     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

11     MR. KUEHN:  Yes.

12     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

13     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.

14     MS. GOVER:  Thank you.

15     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The motion carries.

16 Dr. Williams?

17     DR. WILLIAMS:  Sure.  Our first

18 appointment is Ms. Deana Giannelli, from

19 assistant principal at Perry Hall Middle School

20 to the master scheduler in the Department of

21 Curriculum Operations.  She bring to us over 21

1 years of experience in Baltimore County, she

2 served as assistant principal at Perry Hall

3 Middle, a teacher of mathematics at Perry Hall

4 Middle, and prior experience in Washington County

5 Public Schools.  Congratulations, Deana

6 Giannelli.

7      (Applause.)

8      The second appointment is Dr. Aaron

9 Wheeler, from supervisor in the Office of

10 Psychological Services to coordinator in the

11 Office of Psychological Services.  He brings to

12 us over 13 years of experience in Baltimore

13 County.  Obviously he served as a supervisor in

14 the Office of Psychological Services and he was a

15 school psychologist, so congratulations,

16 Dr. Aaron Wheeler.

17      (Applause.)

18      Thank you.

19      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

20      Our next item is public comment.  This

21 is one of the opportunities the Board provides to

1 hear the views and receive the advice of

2 community members.  The members of the Board

3 appreciate hearing from interested citizens.  As

4 appropriate, we will refer your concerns to the

5 superintendent for followup by his staff.

6      The Board of Education will conduct the

7 public comment portion of the meeting by allowing

8 those who registered to speak to attend in

9 person.  Registration was open to the public one

10 week prior to tonight's board meeting and was

11 closed at three p.m. yesterday for anyone wishing

12 to speak at this evening's meeting.  Board

13 practice limits to ten the number of speakers at

14 a regularly scheduled board meeting.  Speakers

15 are selected randomly using an electronic

16 selection process from all registrations received

17 within the designated timeframe.  Each speaker is

18 allowed three minutes to address the Board.  Of

19 course if fewer than ten registrations are

20 received, all who registered will be permitted to

21 speak.  However, no speaker substitutions will be

1 allowed.

2      While we encourage public input on

3 policy, programs and practices within the purview

4 of this Board and this school system, this is not

5 the proper forum to address specific student or

6 employee matters, or to comment on matters that

7 do not relate to public education in Baltimore

8 County.  We encourage everyone to utilize

9 existing dispute resolution processes as

10 appropriate.  I remind everyone that

11 inappropriate personal remarks or other behavior

12 that disrupts or interferes with the conduct of

13 this meeting are out of order.

14      I ask speakers to observe the

15 three-minute clock, which will let you know when

16 your time is up.  Please conclude your remarks

17 when you hear the tone or see that time has

18 expired.  The microphone will be turned off at

19 the end of your time, and it could be turned off

20 if a speaker addresses specific student or

21 employee matters, or is commenting on matters not

1 related to public education in Baltimore County.

2      If not selected the public may submit

3 their comments to the board members via email at

4 boe@bcps.org.  More information is provided on

5 the Board's website at bcps.org under board of

6 education, participation by the public.

7      I now call on our advisory and

8 stakeholder group leaders to speak.  Our first

9 speaker is Cindy Sexton with TABCO.  Good evening

10 and welcome.

11      MS. SEXTON:  Good evening, Chairwoman

12 Henn, Vice Chair McMillion, Dr. Williams and

13 members of the Board.  For TABCO members, today

14 was a Red for Ed day.  Red for Ed is about

15 educators coming together for better schools for

16 our students, our educators and our community.

17 If you look at our Facebook page you will see

18 pictures of educators wearing their red to draw

19 attention to the budget and the needs it begins

20 to address, to draw attention to what we the

21 educators who work as the boots on the ground

1 with student, what we need so we can give those
2 students the best learning opportunities
3 possible. And of course as we have heard
4 repeatedly for almost two years, the needs of our
5 students have grown exponentially since the start
6 of the COVID pandemic.
7      It's not news to anyone that our
8 students have greater academic, social-emotional,
9 mental health and even physical needs due to
10 every challenge that the pandemic continues to
11 bring to them and their families. The needs are
12 great.
13      What will it take to address these
14 needs? More educators, counselors, school
15 nurses, related service providers, social
16 workers, reading and math resource teachers,
17 special educators, educators of every kind, to
18 help our students regain not only their learning
19 loss but all the other needs they have as well.
20      You have heard me say that there is a
21 crisis in education and there are not enough

1 educators going into the field or staying in the
2 field, plus a resignation rate in the education
3 field in a way that won't be easy to turn around.
4 We must do all we can to keep our educators and
5 to attract new educators to Baltimore County.
6 The instructional inequities existed long before
7 the pandemic and have been exacerbated by it. We
8 can't keep using the pandemic as a reason for
9 them to continue. We must focus on all we can by
10 supporting our students by providing them with
11 educators who will work with them and help them
12 grow not only academically but in all the other
13 ways they need as well.
14      The new positions in this budget start
15 to address some of the problems but it isn't
16 enough. We need to be sure our educators are
17 compensated so they can afford to stay in their
18 roles. Statistics say nearly one-third of
19 educators work a second or third job just to make
20 ends meet. I know when I was the librarian at
21 Villa Cresta and a single mom with three

1 school-aged kids I was working four jobs. That
2 wasn't okay but I had no choice. Let's give our
3 educators a choice, let's show them we not only
4 need them to stay in BCPS but we want them to
5 stay. Let's be sure that money isn't the reason
6 they leave this profession. Please be sure the
7 budget addresses the needs of our educators so
8 they can address the needs of our students.
9 Thank you.
10      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Our next
11 speaker is Ryan Coleman, with the NAACP
12 Randallstown. Good evening, welcome.
13      MR. COLEMAN: Good evening. Hello,
14 Chairman Henn, Vice Chair McMillion, I guess for
15 the second time, Dr. Williams and other members
16 of the Board. Happy to be here and to see
17 everyone tonight.
18      The fiscal year 2023 budget addresses
19 the learning loss due to COVID and staffing
20 issues through additional targeted positions and
21 compensation enhancement. It certainly is

1 equitable and fair. I actually wrote these
2 comments but I'm going to go just off script,
3 because the moment has hit me.
4      I came, I used to spend a lot of time in
5 this room on this campus, and as I was walking
6 through these halls I thought about Dunbar Brooks
7 and Dr. Harrison, and all the educators that made
8 this system great. Back in the day we used to
9 have people come from all over the country to
10 look at our curriculum and to see what we were
11 doing, it was certainly a shining light, all our
12 students were achieving, but unfortunately that's
13 not the case now.
14      Fortunately, Jim, I know you're a
15 student, you're a black student at Woodlawn,
16 you're not achieving. I listen to this Board and
17 we talk about mask mandates, we talk about all
18 these different things that don't matter, because
19 our students in Baltimore County failed. In the
20 2020 equity report, and I quote, across all
21 school levels, rates of students achieving

1 established benchmarks on academic achievement
2 matters were notably lower for the following
3 student groups, black, African-American students,
4 Hispanic, Latino students, students eligible for
5 free and reduced meals, English learner and
6 special education services.
7       Most people think that this is just a
8 minority issue that are not learning in Baltimore
9 County but it's not.  It's white students not
10 learning as well in Lansdowne and Sparrows Point,
11 special education children not learning
12 throughout the county.  I've urged this Board to
13 focus on academic achievement, to focus on our
14 students, all of our students.  Stop worrying
15 about these frivolous things.  The Randallstown
16 NAACP certainly will support you, but our
17 patience is running very thin.  We have tried to
18 work within the system and work with you to
19 ignite change, but if change does not come soon
20 we will have to look at other areas to insure
21 that our students get what they deserve.  We are

1 here to advocate for the students.  Thank you.
2       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Our next
3 speaker is Bash Pharoan, with the Central Area
4 Education Advisory Council.  Good evening.
5       DR. PHAROAN:  Good evening to all.
6 Congratulations, Mr. McMillion, well deserved.
7       I would like to draw attention for our
8 event for March 2nd, I know I sent it to you by
9 email.  We chose the topic of depression and I
10 was able to seek a presentation by Dr. Todd
11 Peters, the vice president and information
12 officer in the Sheppard Pratt Medical System.  He
13 specialized in adolescent and teenage mental
14 issues, anxiety, depression, et cetera.
15 Depression medically is the most common
16 disability in the United States, it has negative
17 effects on the person, on the family, on the
18 workplace, has negative effects on the students
19 if their parents are affected.  And I really
20 think this presentation would be very helpful for
21 our teachers and our students who are really most

1 welcome to participate, I hope you do.  Our
2 speaker is a very good speaker and very
3 experienced and knowledgeable, and most of my
4 active members will be participating in this
5 event in one way or another.  So it's on Zoom and
6 I wish everyone is able to attend, the public is
7 most welcome.  If anybody outside our universe
8 right here is listening to me and needs to
9 attend, my name and my phone number and email are
10 all on the Internet, and I will be glad to send
11 you the link, and I thank you again for all what
12 you do.  Thank you.
13       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
14       Next is general public comment and our
15 first speaker is Sharon Saroff.  Good evening.
16       MS. SAROFF:  Good evening.  First of
17 all, congratulations.
18       I heard today that the MSDE has decided
19 to turn over the decision about the mask mandate
20 to individual school systems.  I hope BCPS will
21 take into consideration students and staff who

1 are immunocompromised when making their decision
2 about mask mandates, but that's not why I'm here
3 today.
4       I am actually here today to talk about
5 the actions that the county is taking to address,
6 or more appropriately not address, parent
7 concerns regarding their children with
8 disabilities.  I have noted previously that BCPS
9 has removed the items of central IEP meeting as a
10 mechanism to resolve disagreements on the school
11 and district levels.  Now that BCPS has removed
12 this form of helping parents and schools to come
13 to a resolution, I have watched schools and the
14 Office of Special Education bully and harass
15 parents into making uncomfortable decisions, or
16 push them to litigation that they simply cannot
17 afford.  We don't condone this kind of behavior
18 for our students and staff.  Why are we allowing
19 this to happen from central office and school
20 administrators?
21       The concerns that parents are bringing

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1 that they're being bullied about include failing
2 grades, not following the IEP, promoting students
3 against the parents' wishes, placement of a child
4 in a placement that the parents feel is
5 inappropriate or unsafe, unwillingness to provide
6 a safe environment as a whole, provision of
7 compensatory services, unwillingness to
8 communicate policy changes, following state and
9 federal law timelines, I mentioned that last
10 time, and that list goes on.
11      The job of BCPS is to educate students.
12 Parents have the right to voice their concerns
13 and they should not be bullied or harassed into
14 making decisions that they don't feel are right
15 for their kids.  Let's return this mechanism to
16 help parents and your students.
17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Our next
18 speaker is Amy Adams.  Good evening.
19      MS. ADAMS:  Good evening, Chair Henn,
20 Vice Chair McMillion, congratulations.  Thank
21 you, Mr. Kuehn, for the addition to the agenda

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1 this evening.
2      I spent today listening to the MSDE
3 board meeting and I'm trying to understand the
4 next steps in regards to our school's mask
5 mandates.  It is my understanding that once the
6 AELR committee votes to remove the statewide mask
7 mandate as recommended by a 12 to two vote, that
8 you all regain control over this policy and
9 decision making.
10      MSDE says that the three identified off
11 ramps can be used as guidance but are no longer
12 requirements.  I would like you all to act
13 proactively tonight, similarly to what Carroll
14 County did at their board meeting, you can motion
15 and vote that all requirement of face covering in
16 BCPS end automatically for students and staff
17 upon the state board and AELR committee
18 rescinding their emergency regulation, COMAR
19 13.A.17.
20      The governor stated over a week ago that
21 Maryland has had the lowest case rate in the

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1 nation and we are one of four states still with a
2 statewide school mask mandate.  That doesn't make
3 sense.  It is now a known and accepted fact that
4 one, cloth masks are facial decorations with zero
5 percent effectiveness.  Children have been
6 wearing zero percent effective masks in school
7 for a year, so what's the rationale in continuing
8 an ineffective practice?  It is also known that
9 one-way masking with a KN95 is an acceptable
10 practice and will protect the wearer if they are
11 worried about personal vulnerability.  Most
12 importantly, children are the lowest risk
13 population in the state but the only group
14 currently under any COVID restrictions.
15      We know students suffered socially,
16 emotionally and academically during the last
17 three school years.  It wasn't the pandemic that
18 caused this harm to the kids, it was policy
19 makers' response to the pandemic that prolonged
20 their suffering.  It is time for you all to
21 adjust and allow our children to begin the

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1 journey of recovery and regain their childhood.
2 We want to have class parties, field trips, music
3 concerts, assemblies, normal social functions
4 like junior and senior proms.  We want it to
5 resume as soon as possible.
6      I also just wanted to add that I
7 appreciate Mr. McMillion's idea at a few of the
8 recent meetings of moving the Board of Ed
9 meetings around the county to engage with more of
10 the community members.  Thank for your time.
11      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Our next
12 speaker is Timothy Goetze.  Good evening.
13      MR. GOETZE:  Good evening.  Good
14 evening, members of the Baltimore County Public
15 educators school board.  My name is Tim Goetze, I
16 am a father of three children that attend
17 elementary school in BCPS and I'm here to speak
18 about school safety within BCPS.  One would think
19 that an elementary school would be a safer
20 environment but I know one teacher that quit due
21 to the administration doing nothing about a

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1 student that threw scissors at her. We also have
2 received a report about a student bringing a
3 knife to school. My children haven't been
4 physically harmed, but who can tell what type or
5 what level of psychological damage has been done
6 to them.
7 However, this doesn't even compare to
8 the safety issues that are occurring in secondary
9 schools. Since the last board meeting, there was
10 a shooting at Catonsville High School where two
11 students were arrested for allegedly committing
12 the crime, Patapsco High School was in lockdown
13 due to a credible threat of a school shooting,
14 and a loaded gun was found in a student's
15 backpack at Kenwood High School. I don't know
16 about you but I find this very disturbing, and it
17 doesn't even account for all the unreported
18 safety incidents that have occurred.
19 I'm currently debating if I should even
20 have or allow my children to continue and remain
21 within BCPS for fear of their safety, and I'm

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1 sure other parents are asking the same type of
2 questions.
3 In December BCPS held a series of
4 virtual town halls on safe and supportive
5 environments with the perceived goal of
6 reassuring parents that stakeholders in each
7 zone, that BCPS has school safety under control.
8 Each town hall followed the same formula with an
9 administrative briefing followed by a question
10 and answer period. The town halls focused on the
11 current practices of social and emotional
12 learning, restorative practices and relying on
13 parents to report issues to BCPS.
14 However, in light of the recent
15 incidents that have occurred within the past two
16 weeks, I would like to know what is BCPS going to
17 do to change their practices. It is not
18 unreasonable for parents and staff and students
19 to expect a safe environment in school, which is
20 why I'm requesting the Board to develop a special
21 counsel to address school safety. I know the

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1 budget includes a considerable expansion in the
2 arena of school safety but action has to be taken
3 today. We cannot wait until next school year to
4 adjust safety practices because of the recent
5 instances I just cited, I know they're not
6 working.
7 School administrators can play the game
8 of downplaying disciplinary action in order to
9 not look bad on the school, and who loses the
10 most, it's children. I'd like to close, I had
11 more, but way too much obviously.
12 Masks have been, I mean it has to stop.
13 MSDE voted today they have to be removed for the
14 kids. If you want to instantly help with mental
15 health, get the masks off our kids so they can
16 see each other smile. Thank you.
17 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Our next
18 speaker is Mary Taylor. Good evening.
19 MS. TAYLOR: Good evening. Give me one
20 second please. Good evening, Chair Henn,
21 congratulations Vice Chair McMillion. Mr. Kuehn,

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1 thank you for putting unmasking our children on
2 the agenda this evening.
3 I appreciate the Board allowing the
4 public to comment on current topics within BCPS
5 as it allows the Board to hear concerns of
6 parents that the Board might not be aware of. My
7 comments tonight will center around the BCPS
8 curriculum and how it's very important that the
9 curriculum is accessible, available and easy to
10 access, so parents have an understanding of
11 what's being taught in our public schools. As a
12 taxpayer funded institution, it's imperative that
13 BCPS fully publish the curriculum used for all
14 grades from kindergarten to 12th grade and for
15 all classes to allow for transparency in
16 education.
17 Transparency is an important factor in
18 public institutions as it's a means of retaining
19 the trust of the public. And when public
20 institutions fail to be transparent the public
21 takes notice and then the public loses trust in

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the institution and begins to question their
motives.  I personally don't want to see this
happen to BCPS, which is why I testified in
support of HB 826 to the Baltimore County
delegation.  HB 826 requires the Baltimore County
Board of Education to publish the curriculum used
in schools and make it easily accessible to the
public.  I think this is a great bill and enables
the transparency in education through
legislation.

During the meeting there were
individuals that opposed this bill who stated
this is only a website problem and the curriculum
is already posted.  However, during the meeting I
was unable to follow the guidance provided by the
opposition to find the curriculum on the website
as provided instructions were invalid.  Luckily a
delegate provided a link in the chat which
directly linked us to the curriculum page.  As
the meeting progressed I examined each of the
grades and posted curriculum was lacking.

For elementary, kindergarten was the
most comprehensive with four subjects, while the
remainder of the grades had a mix of math,
library or dance.  As for secondary schools,
sixth grade was the most comprehensive while
seventh through 12th grades were left blank with
no entry.  This is exactly why I support HB 826,
because prior to the meeting parents had very
little access to the curriculum.

Now in all fairness, someone from the
opposition or one of the delegates must have made
a couple of phone calls because as the day
progressed the curriculum page exploded with
additional content and fields of study, and
although even with the additional there seems to
be gaps in the curriculum for each grade, so I
recommend that the Board conduct an audit of this
page to insure that the BCPS curriculum is posted
for parents to review.

I personally didn't appreciate BCPS'
reactive nature in updating the curriculum page

after a legislative hearing.  It should be
available the first day of school, maybe even 30
days before school, but education transparency is
very important to the community and the parents,
and we support HB 826.  Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Our next
speaker is Muhammad Jameel.  Good evening.

DR. JAMEEL:  Good evening.  Peace and
blessings to everyone present.  Congratulations,
Mr. McMillion.

I have been appearing before the Board
since 1984 and many times the subject of minority
treatment gaps has come up throughout the 38
years that I've been involved.  And finally I
realized that in the heart of my hearts it is a
matter of lack of self esteem for the minority
population because of continuous degrading,
denigrating, and negative attitudes towards them
in our history.

In my humble opinion, I'm not a
psychologist or a sociologist, but teachers need

to teach the students about the historic
achievements and inventions by blacks having
achieved over 50,000 patents which raised the
standard of living throughout the whole society.
The industrial revolution would not have been
possible without the invention of the internal
combustion engine, two-cycle gas engine, rotary
engine and the wrench.  The invention of blimp,
helicopter and propelling helped air travel.
Two-stage rockets and programmable remote
controllers and the space shuttle retriever arms
advanced the space exploration.

Our entire food system and storage
system is dependent upon refrigeration systems
and refrigerators for homes, trucks, trains and
ships created by Frederick McKenzie.  His system
also helped in preserving fresh food and also
blood and medicines too.

The fiber optic cable, touch tone
phones, caller ID and portable fax machines were
the result of the research by a lady by the name

1 of Mary Brown.

2      I need three hours actually and not

3 three minutes to enumerate all the contributions

4 of blacks.  Therefore, I'll mention only a few

5 more.  Lawn mowers, lawn sprinklers, protective

6 gas masks, modern porcelain toilets, fountain

7 pens, portable pencil sharpener, printing press,

8 radiation detectors, torpedo dischargers, player

9 piano, fire extinguisher, home security system,

10 yellow traffic light, method of separating red

11 blood cells and plasma, unit analysis machine,

12 disposable syringe, pacemaker, and the first

13 COVID vaccine are the developments and inventions

14 by black men and women.  They co-invented the

15 first IBM personal computer and the color

16 monitor.

17      I believe that inclusion of such

18 knowledge would make the black students proud and

19 inspire them, and also they will earn respect

20 from their non-black colleagues.  Please stay

21 warm and don't forget to thank black woman, Alice

1 Parker, who invented the gas burner and the gas

2 fired central heating system.  Thank you for

3 listening.

4      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Our next

5 speaker is Farooq Marfani.  Good evening.

6      MR. MARFANI:  Good evening, Madam Chair,

7 newly elected vice chair.  This is a historic

8 day, today is 02/22/22, so this will be in your

9 diary that you were elected on this day, all

10 listening on morning radio.  And today is after

11 three years I came back here.  I used to come

12 over here with a very heavy heart because of the

13 holiday for the Muslims.  Today I came here with

14 a really lightened heart, you know, I worked

15 since eight o'clock in the morning, tired, rain,

16 but I had to come.  And another thing is that I

17 listened to the doctor on YPR last week, he

18 talked half an hour about the budget, but my

19 suggestion for you, Doctor, give the last ten

20 minutes to the public to answer the questions,

21 and that will tell the people that you're going

1 to get a lot of feedback when you're on the

2 radio.  I listen all the day, all the time, and

3 town hall, all the time.

4      The question about, number two, I have a

5 few points very quick.  I don't know how you do

6 the zoning, school zoning, but this area will go

7 to this school, this area will go to that school.

8 What's happening here is people live here and

9 their schools are not good, they ask their

10 friends to use their address to go to that

11 school, and that area is less populated, this

12 area is heavily populated.  So you have to come

13 up with some kind of a system or check or audit

14 to level the population.

15      After the call-in, I was talking to my

16 friend today, school has started and he says now

17 teachers are not paying any attention, they are

18 not giving any extra work we used to get before

19 the email, homework is not done, all of this just

20 letting happen, especially, I don't know about

21 the other schools but in the poorest.

1      You talk about bus drivers, you talk

2 about the teachers.  My daughter, I have three

3 daughters, and thanks to the Baltimore County

4 Public School teachers and all the staff, because

5 all went to public schools, they are top notch

6 and they are all over, one is in San Francisco,

7 one is in Houston, one is here in Maryland and my

8 first one, she said Dad, she is a math teacher in

9 Frederick County instead of Baltimore County.  So

10 we brought her back here and now I said why

11 didn't you just go and talk to the board and she

12 said there's too much pressure from the

13 administration not to let me do my work.  That's

14 what it is, you know, time is up.

15      Thank you very much for your support for

16 our kids and you are doing a very good job.

17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Our next

18 speaker is Bash Pharoan.

19      DR. PHAROAN:  So I would like to

20 continue what I asked you the other day, why so

21 many people complain about BCPS except for my

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1 friend Mr. Marfani, and there are so many good
2 things, and I asked you in the past also to
3 consider the support, the idea that all the Board
4 be elected. So I hear a whole lot about the
5 Board being independent, but honestly you can't
6 truly be independent unless you are all elected,
7 and you can't be truly independent unless you
8 have tax levying authority.
9 I sat here for so many decades, it's the
10 same problem. If you have tax levying authority
11 and everybody is elected, you will have the money
12 and the people who are coming to complain to you,
13 they really can't complain because they elected
14 the Board and if they did complain, okay, well,
15 you know, go for recall or go complain in front
16 of the office or whatever, this is a democracy.
17 I have another idea for you. I came to
18 the states, to Baltimore in 1974, no, '75, a long
19 time, okay, so I'm not really Syrian anymore.
20 And it seemed to be so much that everybody loves
21 and helps their neighbors. Now it's different,

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1 people are not really helping their neighbors,
2 you know, politics are dividing people, and
3 democracy I believe, including in the U.S., is in
4 peril. I hope not. So if the Board is all
5 elected and we focus on educating students about
6 the value of being involved in public education
7 and in government, to be part of it, we
8 strengthen our system and we don't really become
9 like some of those people outside our borders
10 that are threatening our way of life in one way
11 or the other.
12 I hope you buy in by starting the idea
13 from here, all elected, tax levying authority. I
14 hope you do. Thank you.
15 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.
16 Dr. Pharoan, you can stay where you are. You're
17 the last speaker on the last topic, third time's
18 the charm.
19 Next is public comment on the name of
20 the new northeast elementary school, and you are
21 our only speaker tonight on that topic.

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1 DR. PHAROAN: I have a name for you but
2 before I give the name, I want to give a little
3 bit of history. I bought my clinic in 1986 on
4 Ridge Road, Gumspring, and it was most of it
5 quiet, lots of trees, and the building across
6 from me was a florist's greenhouse, so when the
7 wind blows I can really smell the flowers. There
8 was a piece of land on Gumspring and Rossville,
9 had really long and big trees, beautiful trees,
10 the kids were playing in that area, the teenagers
11 were playing in that area, and all the trees were
12 cleaning the area for all the people living
13 there.
14 Then one day I saw a sign, property of
15 the Board of Education, and the next day I seen
16 the trucks coming in and cutting the trees that
17 clean our air, and replace it with brick and
18 mortar and parking lots. I don't smell the roses
19 anymore and I don't have those trees in my back
20 yard cleaning the air. America has cut down lots
21 of trees, including the Board of Education. I

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1 asked before many times, why can't the school
2 system go up instead of taking more land and
3 destroying more trees? They destroy trees in the
4 Amazon but we don't have to do it right here in
5 my back yard.
6 Another problem is, the florist in front
7 of me, which is really an excellent business and
8 smells good, it's good for depression and
9 everything, was bought by the drug farm, a
10 marijuana farm, so now they make marijuana there.
11 And I can imagine that the kids are coming in the
12 bus to the school and they see this marijuana
13 greenhouse to look like forever and whatever
14 advertisements they have. Is this the message we
15 want to give our kids, it's okay to use
16 marijuana, it's okay to use drugs?
17 You know, we had enough problem with
18 alcohol. I just have a hard time really,
19 accepting cutting the trees and the school being
20 close to a marijuana farm. I don't know, you
21 could call it cut the tree School, you could call

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1 it it's okay to have marijuana, you know, I don't
2 know, I really have a not really so good feeling
3 about it.  Thank you.
4      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
5      The next item on the agenda is action
6 taken in closed session, and for that I call on
7 Mr. Brousaides.
8      MR. BROUSAIDES:  Good evening.  Nothing
9 to report from closed session.
10      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
11      The next item on the agenda is the
12 report on the Maryland Leads grant program.
13      (Off microphone discussion between
14 Ms. Henn and Ms. Gover.)
15      I'm sorry, thank you, Ms. Gover, thank
16 you for that correction.  Next is our added
17 agenda item, which is the state mask mandate
18 update.  Dr. Williams?
19      DR. WILLIAMS:  Good evening, Board.  I
20 will ask Dr. Yarbrough to come to the table,
21 Dr. Zarchin and Ms. Charley-Greene.

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1      So we will display a quick slide if we
2 can get that slide up, it is the masking update.
3 We don't have it?  Okay.
4      So as we're getting started, let me just
5 give an overview.  As was reported today, the
6 Maryland State Department of Education voted to
7 return masking requirements to the local control
8 effective, they gave a date effective March 1st
9 of 2022.  However, in that discussion they talked
10 about a decision must be made by the joint
11 committee, which is the administrative executive
12 and legislative review, must approve this
13 recommendation.  So currently face coverings in
14 our school facilities, the regulation provides
15 guidance on when local school districts can
16 consider lifting mask requirements.  Our
17 county -- thank you.
18      Our county health officials predict if
19 our rates continue to decline, Baltimore County
20 will enter the moderate transmission category as
21 soon as the end of this month.  We always work

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1 with our partners, our health partners, the
2 Department of Health, Johns Hopkins University
3 and the University of Maryland.
4      MSDE provided three off ramps.  The
5 first off ramp was based on the 80 percent
6 vaccination of the population of the county.  The
7 second one, off ramp is based on the 80 percent
8 of the students and staff at a school facility to
9 be fully vaccinated.  And the third off ramp is
10 based on a 14-day transmission rate of not
11 substantial or higher from the Centers for
12 Disease Control.
13      Again, based on the metrics we believe
14 that we will be able to reach the third off ramp
15 as we're seeing the transmission rate go from
16 substantial to probably moderate in a week or so.
17 So our recommendation is that masks will be
18 become optional in schools and offices the first
19 day after Baltimore County has the 14 consecutive
20 days of COVID-19 case rates in the moderate or
21 low transmission levels.  Based on the current

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1 guidance, masks will still be required on school
2 buses in alignment with the federal requirements,
3 and masks will still be required in school health
4 rooms in alignment with the CDC guidance.
5      I now pause to see if Dr. Yarbrough,
6 Dr. Zarchin or Ms. Charley-Greene would like to
7 add any additional information.
8      DR. YARBROUGH:  Dr. Williams, the only
9 addition would be that the joint committee on
10 administrative, executive and legislative review
11 is now scheduled to meet on the 25th at 2:30 p.m.
12      DR. WILLIAMS:  Okay.  Thank you.
13      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Kuehn?
14      MR. KUEHN:  Thank you.  Thank you,
15 Dr. Williams, for providing this on short notice
16 and thank you for being here, we really
17 appreciate it.  As you can tell, this is kind of
18 fast moving with the board meeting today and
19 making a very lopsided vote to send this back to
20 try and spur the move and removal of masks in our
21 schools, our schools making them optional, which

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1 private schools in the area have already done.
2 So my question, because I see the
3 recommendation here and I just want to dive in, I
4 know we don't have the slide up any longer but
5 I'm looking at it on line, and it says masks will
6 become optional in schools and offices the first
7 day after Baltimore County has 14 consecutive
8 days of low transmission levels, moderate or low
9 transmission levels. So my first question is,
10 where can the public find this information, where
11 can they find like where Baltimore County
12 currently, you know, what the rates are? Because
13 I tried to look and I've had some challenges
14 myself.
15 DR. YARBROUGH: So every Monday our
16 COVID-19 dashboard is updated. In addition to
17 that, our director, Ms. Somerville also uses the
18 CDC site, and we would make sure that everyone
19 has access to that information, but it's updated
20 on Mondays regularly.
21 MR. KUEHN: Okay, so that's our

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1 information. And I actually have a link to
2 Baltimore County's site and it was not showing
3 the actual rates, I don't know if it was because
4 you had a long weekend, and maybe that's threw
5 the data off, but I'm trying to actually see it
6 so I know where we are.
7 And so then my second question, where
8 are we currently regarding COVID-19 case rates?
9 DR. ZARCHIN: So as of today we're at 57
10 cases per 100,000 over a seven-day period. So we
11 are very close, we anticipate by the end of this
12 week we will be under 50, which is moderate, or
13 low, and that would start the 14 days once we get
14 there.
15 MR. KUEHN: And just, I'll let others
16 ask questions after this, but the 14 consecutive
17 days of the lower case rate, is this
18 recommendation our recommendation or is this from
19 another entity, please explain.
20 MS. CHARLEY-GREENE: So thank you for
21 that question. Two things. One, the off ramp

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1 that was provided by MSDE, that was one of those
2 triggers that we could use that as an off ramp,
3 but I think it's important to remember that we
4 work in conjunction with our health partners from
5 both the University of Maryland and Johns
6 Hopkins. It was after consulting with them last
7 week that we made the prediction of when we would
8 be in that low to moderate transmission. So we
9 continue to work with them, we continue to follow
10 their advice, to make sure we're making the most
11 informed decisions possible on behalf of BCPS.
12 MR. KUEHN: All right, thank you.
13 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Board
14 members, other questions, comments, discussion?
15 Mr. Thomas?
16 MR. THOMAS: Thank you. Are we going to
17 be using, you know, the percentage of our
18 population vaccinated as one of the determinants
19 during these 14 days or anything? How are
20 vaccinations kind of involved in this decision?
21 MS. CHARLEY-GREENE: So we continue to

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1 encourage vaccinations. That is one of the
2 things that we will work with the county
3 government to make certain that we are making
4 available to those who desire vaccination, as
5 well as promoting and encouraging vaccination.
6 However, again, this off ramp related to
7 transmission rates is one of the off ramps that
8 was not only recommended previously by MSDE but
9 was also, you know, part of our conversation with
10 our health partners and sanctioned by them as
11 well.
12 So we will continue to encourage
13 vaccinations and continue to encourages people to
14 make personal choices around vaccines.
15 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.
16 DR. ZARCHIN: We will also continue to
17 monitor when the masks come off, we don't
18 anticipate this, but if the numbers go up we may
19 have to readjust. That's very important, we'll
20 still continue to push vaccines, we'll still look
21 at the numbers daily to determine whether we're

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1  making a good decision or not.

2       MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  One of the

3  other MSDE off ramp recommendations was an 80

4  percent vaccination threshold, but there are

5  multiple off ramps and we're using a different

6  one, okay.  Thank you.

7       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

8  Mrs. Causey?

9       MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you so much for

10  gathering this information for us.  The state

11  board has provided guidance around the aspect of

12  when to lift the mask mandate, and they based it

13  on the Regulation 13.A.  And so the board, the

14  state board removed that today, is that correct,

15  they rescinded that regulation?

16       DR. YARBROUGH:  That's not totally

17  correct.  They made the recommendation to rescind

18  those masking requirements effective March 1st,

19  but that joint meeting that happens with AELR on

20  February 25th, they will have the final decision.

21       MS. CAUSEY:  Okay, so it was recommended

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1  by the state board that they rescind that

2  regulation so that there are no specific

3  guidelines to follow; is that correct?

4       DR. YARBROUGH:  Yes, they made the

5  recommendation to rescind the regulation that

6  right now all LEAs have to follow, and under that

7  regulation the face coverings in school

8  facilities, there are those very specific off

9  ramps that we discussed.

10       MS. CAUSEY:  Okay, thank you.

11       DR. YARBROUGH:  You're welcome.

12       MS. CAUSEY:  Given the metrics that I've

13  reviewed and the state board has reviewed, and

14  the fact that the vaccination rates are so high

15  in Baltimore County and -- I'm just going to go

16  ahead and I'm going to move that the Board of

17  Education lift the mask mandate in Baltimore

18  County Public Schools system on March 1st, 2022

19  in alignment with the state board vote today,

20  February 22nd, 2022.  Approval of state board

21  action is required by AERL.  The superintendent

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1  will implement the transition with timely

2  communication about lifting the mask mandate,

3  BCPS ongoing COVID mitigation processes, and

4  options for individual employees, students,

5  visitors and volunteers to wear masks.  Masks

6  will still be required on buses as required by

7  federal law, and in health suites.

8       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mrs. Causey, do you

9  have that motion in writing, and will you please

10  send it to Mrs. Gover?

11       MS. CAUSEY:  Yes, I'm doing that right

12  now.

13       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  And is

14  there a second?

15       MR. KUEHN:  Second, Kuehn.

16       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, Mr. Kuehn,

17  and Mr. McMillion.  Any comments?  Would you like

18  to speak to your motion, and then I'll open the

19  floor for discussion.

20       MS. CAUSEY:  Someone can speak first so

21  I can send it.

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1       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Jose had a

2  question.  Ms. Jose, do you have a question or

3  comment about the motion on the floor?

4       MS. JOSE:  I need to see it in writing

5  since it was just sprung up, but you can go to

6  the next person and circle back to me, thank you.

7       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Will do, thank you.  I

8  saw -- Mr. Kuehn can speak to the second, and

9  then Mr. Offerman.

10       MR. KUEHN:  I just want to clarify

11  something, that we're going mask optional when we

12  rescind the mask mandate; is that accurate?

13       MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

14       MR. KUEHN:  Do we need to clarify it, or

15  does everyone understand that we're going to go

16  mask optional?

17       MS. CAUSEY:  It's in the language which

18  I'm going to send.

19       MR. KUEHN:  All right, thank you, that

20  was my comment.

21       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  And Mrs. Causey, are

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1 you putting you language in the chat?

2 MS. CAUSEY: I'm not on the chat, I'm

3 going to email it. Okay, it's sent.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: And was that your

5 question, Mr. Kuehn, are you finished? Okay,

6 Mr. Offerman?

7 MR. OFFERMAN: Dr. Williams, is this

8 really needed, do we have to have a motion from

9 the Board to try to do this?

10 DR. WILLIAMS: So based on the

11 discussion with the state board, the comment was

12 to go back to local control, local decision. So

13 I believe, if the Board wants to go in this

14 direction, we support in this direction. Again,

15 our data is very promising based on the

16 transmission rates. I think by March 1st we

17 probably will look good, just following the

18 science. So again, based on the discussion with

19 the state board, it's to go back to the local

20 school boards.

21 MR. OFFERMAN: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Dr. Hager,

2 I believe was next.

3 DR. HAGER: My comment can be for the

4 motion or just in general. I just wanted to say

5 I'm very proud of how we've approached masking

6 and all of our COVID message in working with

7 experts in public health who have provided

8 wonderful guidance the whole time, and we're so

9 lucky to have them. And I feel like we're so

10 close and we're following the science and that

11 again, makes me proud of how we've handled all of

12 this. And you know, we can see the finish line,

13 and I worry about kind of jumping ahead of it for

14 whatever reason. And so I agree, we're almost

15 there, both with vaccines, I didn't realize how

16 high our vaccine rate was until I just looked it

17 up among those who are eligible and we're pretty

18 close, and we're at 67, which is pretty close,

19 and so again we're almost there.

20 So personally I would not support the

21 motion because I feel like we, I think standing

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1 by the science is more important and we're going

2 to get there in a very close period of time.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Ms. Rowe?

4 MS. ROWE: I agree with Dr. Hager, I

5 prefer a metrics driven decision making process

6 to an arbitrary date. Because while we believe

7 that things will head in that direction, really

8 what we've seen with this pandemic, God only

9 knows, so I'd rather have the metrics drive the

10 decision.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Scott, and then

12 Ms. Jose?

13 MS. SCOTT: Thank you, yes. I would let

14 the metrics drive the decision. No one on this

15 Board is an epidemiologist. And also I believe

16 as I've stated before, and also was stated in the

17 Public Works report, the efficiency review, this

18 is going into operations and I believe that the

19 superintendent should make this decision.

20 And also, again, I do have an issue with

21 motions being sprung at the last moment that are

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1 not presented to us that are confusing, that we

2 have questions about, it could have been sent

3 over earlier. I think it's disrespectful to us

4 as board members, it's inconsiderate, and I would

5 advise the board members against doing that.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Ms. Jose,

8 I know you said I could return to you, but I want

9 to make sure that I acknowledge that you've had a

10 question and you've been waiting patiently, so

11 would you like to go ahead?

12 MS. JOSE: Yes. So Dr. Williams, mask

13 requirements in Baltimore County Public Schools

14 and offices will end and become optional the

15 first day of school when Baltimore County has 14

16 consecutive days of COVID cases that are below

17 the required rate. My concern is that lifting

18 this prematurely before we reach the required

19 category may cause another uptick. It's been two

20 years of this pandemic and we are exhausted, I

21 get that, but I cannot support this motion

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1 because we have to do it in conjunction with
2 health experts and the guidelines and looking at
3 data. And the data is right there and we're very
4 close like Dr. Hager said, we need a little bit
5 of patience, and we can lift it in a promising
6 way and in a very, a way that's conducive for all
7 of our children, especially our special needs
8 children and children with compromised immune
9 systems, so I cannot support this motion.
10     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you, Ms. Jose.
11 Ms. Mack and then you have a question, and I know
12 Mr. Thomas has a question in the chat, and then
13 I'll come to Ms. Mack.
14     MR. THOMAS: Thank you. I agree with
15 the comments of Dr. Hager and some of my board
16 colleagues up here. I think we should wait until
17 the 14th day happens, let the science make the
18 decisions, we're almost there, and so I just
19 wanted to state that I will not be voting in
20 support of this motion for those same reasons.
21 Thank you.

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1     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Ms. Mack?
2     MS. MACK: Dr. Williams, when is the
3 14th day? When would be, assuming all goes well
4 and the metrics continue to do what they're
5 supposed to be doing, 14 days from today, 14 days
6 from when?
7     DR. WILLIAMS: So Dr. Zarchin, if you
8 could answer that, it's a period in which we look
9 at the data.
10     MS. MACK: But when is day one?
11     DR. ZARCHIN: So we anticipate that day
12 one could be as early as tomorrow, so we're
13 looking at two weeks from that day, as long as we
14 don't have an increase. So ultimately we're
15 looking instead of March 1st as proposed, mid
16 March.
17     MS. MACK: And if in one of the 14 days
18 there is an increase, does the clock start again?
19     DR. ZARCHIN: It would be, it has to be
20 14 consecutive days.
21     MS. MACK: Okay, thank you.

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1     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Mr. Thomas?
2     MR. THOMAS: Thank you. Is it an
3 increase above 50, or is it an increase of
4 anything? Like if it went from 30 one day to 31
5 the next day --
6     DR. ZARCHIN: As long as it's under 50,
7 we're okay. Good question. Not just an
8 increase, it would be an increase over 50.
9     MR. THOMAS: Okay, thank you.
10     DR. ZARCHIN: Best case would be
11 tomorrow is our first of 14 days, so we're
12 looking at two weeks, that would be ideal.
13     MR. THOMAS: Okay.
14     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Dr. Hager?
15     DR. HAGER: So we're not looking at
16 daily data, we're looking at weekly averages.
17     DR. ZARCHIN: Yes.
18     DR. HAGER: And the data that -- so we
19 got data today because the holiday was yesterday
20 which, I didn't know about the 56, that's made me
21 super excited, but that means 56 as of the last

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1 seven days.
2     DR. ZARCHIN: Correct.
3     DR. HAGER: So to me if the Friday data
4 that we put out Monday, my guess -- you're saying
5 tomorrow. I would backtrack it to Monday
6 personally, because it was the seven days prior.
7 Does that make sense?
8     DR. ZARCHIN: Uh-huh.
9     DR. HAGER: So to me, yesterday is day
10 one, and then we'll get the two weeks and then
11 we'll start --
12     DR. ZARCHIN: Yes, in that week. I'm
13 sorry, I'm talking specific days, but in that
14 week that we're looking at.
15     DR. HAGER: Right, so the earliest,
16 assuming our numbers are good on Friday which we
17 report on Monday, then the earliest would be
18 March 7th, right?
19     DR. ZARCHIN: Yes, best case scenario.
20     DR. HAGER: Best case scenario.
21     DR. ZARCHIN: Best case scenario.

1 DR. HAGER: Crossing all my fingers and
2 toes, okay. Thank you. Monday, March 7th, if
3 everything continues to go well, that would be
4 it.
5 DR. ZARCHIN: So what we're seeing now
6 is we had a drastic reduction, it has settled
7 just a little bit, it's still trending in the
8 right direction but we're not seeing the change
9 as quick as we have. That's not a surprise, not
10 a surprise.
11 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: So I'd like to make a
12 comment since I haven't spoken to this motion.
13 I'm wondering if the Board would feel more
14 comfortable with a March 7th timeframe, given our
15 own schedule and the fact that we meet twice a
16 month. Two things need to happen, one is the
17 AERL approval which if they grant that on the
18 25th when they meet, the state board has already
19 said March 1st, we're looking at best case
20 scenario of March 7th. I'm wondering if there is
21 any interest in supporting an amendment to

1 Mrs. Causey's motion for a week out, either
2 March 8th or March 7th, because I would offer
3 such an amendment if that is of interest. So I'm
4 going to put that out there for discussion if
5 that's something that anyone would be interested
6 in, since it sounds like we may be unwilling to
7 support a date as requested of March 1st.
8 Ms. Mack?
9 MS. MACK: I did have some concerns
10 about a March 1st date, but I would personally
11 support a March 7th date.
12 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.
13 Mrs. Causey?
14 MS. CAUSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
15 do know I had some comments before I made that
16 motion, but I'm going to speak to my motion if
17 that's okay.
18 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Sure, please go ahead.
19 MS. CAUSEY: Governor Hogan has lifted
20 the mask mandate statewide in all state
21 government buildings. The Baltimore County

1 executive has lifted the mask mandate countywide
2 and in county government buildings. The state
3 board has covered the issue widely, they also
4 have access to health experts and metrics and
5 science and research, and so there is a reason
6 that the state board decided to do away with the
7 off ramps in making the decision a local
8 decision. The research and science supports
9 continued reasonable mitigation. The research
10 and data have shown us that children are
11 suffering from many issues other than a COVID
12 infection.
13 Mother Teresa said let us always meet
14 each other with a smile, for the smile is the
15 beginning of love. And it is clear to me that
16 after this period of pandemic lockdown,
17 isolation, lost opportunities, lost celebrations,
18 lost education, lost loved ones and friends, that
19 love is what our community needs, especially our
20 children. So I believe that March 1st is a
21 reasonable date based on the state board and I

1 think that we can accept that.
2 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.
3 Mr. Offerman has had his hand up and has not
4 spoken, and then Ms. Scott who has also not
5 spoken, and then Mr. Thomas.
6 MR. OFFERMAN: I've actually spoken to
7 Dr. Williams once but I'd just like to comment
8 that I'm going, I want to support, I'm going to
9 support following the science, and I don't think
10 it's appropriate to put a particular date in
11 since no one can predict what the science is
12 going to say. If the motion is it's going to
13 open on March 8th or March 7th, or March 1st, and
14 we have an uptick, a serious uptick, then we're
15 putting people at risk, and I don't think that is
16 in the best interests of either the children or
17 the families of Baltimore County. Thank you.
18 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.
19 Mr. Thomas?
20 MR. THOMAS: Thank you. I agree with
21 Mr. Offerman. I think that, my concern is like

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1  what if we hit 50, or what if we're staying
2  steady at a 56 and we're still above the 50 on
3  March 7th or 8th?  I just want to follow the
4  guidance of Johns Hopkins and the Department of
5  Health and our team, I want to follow the
6  decisions that have led us to this point right
7  now in keeping us safe in our schools, and I want
8  to support the team that we have in BCPS to make
9  these decisions because I'm not qualified to make
10 a decision on whether or not we should have masks
11 in our schools, many of us up here are not
12 qualified as well, so I think we should just
13 follow what the healthcare professionals and the
14 people who have dedicated their lives to studying
15 this and these decisions.  Thank you.
16      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Scott?
17      MS. SCOTT:  Yes, thank you.  I think to
18 truly love and show care and compassion for our
19 children is to follow the science and make sure
20 that we show our best interests and have their
21 best interests at the root of this.

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1      But my question was also, my
2  understanding is that this is a work session.  Is
3  it appropriate to make motions during work
4  sessions or is this motion out of order?
5      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  This was an agenda
6  item that was added and passed by the Board, so
7  it is in order.  Thank you.
8      MS. SCOTT:  But as I understand it, we
9  don't make motions during our work sessions.
10     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  That is neither policy
11 nor rule.  It is, and as chair, it is in order.
12     MS. SCOTT:  Okay, so we can make motions
13 during our work sessions henceforth.  Okay, thank
14 you.
15     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Dr. Hager?
16     DR. HAGER:  I just wanted to reiterate,
17 March 7th, March 1st, we'll follow the science is
18 really the bottom line.  We are meeting March 8th
19 so we could also revisit it at that point.  And
20 then as far as other guidance that others have, I
21 do want to point out that one of the two

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1  dissenting opinions at the State Board of
2  Education was a public health scientist.  So I
3  think that really following the science is so
4  important, and I think we've done a great job so
5  far and so again, I am sticking with that.
6      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Jose?
7      MS. JOSE:  Thank you.  I'm not going to
8  take up too much time, I just want to say that we
9  should always make decisions and think about the
10 weakest amongst us, follow the science, and
11 Mother Teresa also wore a mask when she worked
12 among the lepers in India.  So people should not
13 just use that in a misconstrued way.  Believe in
14 science, and follow what the experts are telling
15 us.  Nobody on this board is an epidemiologist.
16     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Mr. Kuehn?
17     MR. KUEHN:  Thank you.  I just wanted to
18 mention that, you know, we've all been through
19 this pandemic and at the very beginning they told
20 us you don't need a mask, don't bother wearing a
21 mask, you don't need to wear a mask.  So the

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1  experts, you know, haven't gotten it right from
2  the beginning, they tried their best, we're
3  learning and we're moving towards things -- I'm
4  sorry, Mr. Offerman, did you have a comment?
5  Okay.
6      So I just want to be clear.  There are
7  many states across this country where there are
8  no masks in schools, and Maryland has truly good
9  numbers, and I follow the numbers and I try to
10 follow the science as best I can.  And we have
11 other schools within this state, including Anne
12 Arundel, that have taken the step to make masks
13 optional, and that's the other key here, this is
14 an option.  If people are not comfortable, they
15 can still wear the masks, so I don't believe
16 we're removing the ability of people that have
17 concerns, health concerns, because we need to
18 protect them.  If there's a reason you need to
19 wear a mask, please wear your mask, but healthy
20 children do not need to wear masks.  Thank you.
21     (Applause.)

1  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any
2 further discussion?  Mrs. Causey?
3  MS. CAUSEY:  I just wanted to close out
4 by saying that I'm not an epidemiologist, but I
5 have followed a lot of things and the state board
6 has also followed the science, and one of the
7 other things I know is that Baltimore County was
8 one of the slowest to return to school last year
9 when many others did, and I feel like our
10 children have lost out and that we need to try
11 and make it right for them, and certainly anyone
12 that feels that they need to wear a mask, whether
13 it's a cloth mask or an N95, they're welcome to
14 do it and that will be communicated effectively
15 throughout the system, because we do want people
16 to feel safe and we do want them to be safe.  But
17 we also know that right now a lot of children are
18 not safe.
19  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  If there's
20 no further discussion, we have a motion on the
21 floor and I call the roll, call the rollcall

1 vote.
2  MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?
3  MS. ROWE:  No.
4  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  Could you read
5 the motion again?
6  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.  Ms. Causey's
7 motion says, I move that the Board of Education
8 lift the mask mandate in Baltimore County Public
9 Schools system on March 1st, 2022, in alignment
10 with the state board vote today, February 22nd,
11 2022.  Approval of state board action is required
12 by AERL.  The superintendent will implement the
13 transition with timely communication about
14 lifting the mask mandate, BCPS ongoing COVID
15 mitigation practices, and options for individual
16 employees, students, visitors and volunteers to
17 wear masks.  Masks will still be required on
18 buses as required by federal law, and in health
19 suites.  Thank you.
20  MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?
21  MS. ROWE:  No.

1  MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?
2  MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.
3  MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?
4  MS. MACK:  No.
5  MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?
6  MS. JOSE:  No.
7  MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?
8  VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.
9  MS. GOVER:  Mr. Thomas?
10  MR. THOMAS:  No.
11  MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?
12  MR. OFFERMAN:  No.
13  MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?
14  MS. SCOTT:  No.
15  MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?
16  DR. HAGER:  No.
17  MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?
18  MR. KUEHN:  Yes.
19  MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?
20  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.
21  MS. GOVER:  In favor is four.

1  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, the motion
2 fails.
3  That concludes that agenda item.  Thank
4 you.
5  DR. ZARCHIN:  Thank you so much.
6  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The next item on the
7 agenda is the report on the Maryland Leads grant
8 program, for that I call on Dr. McComas and
9 Dr. Whisted.  Good evening.
10  DR. MCCOMAS:  Good evening,
11 Dr. Williams, Chair Henn and members of the
12 Board.  Dr. Whisted was not able to join us in
13 person; however, she is on line available to
14 support any questions, so I will do my best
15 without my partner here.
16  So good evening, everyone.  I'm here
17 this evening to provide you an overview of an
18 exciting grant opportunity.  The Maryland Leads
19 grant is a Maryland State Department of Education
20 grant initiative designed to support local school
21 systems in utilizing federal funds to overcome

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1 the interruption to learning that has resulted
2 from the COVID-19 pandemic.  The overarching
3 intent of this grant is to accelerate student
4 learning and to narrow any opportunity and
5 achievement gaps that have emerged over the
6 course of the pandemic, and to provide more
7 targeted support for historically underserved
8 students and their communities.
9        The Maryland Leads also supports school
10 systems in addressing both short and long-term
11 challenges related to the current labor shortage,
12 and it tends to the longstanding need to
13 establish and to strengthen our teacher pipeline
14 and professional development.  MSDE will provide
15 school systems with a series of information
16 sessions and workshops beginning in February,
17 they just started last week, and will continue
18 throughout the spring to support school systems
19 through the grant submission process.  Awards
20 will be announced in the spring of 2022, with
21 implementation beginning as early as this summer

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1 of 2022, and continuing over the next two
2 academic years with the grant sunsetting
3 September 30th of 2024.  Next slide please.
4        The grant initiative is centered on
5 seven high leveraged strategies that have been
6 proven to be effective and transformative for
7 schools and school systems across the nation.
8 You see on the screen before you the seven
9 strategies that are part of the grant initiative
10 and each of these seven strategies contains a
11 number of focus areas and best practices from the
12 field that school systems may choose to
13 implement.  The school system's choice will
14 depend, of course, on our individual needs of our
15 students, our schools and our unique communities.
16 Each school system will have the opportunity to
17 work with best in class partners to strategize
18 and execute plans within and across all seven
19 strategies.  And to participate in this grant
20 opportunity, school systems must choose at a
21 minimum two of the seven strategies, but can in

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1 fact pursue all seven or any combination between
2 two and seven.  Choosing -- there's a bonus --
3 choosing the science of reading and/or growing
4 your own staff will allow school systems to
5 access a greater amount of grant funding.  Next
6 slide please.
7        As always, we anchor our decisions in
8 our strategic plan, The Compass, Our Pathway to
9 Excellence, and as you look across those seven
10 strategies you will see many points of
11 intersection between our strategic plan and the
12 grant initiative.  Next slide please.
13        On the screen before you you see the
14 overall timeline as published for the Maryland
15 Leads grant.  As we said, the grant was initially
16 announced on February 8th.  We, the school
17 systems have until April 7th to submit our grant
18 application.  Grant awards will be announced
19 April 22nd, and grant activities can begin as
20 early as May 1st of this school year, and again,
21 will run through when the grant sunsets,

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1 September 20th of 2024.
2        Next slide, please, and that concludes
3 our overview of the Maryland Leads grant.
4        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you,
5 Dr. McComas.  Ms. Mack?
6        MS. MACK:  Thank you, Dr. McComas.  The
7 February 9th announcement from the state
8 indicates that as you said, we can unlock as I
9 read it, $2 million in bonus funds for
10 demonstrating the existence of an in-place
11 science of reading, which I presume Open Court
12 and Orton-Gillingham are science of reading
13 programs, and an additional one million for grow
14 your own staff.  They also talk about 1.5 million
15 in additional funds if an LEA chooses to
16 supplement the program with local funds.
17        DR. MCCOMAS:  Yes, all of those are
18 correct and as you know, because of our striding
19 readers grant we have introduced methods and
20 resources anchored in science and reading for a
21 number of years now, so yes.

MS. MACK: So because we are going to vote tonight on the FY-2023 budget, to maximize the amount of money that we can get from the state through the American Rescue Plan, is it the 1.5 million in additional funds that we would have to contribute in order to get that amount of money from the state?

DR. MCCOMAS: So the 1.5 is matching funds, they do indicate that school systems can use, leverage multiple sources to provide that matching fund, and that resources can be braided. So that 1.5 million could be a combination of I believe other ESER funds, it could be operating funds, but it does indicate that that can be a braided resource.

MS. MACK: Okay. But we would have to insure as a board that, again, to maximize the dollar amount that we could get through the Maryland Leads program, that regardless of the source, we would have that money in the FY-2023 budget, correct?

DR. MCCOMAS: Yes, we would need to provide that matching fund.

MS. MACK: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Ms. Rowe?

MS. ROWE: So Dr. McComas, do you know specifically what it is we're going to be doing with this money and how we expect that to directly impact academic achievement?

DR. MCCOMAS: Well, we are in the process of attending each and every one of those information sessions. So for each of those seven strategies that are offered through the grant there is an information session, they have not all been conducted. I know for example, Ms. Shay is going to the one on the science of reading next Monday. And so of course we want to understand more deeply what is involved with each of those strategies.

So to answer your question, the long answer is no, I don't have our application already completed. What we do know of course is

that we are deeply committed to our focus on anchoring our methodology in the science of reading, so we certainly will be looking very seriously at that, so we will optimize and build upon what we have been doing for a number of years. We know that we, like every school system, have to work hard to help produce teachers, and the grow your own teachers pipeline is certainly a key industry strategy that would be very relevant to us in our school system as well.

I don't want to at this point give the misperception that perhaps we may limit ourselves to just those two strategies. We know those two strategies, there are incentives as indicated in the grant overview for school systems to pursue those strategies, but they may not be the only ones that we pursue, so I just want to be up front around that.

MS. ROWE: So does the grant allow us the opportunity to hire reading specialists?

DR. MCCOMAS: Again, we have to find more of the details of what is permissible within each of those strategies. Fundamentally it really does help us, for example, some of the things that it would help us to build upon is professional learning related to Orton-Gillingham, related to LETRS training. In terms of hiring personnel I have to find out if it allows us to bring on additional personnel, but I don't know that that's accurate at this point.

MS. ROWE: Thank you.

DR. MCCOMAS: You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you, and if I may comment on this, and thank you, Dr. McComas. As to Ms. Rowe's question, I had asked Dr. Williams if staff could present on this topic, Ms. Rowe, at a very high level, given the timing of the Board's approval of the FY-2023 budget and the need to provide matching funds potentially. I asked for a very high level overview of this

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1 program because it was very exciting, the

2 potential to tap into this as a resource, so this

3 is at the very preliminary stages as Dr. McComas

4 said. So I'm very appreciative of the

5 willingness to present to us this evening, so

6 thank you to Dr. Williams, Dr. McComas and

7 Dr. Whisted for preparing this for us tonight,

8 this was very helpful and we look forward to more

9 information to come.

10 DR. MCCOMAS: Yes, we will keep you

11 informed. Thank you, Dr. Williams, and thank

12 you, Dr. Whisted, for the hard work.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.

14 And that brings us to the next item on

15 the agenda, which is the consideration of the

16 superintendent's proposed FY-2023 operating

17 budget, and for that I call on Dr. Williams and

18 Mr. Sarris and team.

19 DR. WILLIAMS: So we have Mr. Hartlove,

20 Mr. Tantleff and Mr. Sarris this evening.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Welcome. Good

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1 evening.

2 MR. HARTLOVE: Good evening, Chair Henn,

3 Vice Chair McMillion. Tonight we have the

4 adoption of the FY-23 operating budget, and of

5 course I'm coming in midstream, these two

6 gentlemen have done quite a bit of work so I'm

7 going to turn it over to Mr. Tantleff.

8 MR. TANTLEFF: Sure. Tonight is the

9 Board's night to make any motions they'd like,

10 and we're here and staff is here to answer any

11 questions you may have.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Fantastic, thank you.

13 So board members, I'll open the floor to

14 comments, questions, discussion. Ms. Mack?

15 MS. MACK: Yes. Pursuant to the

16 conversation that we just had, I have a motion

17 and let me go ahead and put that in the chat. As

18 I'm putting it in the chat, I move that adequate

19 funding be added to the FY-2023 operating budget

20 to position BCPS to receive the maximum amount of

21 Maryland Leads grant money for which grant

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1 activities begin on May 1st, 2022, and conclude

2 on September 30th, 2024.

3 MS. CAUSEY: Second, Ms. Causey.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Would you like to

5 speak to your motion, Ms. Mack?

6 MS. MACK: Yes, I would. I know that we

7 are early in this process, but because the start

8 date and end date span the FY-2023 budget, I

9 think we would be foolish not to insure that we

10 have the funding for the matching dollars because

11 as I read the state announcement, we would be

12 leaving $1.5 million on the table without doing

13 so. Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. And I have

15 a follow-up question, gentlemen. Do we know

16 approximately a number on that to maximize, what

17 the maximum grant amount would be and what we

18 would be expected to match, or is that a question

19 that's still --

20 MR. TANTLEFF: We can ask Dr. McComas

21 when she comes back in.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Okay, fantastic. And

2 Ms. Mack, can you send your motion?

3 MS. MACK: I did.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: We don't see it.

5 MR. TANTLEFF: It's 1.5 million.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: 1.5, thank you. While

7 you're reentering it, I will restate your motion.

8 Ms. Mack moves that 1.5 million be added to the

9 FY-2023 operating budget to position BCPS to

10 receive the maximum amount of Maryland Leads

11 grant money for which grant activities begin on

12 May 1st, 2022, and conclude on September 30th,

13 2024. Yes, Mr. Thomas?

14 MR. THOMAS: Thank you. So I have a few

15 questions. If we were not to put this in the

16 budget right now, would we be able to still have

17 all the grant money, or what would happen if this

18 was not in the FY-2023 budget? How would we

19 secure the maximum amount of funding if we didn't

20 approve it today, or do we have to approve it

21 today to get the funding? Because I'm thinking

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1  of other school systems who have already finished

2  their budget process.

3      MR. SARRIS:  Well, I think as

4  Dr. Boswell-McComas indicated, one option might

5  be the use of ESER funds and we would have to

6  make an amendment to our current award and

7  request funding for that purpose.

8      MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  And is that,

9  the information presented by Leads, I know this

10 is in the early stages, is that 100 percent

11 accurate and final, the 1.5 million, and we have

12 to match that?

13     MR. SARRIS:  That's my understanding.

14     MR. TANTLEFF:  That's what we have here

15 in writing, is 1.5 million.

16     MR. THOMAS:  Okay.  Then although I

17 can't vote on this, I do support this.

18     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Yes,

19 Dr. Williams?

20     DR. WILLIAMS:  To clarify, the 1.5 is

21 for which of the seven areas?

1      MR. SARRIS:  Well, it's for whichever of

2  the two or more that we elect to pursue.

3      DR. WILLIAMS:  Two or more that we want

4  to pursue, thank you.

5      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, and that is

6  the max match, okay.  Thank you.

7      MR. SARRIS:  And I believe there's a

8  competitive application which does, depending on

9  how many other applications are received and

10 whose are considered most favorably, you know, we

11 may or may not get that total.

12     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Sure, thank you.

13 Ms. Jose, I believe you were next.  Do you have a

14 question about the motion on the floor?

15     MS. JOSE:  Yes.  So my question,

16 Mr. Sarris, is, you said this is a competitive

17 application, so does this motion even, or is it a

18 moot point in this motion?  And the first part of

19 my question was what would happen without this

20 motion, what would the grant dollars go towards?

21     And also I want to know, was this motion

1  sent in advance to staff members for review and

2  seeing the fiscal impact?

3      Mr. HARTLOVE:  My understanding would be

4  that either by adding it to the budget, the 1.5

5  as you're discussing, or we could use ESER funds.

6  Either way we would have would be able to meet

7  the match.  So you know, it just depends on

8  whether we want to use some of our ESER funds for

9  this or whether we want to add additional dollars

10 to the budget.

11     But as far as it being competitive,

12 that's exactly what it says, there is no

13 guarantee that we will get the dollars, we have

14 to put an application in and that application

15 will be viewed versus other jurisdictions'

16 applications, and hopefully we will be successful

17 in getting the whole thing, getting the dollars,

18 or as Mr. Sarris says, some fraction of those

19 dollars.

20     MR. SARRIS:  And I think Ms. Jose also

21 asked us if it was moot.  If we, if the money is

1  funded and appropriated, it would be specifically

2  designated for that purpose, so that it would

3  revert to county government if we were not to use

4  it for that purpose.

5      MS. JOSE:  Thank you.

6      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Rowe?  Did you

7  have a question?

8      MS. ROWE:  I didn't have a question on

9  the motion, I was putting in for the budget

10 overall topic.

11     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Great, thank you.

12 Ms. Scott, did you have a question about the

13 motion on the floor, or were you asking about the

14 budget in general?

15     MS. SCOTT:  No, mine was about the

16 motion.  Again, I wanted to state as I have

17 stated in the past, that again, to send a motion

18 that was not emailed 24 hours in advance that is

19 cost impacting, to expect board members to vote

20 on that and to have motions sprung on us at the

21 last minute I think is extremely inconsiderate,

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1 and not how budgets are done. And I think that
2 it's inconsiderate to ask the board members to
3 even vote on that and also, it goes into
4 operations. And I would also ask, you know, this
5 motion that goes into operations, I guess perhaps
6 it's Ms. Mack who presented it, what is the
7 purpose of this motion?
8     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: So thank you for that.
9 I believe that's not relevant to the motion on
10 the floor, however, so --
11     MS. SCOTT: Excuse me, it's a point of
12 inquiry. What is not relevant?
13     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: I'm not entertaining
14 that discussion right now.
15     MS. SCOTT: But I have a point of
16 inquiry, though, and I have a right to ask that.
17 A motion that's sprung on me at the last moment,
18 I do have the right to ask what is the purpose of
19 this motion that goes into operations.
20     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Scott, we're
21 discussing the budget and the budget is the

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1 Board's purview. I'm not entertaining discussion
2 on it. Mr. Thomas, do you have--
3     MS. SCOTT: Point of inquiry.
4     CHAIRWOMAN SCOTT: -- a comment or
5 question on the motion on the floor?
6     MS. SCOTT: Point of inquiry, Ms. Henn.
7     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Go ahead, Mr. Thomas.
8     MS. SCOTT: I am asking, I've raised a
9 point of inquiry. I want to know --
10     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: And Ms. Scott, I'm not
11 entertaining the discussion. Mr. Thomas has the
12 floor.
13     MS. SCOTT: Okay, so as the elected
14 member of the Fourth District, you're not
15 allowing me to ask --
16     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Scott, you're out
17 of order. Mr. Thomas has the floor.
18     MS. SCOTT: You're out of order for
19 shutting me down.
20     MR. THOMAS: Thank you. I would like to
21 ask what Dr. McComas' thoughts are, or

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1 Dr. Williams, about putting this into the budget
2 now since this is, we're involved in academics, I
3 just want to know, does she think that we should
4 do it now or does she think we should wait until
5 we have approval, considering this is
6 competitive. I just wanted to get her advice
7 because she is the expert on this matter.
8     DR. WILLIAMS: So Dr. Boswell-McComas
9 can respond. I think to your point, Mr. Thomas,
10 this was released to us on February 8th and as
11 Dr. Boswell-McComas has said, there are sessions
12 for us to understand, and it's a grant, it's
13 competitive. And so to earmark funds that we may
14 or may not get, it is a question. I will say all
15 seven of the categories are interests of ours,
16 and so we have been very good about pursuing
17 additional supports as a system and our team, but
18 I'll let Dr. Boswell-McComas answer.
19     DR. MCCOMAS: So yes. First I would
20 like to say that in the published resource
21 related to Maryland Leads opportunity, it

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1 indicates that the state allocation is a
2 noncompetitive grant process, so forgive me for
3 not clarifying that when I presented, and forgive
4 me, Mr. Sarris, because I didn't want to cut you
5 off, but I was trying to, I wanted to confirm
6 that that was accurate. So it indicates here
7 that it is noncompetitive for the purposes of
8 insuring that each school system has sufficient
9 funding to implement the plan. The total state
10 allocation is 133 million that the state will be
11 disbursing, so I just wanted to clarify that.
12     That being said, I would say that
13 certainly the will of the Board to find matching
14 funds, whether that is accomplished, that could
15 be accomplished in a multitude of ways. That
16 could be from resources used from our current
17 operating budget, it could be resources used from
18 some of the other ESER grants, it could be
19 resources used in the FY-20 -- the July 1 budget,
20 excuse me. And so I just offer that to say that
21 I don't know that it has to be strictly in the

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1 July 1st budget, but that there is, it

2 specifically calls out that you can braid funds,

3 and I think what the state is doing is they are

4 providing school systems a wide berth to pull

5 together the resources and to try to optimize our

6 resources.

7        And so that would be my best response.

8 I hope, Dr. Williams, that was adequate.

9        DR. WILLIAMS:  Yes.  I would just add,

10 I'm looking at a part of the document, the goal

11 of local matching funds is to establish a

12 mechanism for the long-term investment.  So I

13 know we've referenced ESER grant, but the goal is

14 to have matching funds for sustainability long

15 term.

16        So again, there's still questions,

17 Board, around the grants.  I just have to put

18 that out there, and we have upcoming sessions to

19 really learn about the grants, and we will do our

20 due diligence in terms of applying, because

21 again, these seven are interests of ours.

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1        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

2        MR. THOMAS:  Thank you, Dr. Williams,

3 and thank you, Dr. McComas.  Can I -- I just

4 wanted to say that I guess hearing that, I mean,

5 it's so early, I said that I would support

6 before, I don't know if I would support this or

7 not.  There's so much unknown and I feel like

8 it's something I'm just learning about with this

9 presentation and I guess I would have liked to

10 have, you know, more time to digest this and to

11 read about all these parts.  Thank you.

12        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Dr. Hager?

13        DR. HAGER:  I actually applaud Ms. Mack

14 for being so forward thinking.  I didn't know

15 much about this until I just heard the

16 presentation and it is moving fast, but as

17 someone who writes a lot of grants, it says a lot

18 that our board of education wants to invest in

19 this program and therefore, you know, I think it

20 will position us really well to get additional

21 funds, so it seems like a great investment in my

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1 mind, to show that we stand behind this and we

2 believe in it.  Like you said, it hits all of our

3 buckets, so I do support this motion and I'm glad

4 that it was brought forward.

5        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Mack?

6        MS. MACK:  I could add the language, I

7 move that adequate funding be added to or

8 identified in the FY-2023 operating budget, which

9 would provide staff with more flexibility.  I'm

10 sorry, that 1.5 million be added to or identified

11 in.

12        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Tantleff, did

13 you --

14        MR. TANTLEFF:  One clarifying comment.

15 The grant is good through FY-24, so as we learn

16 more about it, if we did need to use and

17 appropriate general funds, it seems that there

18 would be an opportunity to do that in the FY-2024

19 budget.

20        MS. MACK:  I guess my question to that,

21 Mr. Tantleff, is according to the timeline that I

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1 have, activities begin as early as May 1st of

2 this year and could go through September 30th, so

3 I would think at least some of the funds would

4 have to be in the FY-2023 budget.

5        MR. TANTLEFF:  The portion that's the

6 match would be -- again, I'm somewhat

7 speculative, but that portion of the funding that

8 gets matched could be budgeted and planned in the

9 second year of the grant.

10        MS. MACK:  Right, but we have ESER

11 funds, we have unused funds, and we're here

12 tonight, so I would like to see us add or

13 identify it within the FY-2023 budget.

14        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Mack, who was the

15 second to your original motion please?

16        MS. MACK:  Mrs. Causey was.

17        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.  And you did not

18 move to amend, it stands as is, okay, thank you.

19 And Ms. Rowe, you had a comment?

20        MS. SCOTT:  I had a comment as well,

21 before Ms. Rowe.

1  CHAIRMAN HENN:  Yes, Ms. Scott, you did,
2  and Ms. Rowe has not yet spoken, so I will come
3  to you next.
4  MS. ROWE:  It occurs to me that if this
5  is a competitive grant, that this Board taking a
6  stand to make a commitment that we can make our
7  contribution, that that would help us as far as
8  getting the full amount of the grant money.  Do
9  you have an opinion on that, Dr. McComas?
10  DR. MCCOMAS:  Again, I just wanted to
11  clarify, it is written in the document that was
12  published by MSDE related to this that it is
13  actually noncompetitive.
14  MR. SARRIS:  And I apologize for that
15  mistake.
16  MS. ROWE:  So we will get it?
17  DR. MCCOMAS:  Yes.  MSDE has designed
18  this and I will say, this is MSDE's holdback
19  funds of ESER, so these are federal funds from
20  the ESER federal grant opportunity, and MSDE had
21  their portion and now they are using their

1  portion in this method, so they have designed it
2  so every LEA will have the opportunity to have
3  funds to pursue these strategies.
4  MR. SARRIS:  And the letter from the
5  state superintendent indicates that all LEAs are
6  strongly encouraged to apply or participate.
7  MS. ROWE:  So why would we not want to
8  fund in the budget right now to fully
9  participate?
10  DR. WILLIAMS:  I don't think anyone is
11  saying they don't want the funds.  There was a
12  motion made about adding, we support the grant,
13  we'll do what we need to do, I think the staff
14  has responded to the questions about the grant
15  and moving forward.  Thank you.
16  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Scott?
17  MS. SCOTT:  Thank you.  I was going to
18  confirm that it is not competitive, a
19  noncompetitive grant, so you've already verified
20  that.
21  And as I understand it, it doesn't mean

1  that we will, or does it mean that we will get
2  extra dollars?  Because I understand, or actually
3  I don't really understand, so I wanted to know
4  that.  And I want to know, will we hit a fiscal
5  cliff, is this something that's sustainable?
6  DR. MCCOMAS:  So again, the grant, these
7  are grant funds and as with all grants they
8  eventually sunset, and it's always incumbent on
9  the school system to have a plan in place around
10  sustainable funding, and so that is something
11  that with everything that we are funding through
12  grants we have to plan over the horizon of what
13  will be our sustainability plan if we choose to
14  continue those strategies.
15  Many of the high level strategies that
16  they have in this opportunity really invest in
17  building capacity of the people that we have, so
18  for example professional learning related to the
19  LETRS training, which is anchored in the science
20  of reading, that is really around building up the
21  professional capacity of our faculty.  And so the

1  sustainability at the end of the grant would be
2  to what extent do we want to continue to provide
3  that professional learning for new staff that
4  come on board, at which point then we could
5  leverage Title II funds, we could leverage
6  maintenance of effort professional learning funds
7  at that point, but this would give us a huge
8  infusion of funds to build capacity of those that
9  are currently with us during the time period of
10  the grant.
11  MS. SCOTT:  Thank you.  And what would
12  happen without this motion, would staff still
13  have the opportunity to access this grant?
14  DR. MCCOMAS:  Yes, we have, the grant
15  submission is, I believe the date was April 7th I
16  quoted, and so we are still in the process of
17  collecting information and understanding what
18  resources will be part of this grant for each of
19  those high leveraged strategies, and then
20  formulating what would be our actual application
21  for our allocation.  And so either way, if we as

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1 a school system choose to invest in the matching

2 funds, again, those matching funds could be put

3 together in a variety of ways, it could be some

4 of this year's current operating budget, it could

5 perhaps be funds in the July 1st budget, there is

6 a way to look across multiple sources that we

7 have to determine where we might have that

8 matching fund.

9        MS. SCOTT:  So then, is this motion then

10 redundant?

11        DR. MCCOMAS:  That's the will of the

12 Board if you choose to do it in the FY-24 budget

13 or if you choose to braid other funds, that's

14 really the will of the Board.

15        MS. SCOTT:  Because it sounds like from

16 what you're saying that we would have access to

17 it, so I'm not really sure, that's why I was

18 asking before what this motion does.  It sounds

19 like we'd already have access to this, so it just

20 sounds like it's redundant, that's why I was

21 trying to understand before I was interrupted and

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1 cut off, what does this motion do.

2        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Dr. McComas, I can

3 speak to that.  So Ms. Scott, this motion insures

4 that we provide in our budget request the

5 matching funds in order to maximize the grant

6 funding that we can receive.  The grant requires

7 that we provide a match in order to maximize the

8 grant dollars from the state that we are eligible

9 to receive.  So our, this motion requests the

10 matching dollars that we are required to provide,

11 so we are eligible and it's noncompetitive as

12 staff have confirmed, but in order to maximize

13 what we can receive, we have to provide a local

14 match, and that is what this motion does.

15        MS. SCOTT:  Okay, but as you see in the

16 chat, it's listed that the grant does not require

17 that we provide a match.

18        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  There are additional

19 funds that are available if we provide a match.

20        MS. SCOTT:  Okay.  There's a lot of

21 contradiction there, so that's why this would

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1 have been good to have more than five minutes

2 before it was presented so that it could be

3 vetted and discussed.  And at nine o'clock almost

4 at night to spring this on board members without

5 it being vetted well, I think it just does us all

6 a disservice.

7        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

8 Mr. Offerman?

9        MR. OFFERMAN:  I would like to move the

10 question.

11        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Offerman has

12 called the question.

13        MS. ROWE:  Second, Rowe.

14        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  I don't believe a

15 second is required, is it?  Okay, Mr. Brousaides,

16 it requires -- okay.  It's non-debatable.  May we

17 have a rollcall vote on calling the question?

18        MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

19        MS. ROWE:  Yes.

20        MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

21        MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

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1        MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

2        MS. MACK:  Yes.

3        MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?

4        MS. JOSE:  Yes.

5        MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

6        VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

7        MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

8        MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.

9        MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?

10        MS. SCOTT:  Yes.

11        MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

12        DR. HAGER:  Yes.

13        MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

14        MR. KUEHN:  Yes.

15        MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

16        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.

17        MS. GOVER:  Thank you.

18        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The motion carries.

19 So now we have the motion that's on the floor.

20 Mr. Thomas?

21        MR. THOMAS:  Yes, I just wanted --

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1  MR. OFFERMAN: I called the motion,
2 which means that we, that means of course there
3 is no more discussion, correct?
4      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: That's correct.
5      MR. THOMAS: I have a point of
6 parliamentary inquiry?
7      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: What is your point?
8      MR. THOMAS: I was wondering if I could
9 vote on moving the question, because -- no?
10 Okay, thank you.
11      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: I'm restating the
12 motion, Ms. Mack's motion, to move that 1.5
13 million be added to the FY-2023 operating budget
14 to position BCPS to receive the maximum amount of
15 Maryland Leads grant money, for which grant
16 activities begin on May 1st, 2022, and conclude
17 on September 30th, 2024. And it was seconded by
18 Mrs. Causey.
19      May I have a rollcall vote?
20      MS. GOVER: Ms. Rowe?
21      MS. ROWE: Yes.

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1      MS. GOVER: Ms. Causey?
2      MS. CAUSEY: Yes.
3      MS. GOVER: Ms. Mack?
4      MS. MACK: Yes.
5      MS. GOVER: Ms. Jose?
6      MS. JOSE: Abstain.
7      MS. GOVER: Mr. McMillion?
8      VICE CHAIR MCMILLION: Yes.
9      MS. GOVER: Mr. Offerman?
10      MR. OFFERMAN: Yes.
11      MS. GOVER: Ms. Scott?
12      MS. SCOTT: Abstain.
13      MS. GOVER: Dr. Hager?
14      DR. HAGER: Yes.
15      MS. GOVER: Mr. Kuehn?
16      MR. KUEHN: Yes.
17      MS. GOVER: Ms. Henn?
18      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Yes.
19      MS. GOVER: Thank you.
20      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: The motion carries.
21 Thank you.

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1      MR. THOMAS: Ms. Henn, can the record
2 please reflect that I have an opinion vote in
3 support?
4      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Mr. Brousaides? Okay.
5      MR. THOMAS: Thank you.
6      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Okay, and next I
7 believe, Ms. Jose, do you have a motion,
8 Ms. Jose?
9      MS. JOSE: Yes, thank you. I just put
10 it in the chat. I move to amend the FY-23
11 operating budget and add funding for one FTE to
12 be designated as a coordinator of student
13 activities position to oversee student
14 extracurricular activities and enhance student
15 leadership, with the superintendent assigning an
16 appropriate amount of funding for this position.
17      MS. SCOTT: Second.
18      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Okay, and who was the
19 second, Ms. Scott?
20      MS. SCOTT: Yes.
21      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Okay, thank you.

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1 Ms. Jose, would you like to speak to your motion?
2      MS. JOSE: No, in the interest of time,
3 I'll pass.
4      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Scott, would you
5 like to speak to your second?
6      MS. SCOTT: No, I think the motion
7 speaks for itself.
8      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Okay. Any discussion?
9 Ms. Rowe?
10      MS. ROWE: It's unclear to me
11 specifically what this position would do, what
12 level this position would be, what salary level
13 the position would be, how this position
14 objectives are fulfilled now and why we need it.
15 I mean, if someone could address all those
16 questions, that would be great.
17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Jose, would you
18 like to respond?
19      MS. JOSE: I could certainly. What is
20 her question?
21      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Rowe, could you --

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1  MS. JOSE:  It's to create a position
2  that would oversee student extracurricular
3  activities and expand the systemwide student
4  engagement activities to help foster
5  student-based extracurricular EDAs, and the
6  potential tasks might include conducting focus
7  groups to gather input from direct stakeholders,
8  analyzing effective programs of student and adult
9  learning based on successful implementation of
10  activities, assess needs for student leadership,
11  student service learning and volunteer
12  programming.  Amongst many specific goals might
13  be expanding organizations outside of student
14  council, student GSA, region wide student
15  activity and advocacy groups, including
16  increasing student engagement with the Board,
17  working with the Baltimore County Student Council
18  to increase participation for engaging with the
19  Board as well.
20       So how much would that cost, I think
21  that's an operational question.  I believe it was

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1  a ballpark figure, Dr. Williams, you can correct,
2  between 80,000 to 100-some thousand.  It's
3  similar to something that was developed in the
4  ESOL office, if you could verify that, it's
5  operational.
6       DR. WILLIAMS:  So I'll, we responded to
7  that question, and Mr. Tantleff, what was that
8  figure?
9       MR. TANTLEFF:  Sure, that's probably a
10  good salary range, plus about $30,000 in
11  benefits.  It matters that, you know, the final
12  classification of the position, whether it's a
13  coordinator seniority or just someone that
14  coordinates that may be more junior.  For the
15  coordinator seniority would typically have people
16  reporting to them, so those details would need to
17  be worked out.
18       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Rowe?
19       MS. ROWE:  Are these responsibilities,
20  how are they fulfilled within our school system
21  now?  It looks like Mr. Thomas wants to answer

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1  the question.
2       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Well, I'd like
3  Dr. Williams to respond to that, and then I'll
4  come to Mr. Thomas for his comments.
5       DR. WILLIAMS:  Well, we'll say there is
6  no position for the system, we have something
7  similar where the individual is working with our
8  student council, Baltimore County Student Council
9  and the junior council, so another position to
10  look at extracurricular activities that would be
11  happening in our schools, the coordination.
12  Potentially that individual of this new position
13  and the person in the current position dealing
14  with student leadership will work as a team.
15  I've had discussions with Mr. Thomas about this.
16  When we were talking about the budget, he shared
17  some information about another system that I'm
18  fondly familiar with that has this position, and
19  that they work across many levels and many areas
20  to support student engagement, and so I'll just
21  offer that.  So we don't have this specific

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1  position, but we have someone who has been
2  working with our student council and our junior
3  student council working on student leadership, so
4  this would be an enhancement to probably an area
5  that we could do some improvement in getting our
6  students involved and to monitor the data, how
7  many students are involved, and encouraging
8  communication to get more students involved in
9  school activities.
10       MS. ROWE:  So would this be an active
11  liaison also with community events or
12  extracurricular activities, so like not public
13  school sponsored community activities or
14  recreation?  So like for instance, does the
15  liaison work with the county government to
16  institute PAL center programs in schools if
17  there's no PAL center, is it something like that,
18  or is this strictly for only school sponsored
19  activities?
20       DR. WILLIAMS:  I think as we're building
21  it we should start with school sponsored, but I

1 will yield to Mr. Thomas if he wants to add any
2 additional information. Again, we're in
3 discussions, we don't have a finalized job
4 description, that's why the budget gave a rough
5 estimate of the range of salaries, but this is
6 something we could actually utilize and work, and
7 so it could be a possibility as we're looking at
8 other duties to get more students involved in
9 extracurricular activities. But I would, Madam
10 Chair, I would yield to Mr. Thomas.
11     CHAIRMAN HENN: One quick question, and
12 I know you're chomping at the bit, Mr. Thomas, so
13 I promise I'll turn it over. Dr. Williams, did
14 you mention where this position would reside
15 within the organization?
16     DR. WILLIAMS: I did not.
17     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Would you mind, do you
18 have an idea?
19     DR. WILLIAMS: Not at this time, I do
20 not.
21     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Not at this time,

1 thank you, fair enough. Mr. Thomas?
2     MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Ms. Henn, and
3 thank you, Ms. Rowe, for your questions, thank
4 you all, thank you, Ms. Jose, for making this
5 motion. It's something I've been very passionate
6 about for a while now, and a lot of this is
7 coming directly from Montgomery County Public
8 Schools and their position. The main reason for
9 this is that we have one FTE right now in our
10 Office of Family and Community Engagement, one
11 program specialist who on top of their duties as
12 a program specialist is overseeing Baltimore
13 County Student Councils and Baltimore County
14 Junior Councils, but those are, those can be
15 exclusive groups at times, not every student is a
16 part of Baltimore County Student Councils and
17 Baltimore County Junior Councils, and not every
18 student can be a part of those groups.
19     So this position is really trying to
20 engage so many more. I mean, in Montgomery
21 County they have like 14 other region wide groups

1 that are dedicated to students organizing,
2 students advocating before the Board, students
3 hosting volunteer events, and that's something
4 that I envision in the long term for BCPS to
5 have. But in order to have that we need the
6 infrastructure, and this is the first step in
7 creating that infrastructure, providing support
8 to our current program specialist who quite
9 frankly is so overworked in the duties that she
10 has right now.
11     So I am excited about this, I hope that
12 this will pass, and just looking back to our
13 equity committee meeting we had on Thursday, we
14 talked about GSAs in our school but not every
15 school has a GSA and that was a claim as to how
16 we're being inclusive to LGBQT+ students. So we
17 need a position like this to look at all of our
18 schools to see what we have, what we don't have,
19 to look at the data, it's so necessary and I
20 think it would really improve our school system
21 and it's something that I wish that I had had

1 when I was starting my student leadership
2 journey, and I hope that other students who come
3 after me in BCPS and who are in BCPS now will be
4 able to have this to enhance their experience,
5 and maybe even make it to this spot here one day.
6 Thank you.
7     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Other comments or
8 questions? Dr. Hager, did you have a comment or
9 a question?
10     DR. HAGER: It may have just been
11 answered. The person who oversees the student
12 council activities, is that full time or is that
13 a portion of their job? Do they do other things?
14     DR. WILLIAMS: They do other things.
15     DR. HAGER: I really like this idea
16 personally, and it gets my support. Thank you.
17     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Mr. Kuehn?
18     MR. KUEHN: Great. I just wanted to say
19 that I don't have any objection really to this, I
20 just want to clarify, and I think, Mr. Thomas,
21 you clarified it somewhat. This position is

1  focused on basically systemwide type activities,

2  because my understanding is there's a tremendous

3  number of extracurriculars, we've got sports,

4  music, academic, you know, type extracurricular

5  activities of all sorts at schools.  But what I'm

6  hearing about this, this is kind of an

7  overarching, like when you're talking about

8  councils, right, that are across the system, I

9  just want to make sure we're clear as to what

10 we're focused on here, because I believe that at

11 every school there are different people assigned

12 to provide support for extracurriculars, and I

13 don't want to get confused, I want to be very

14 clear as to what we're talking about.

15       MR. THOMAS:  I can respond, of course.

16 So I think it could be a combination of both of

17 those positions.  I mean having a systemwide

18 group, trying to foster and create those, while

19 also being able to support the EDAs we have in

20 our schools, the staff members that are the EDAs

21 in our school system who are helping with our

1  events, who are making sure that we are having

2  our extra activities in our schools, kind of more

3  robust and enhancing them all together.  So I

4  think it's a combination of both, and I think

5  it's something that Dr. Williams would have the

6  flexibility to be able to determine when he's

7  creating a position for this around seeking out

8  candidates to fill this position.  Does that

9  answer your question fully?

10       MR. KUEHN:  It does, thank you.  I would

11 kind of leave it to Dr. Williams, you know, this

12 position, it sounds like we could definitely use

13 it, we could definitely use more people in all

14 sorts of places, and we want our children to grow

15 and have lots of opportunity to do things, so I

16 don't have a problem with this addition

17 whatsoever, I just want to make sure that we're

18 clear, because I know at the schoolhouse that's

19 where all the real work happens and that's where

20 all the kids are and the students, and they're

21 focused on activities there.  I do like the

1  ability to go outside of that and go across the

2  system, and it sounds like that's exactly what

3  this focuses on, cross-system work,

4  extracurricular work.  Is that your

5  understanding, Dr. Williams?

6       DR. WILLIAMS:  That is my understanding,

7  and you can liken it to, we have an athletic

8  director at our schools and we have an athletic

9  coordinator, right, so it is to look at not only

10 individual schools but across the system, those

11 are the conversations I had with Mr. Thomas.

12       MR. KUEHN:  Thank you.

13       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, Mr. Kuehn,

14 for your questions.  I had similar ones and also

15 wanted to ask about that.  There are two needs

16 that -- I support this motion and thank you to

17 those that brought it up, Mr. Thomas, Ms. Jose.

18       The two needs that come to mind, one,

19 when schools closed when COVID hit, I was very

20 interested in the continuity of extracurriculars,

21 which seemed to be a sore spot and something that

1  we struggled with for lack of resources to insure

2  that that happened, and in trying to maintain

3  that continuity for students remotely to continue

4  with their extracurriculars.  And we had

5  resources for athletics but we didn't seem to

6  have the same level of support for other

7  extracurriculars.

8       The second being support at the school

9  level on various needs, whether it be technical

10 support for robotics or STEM clubs or whatever

11 the case may be, to have that liaison back to the

12 central office to be able to support those

13 extracurricular coordinators is a huge need that

14 we don't seem to be adequately supporting right

15 now.  So I am in support of this motion, I hope

16 that that's part of the vision for the position

17 because I don't know that one person can do it

18 but it's a start, so I will be supporting this

19 motion, thank you.

20       Mr. McMillion?

21       VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Dr. Williams, I

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1  have two questions.  Do middle school and high
2  school advisors to student government receive
3  stipends?
4          DR. WILLIAMS:  So, I believe there's an
5  EDA for those positions.
6          VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Okay.  And did I
7  hear you mention, is there a position right now
8  that oversees all the middle school student
9  governments and all the high school governments?
10         DR. WILLIAMS:  So a part of our program
11 specialist's job, she is not only doing outreach
12 but she's also helping to coordinate the will or
13 the actions of our junior council and our student
14 council, and so actually she does a very good job
15 with managing all the different responsibilities,
16 but this would be enhancing.  We're a large
17 system with over 110,000 students and there's
18 interest of our students to be involved.  So we
19 currently have someone that's a part of their
20 job.  I think this would enhance and provide the
21 needed support.

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1          VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Thank you.
2          DR. WILLIAMS:  You're welcome.
3          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Thomas?
4          MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  Just one last
5  thing.  I recently held a small town hall with
6  regard to student activities and extracurricular
7  activities, and this is one of the biggest
8  things, having the infrastructure to create these
9  things, having the support to have enhanced
10 student government, have enhanced clubs in our
11 schools, having region-wide programming for
12 students.  So this had wide support from the
13 students in that town hall, it's had wide support
14 from all the other students I've talked to,
15 especially in my school visits to schools that
16 don't have access to as many extracurricular
17 activities.  Thank you.
18         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any other
19 discussion before we call a vote?  Okay.  May we
20 have a rollcall vote please?
21         MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

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1          MS. ROWE:  Yes.
2          MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?
3          MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.
4          MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?
5          MS. MACK:  Yes.
6          MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?
7          MS. JOSE:  Yes.
8          MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?
9          VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.
10         MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?
11         MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.
12         MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?
13         MS. SCOTT:  Yes.
14         MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?
15         DR. HAGER:  Yes.
16         MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?
17         MR. KUEHN:  Yes.
18         MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?
19         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.
20         MS. GOVER:  Thank you.
21         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The motion carries.

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1  Mr. Thomas?
2          MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  I'd like for
3  the record to reflect that I have an opinion vote
4  in support of this motion, thank you.
5          CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Rowe,
6  I believe you were next.
7          MS. ROWE:  I have a motion that I'm
8  putting in the chat.  And if I may, I'll read the
9  motion and speak to it all at once.  I move that
10 the Board of Education require that the final
11 county approved transportation allocated be
12 utilized in whole or in part to begin a process
13 to outsource all student transportation
14 operations and services to a vendor who will take
15 over our entire student transportation operation,
16 provided the vendor will also absorb, comply with
17 and negotiate with BCPS bargaining units, absorb
18 all employees at current pay and benefits or
19 better, and take into account the absorption of
20 all student transportation related assets
21 excluding real estate as part of the agreement.

1 There are multiple --

2 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Before you speak to it

3 we need a second.

4 MS. ROWE: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 MS. CAUSEY: Second, for discussion.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Okay, go ahead.

7 MS. ROWE: There are multiple

8 educational equity issues that our stakeholders

9 have expressed an interest in pursuing. However,

10 our decades long --

11 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Is the motion in the

12 chat?

13 MS. ROWE: It is.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: We don't see it.

15 MS. ROWE: Oh, hang on, I didn't push

16 send. Okay. I'm sorry.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.

18 MS. ROWE: Okay. Can I speak now or

19 should I wait?

20 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Yes, please go ahead.

21 MS. ROWE: Okay. There are multiple

1 educational equity issues that our stakeholders

2 have expressed an interest in pursuing. However,

3 our decades long persistent inability to supply

4 adequate transportation to all students prevents

5 us from providing equitable transportation access

6 for sports and after school activities, adjusting

7 school start times, special education

8 transportation for all eligible students and

9 supplying transportation capacity for more than

10 80 percent of eligible students such that parents

11 don't need to drive their children to school to

12 get them there in time for breakfast.

13 Additionally, there are multiple

14 problems which have come out in meetings, the

15 efficiency review and MDOT investigation of

16 buses. 18 percent of our buses failed

17 inspections. We have a massive driver shortage

18 of over 100 drivers and already utilize some

19 piecemeal contract driver services for 18 percent

20 of our routes. Our maintenance facilities are

21 inadequate for vehicle maintenance and apparently

1 some don't have running water.

2 The ransomware attack has left --

3 MS. SCOTT: Point of clarification.

4 MS. ROWE: -- us without adequate

5 software such that we are literally rebuilding

6 our transportation infrastructure. We don't even

7 have people to answer the phone or communicate

8 with schools and parents because the routing

9 employees end up in buses driving on a routine

10 basis. The situation is so bad that the best

11 anyone could come up with was a stop arm contract

12 that would give us the software launch free in

13 exchange for a camera fining system attached to

14 buses from a company that the Montgomery County

15 Inspector General found has a history of bribing

16 public officials in order to get contracts.

17 If we are this desperate and this

18 underwater financially and we will never catch

19 up, then we need the services of one of the many

20 companies one can meet -- thank you.

21 MS. JOSE: Point of clarification,

1 Ms. Henn.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Rowe is speaking

3 to her motion, Ms. Jose.

4 MS. JOSE: But this is not a motion. I

5 would like clarification from counsel.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Rowe's time just

7 expired. She made her motion and then I called

8 on her to speak to her motion.

9 MS. JOSE: I call for a point of

10 clarification from legal counsel.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: What is your point of

12 clarification?

13 MS. JOSE: That this is not a motion,

14 this was a long and rambling --

15 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: That was not her

16 motion. Her motion --

17 MS. JOSE: She said I move, that is a

18 motion, I move that the Board of Education

19 require that the final approved transportation,

20 that's written in there, so was she talking to

21 her motion or was that the motion? I'm not clear

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1 because this motion was not sent to us.

2      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Neither was yours,

3 Ms. Jose.  Her motion is in the chat and she

4 spoke to it.  Was that your comment or question,

5 or do you have an additional question or comment?

6      MS. JOSE:  I do have an additional

7 question.  Ms. Rowe's motion is like Ms. Rowe is

8 intending to I guess abolish the transportation

9 department for Baltimore County Public Schools,

10 is that the intent of this motion, to get rid of

11 the transportation department as a whole?

12      MS. ROWE:  Yes.

13      MS. JOSE:  Okay, and then this requires

14 vendor services, so how are we going to take --

15 you know, this requires an RFP to go out if we

16 were to abolish 800 buses that we have, and we

17 have, I don't know, Dr. Williams, if you could

18 clarify, how many staff work in our

19 transportation department?

20      This is actually a huge fiscal impact,

21 budget impact, policy impact and equity impact if

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1 you're just doing something.  To me that's like

2 going into an ICU and plugging up all of the life

3 support services without knowing what is

4 connected to what.  This is not a motion that one

5 would just spring up in the middle of the night

6 at nine o'clock without the Board having time to

7 absorb it.  This is something that you deliberate

8 over, you consult with the superintendent, give

9 him the respect, and not just abolish a whole

10 department.

11      Dr. Williams, how many staff are

12 employed by the transportation department?  And

13 we have AFSCME that would also be -- I don't know

14 how many things you would be breaking in terms of

15 policies and agreements that we have, so I think

16 this motion is a moot point, it's out of order,

17 but you know, I'm going to leave it to other

18 board members and Dr. Williams can clarify.  I

19 just think it's miserable.

20      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  So Ms. Jose,

21 Dr. Williams will respond, but I'll call whether

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1 it's out of order or not, and the motion is on

2 the floor so board members, it has a second for

3 discussion, so I will allow discussion on it.

4 But I'll allow Dr. Williams to respond to your

5 question regarding staff.

6      MS. JOSE:  Most appreciated, thank you.

7      DR. WILLIAMS:  Do we have that,

8 Mr. Hartlove?

9      MR. HARTLOVE:  Yes, we have

10 approximately 1,200 staff in the transportation

11 area.  Most of those are support staff, we have

12 32 professional staff.

13      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

14      MS. JOSE:  So this motion would

15 essentially just abolish 1,200 people out of

16 their jobs.  Great, wow, okay, good job.

17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Scott,

18 I believe you were next.

19      MS. SCOTT:  Yes, thank you.  That's most

20 concerning what Ms. Jose just said, abolishing

21 1,200 people out of their jobs.  This severely

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1 goes into, again, operations, and again, I just

2 want to say these last minute motions that are

3 spring on the Board --

4      MS. CAUSEY:  Madam Chair, I'd like to

5 call a point of order, decorum please.

6      MS. SCOTT:  Excuse me, point of order,

7 I'm still speaking.  These last minute motions

8 that are sprung on the Board without having been

9 brought in advance so that we could have time to

10 look at them, that are cost impacting to the

11 system, I believe are disrespectful.

12      MS. CAUSEY:  Madam Chair, I again would

13 call a point of order for decorum.

14      MS. SCOTT:  Excuse me.  I am being

15 interrupted as no other board members have been.

16 I've been interrupted, I've been maligned, I'm

17 the only black woman on this Board and I am the

18 only one that has been interrupted and attacked.

19      MR. BROUSAIDES:  There's a point of

20 order before the chair.

21      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Scott, there's a

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1 point of order. Ms. Causey, please state your
2 point of order.
3      MS. CAUSEY: According to the Board of
4 Education of Baltimore County Board Principles, I
5 will center my equity -- I will center equity in
6 my work as a board member, recognizing the need
7 to acknowledge the system inequities that persist
8 for historically underserved student populations.
9 I will treat each board member respectfully,
10 recognizing that we are being watched by
11 students, staff and our community, and have a
12 responsibility to model appropriate behavior
13 and --
14      MS. SCOTT: Point of order.
15      MS. CAUSEY: -- conduct during our
16 meetings. I will listen with an open mind and
17 demonstrate flexibility and creativity in seeking
18 solutions. I will listen to all board members'
19 expression of ideas including --
20      MS. SCOTT: Wait a minute.
21 Mr. Brousaides.

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1      MS. CAUSEY: -- and especially those in
2 opposition to mine, with an open mind and with
3 the expectation that every board member holds the
4 best of intentions with student success as the
5 goal.
6      MS. SCOTT: May I make a point of order
7 as well?
8      MS. JOSE: Point of order.
9 Mr. Brousaides is legal counsel and --
10      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Scott and
11 Ms. Jose --
12      MR. BROUSAIDES: Right now it's
13 appropriate for the chair to rule on the point of
14 order.
15      MS. SCOTT: Okay. I raised a point of
16 order that --
17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you,
18 Mr. Brousaides. Ms. Scott, I need to rule on
19 Ms. Causey's point of order first and then you
20 may make yours.
21      So I uphold Mrs. Causey's point of

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1 order. We will speak one at a time and follow
2 our own board principles in doing so.
3      Ms. Scott, would you like to make your
4 point of order?
5      MS. SCOTT: I most certainly would,
6 because I was the one directed and led us in
7 passing the civility code, and I find it
8 completely egregious that Ms. Causey is raising a
9 point of order when she has been most
10 disrespectful to me as a board member. And I
11 would like to raise, in our efficiency review,
12 one of the things that was said was that this
13 board is not professional, does not listen to the
14 viewpoints of others.
15      And I would just like to say, I was just
16 stating that it's important for us to be able to
17 have these motions in advance so that we can
18 properly review them, so that we can look at them
19 and give them the appropriate amount of time that
20 is necessary. And for Ms. Causey to disrespect
21 me continually, as she has continued to do and

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1 has been most egregious in that manner is most
2 abhorrent, and I find it completely
3 disrespectful. So what I'm saying is, and
4 Mr. Brousaides, I would really like you to
5 replace my time back, because I was interrupted.
6      What I was stating was that I find long
7 drawn out motions that are cost impacting that
8 board members have not had time to thoroughly
9 review and look at to be most egregious and to be
10 most offensive. And to raise a point of order
11 for clarification when I am trying to understand
12 a motion that is cost impacting and costing
13 people jobs and costing money to the system, that
14 I have not had 24 hours in advance to review, and
15 to raise a point of order around that, to be most
16 offensive, and I'm done. Thank you.
17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you, Ms. Scott.
18 Ms. Causey, I'm calling on -- we're back to the
19 issue on the floor, Ms. Rowe's motion, and I'm
20 calling on board members in order, so we're back
21 to that order of business.

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1  MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you.

2  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Okay.

3  Mr. Offerman, you have been waiting patiently.

4  Please go ahead, sir.

5  MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.  This is a

6  discussion of the budget for 2023, correct?

7  Ms. Rowe, what will be the financial impact of

8  this, if it is passed?

9  MS. ROWE:  A vendor would have to be

10  hired that would absorb our entire transportation

11  department and all of our employees and

12  bargaining unit agreements, so that our entire

13  student transportation operation would then be

14  taken over by them, so that has a fiscal impact,

15  and the motion asks for whatever the final

16  approved budget is, for the money that is

17  allocated to transportation to be used in whole

18  or in part to begin that process.

19  MR. OFFERMAN:  So you have no actual

20  number, correct, of what it's going to cost us;

21  is that correct?

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1  MS. ROWE:  The number would have to

2  be --

3  MR. OFFERMAN:  No, I asked if you have a

4  number, yes or no?

5  MS. ROWE:  Several vendors have --

6  MR. OFFERMAN:  Do you have a number, yes

7  or no?

8  MS. ROWE:  Mr. Sarris, what is the cost

9  of our current transportation department?

10  MR. OFFERMAN:  I'm not asking him that,

11  I'm asking you if you have a number.

12  MS. ROWE:  That's the number.

13  MR. OFFERMAN:  You're proposing a budget

14  change, okay, and all the other budget changes we

15  have, before we vote on them --

16  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Excuse me.  You can

17  address the chair if you have questions or

18  concerns about Ms. Rowe's --

19  MR. OFFERMAN:  I just -- I cannot

20  support a motion that doesn't have a budget

21  number on it.  This is a budget discussion, okay?

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1  And I think it is now, for anybody on this Board,

2  would be very very premature without an accurate

3  study on the impact of all kinds of factors

4  involved.  That's my opinion, thank you.

5  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Let's see,

6  I believe Mr. Thomas had a comment or question.

7  MR. THOMAS:  Thank you, yes.  So

8  Ms. Rowe, or sorry, Ms. Henn, can Ms. Rowe please

9  explain what is the intent behind this, just in

10  plain information, because I'm really having a

11  hard time understanding so if she could explain

12  what the intent of this is.

13  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Rowe,

14  would you please summarize your motion?

15  MS. ROWE:  Yes.  The intent is to

16  completely outsource our transportation

17  department, which has been proven through other

18  school systems to be more cost effective and more

19  operationally effective.  And as our operations

20  couldn't possibly be further in the toilet, I

21  don't see how it could get worse by doing this.

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1  MR. THOMAS:  Okay.  And have you talked

2  with staff to discuss this, with Dr. Grim, with

3  Dr. Williams, any staff members in a discussion

4  about this motion?

5  MS. ROWE:  No.

6  MR. THOMAS:  So then, this is pretty

7  premature, I think I need so more information, we

8  don't even know if there's going to be a vendor

9  available to purchase everything, we don't have

10  any information about this, so I'm not going to

11  support this.  And I don't even know what the

12  impact of outsourcing is, I don't know if it's

13  beneficial really in terms of our budget.  So

14  there are so many unanswered questions, so I

15  would love to have more information, maybe the

16  next school year's budget this could be brought

17  up again or discussed.  I think there's so much

18  information lacking before we can make this big a

19  decision, so I don't support this and I will be

20  stating in my opinion vote that I do not support

21  this.  Thank you.

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1  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Mr. Kuehn
2  and then Ms. Causey.
3  MR. KUEHN: Thank you. Although I
4  applaud Ms. Rowe's attempt to address the
5  transportation issues that we've had via the
6  budget process, I cannot support this motion at
7  this point in time, so I just wanted to put that
8  on the record. I do agree that there will be
9  substantial work associated with trying to do
10 something like this, and I would like to move the
11 question.
12 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Is there a second? No
13 second is required, thank you. Oh, you do need a
14 second.
15 DR. HAGER: I'll second, Dr. Hager.
16 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you, Dr. Hager.
17 It's not debatable, so may we have a rollcall
18 vote?
19 MS. GOVER: Ms. Rowe?
20 MS. ROWE: No.
21 MS. GOVER: Ms. Causey?

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1  MS. CAUSEY: No.
2  MS. GOVER: Ms. Mack?
3  MS. MACK: Yes.
4  MS. GOVER: Ms. Jose?
5  MS. JOSE: Yes.
6  MS. GOVER: Mr. McMillion?
7  VICE CHAIR MCMILLION: Yes.
8  MS. GOVER: Mr. Offerman?
9  MR. OFFERMAN: Yes.
10 MS. GOVER: Ms. Scott?
11 MS. SCOTT: Yes.
12 MS. GOVER: Dr. Hager?
13 DR. HAGER: Yes.
14 MS. GOVER: Mr. Kuehn?
15 MR. KUEHN: Yes.
16 MS. GOVER: Ms. Henn?
17 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: No.
18 MS. GOVER: In favor is seven.
19 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Eight are required to
20 move the question, so it did not pass, this
21 debate will continue.

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1  MR. THOMAS: Ms. Henn?
2  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Yes?
3  MR. THOMAS: I would like my opinion
4  vote to reflect that if I was given a vote I
5  would have voted yes, thank you, to moving the
6  question. Thank you.
7  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Mrs. Causey was next.
8  MS. CAUSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
9  I'm going to reread the first part of the motion,
10 I move that the Board of Education require that
11 the final county approved transportation
12 allocation be utilized in whole or in part to
13 begin a process to outsource all student
14 transportation operations and services to a
15 vendor who will take over our entire student
16 transportation operation.
17 Then I'm going to scroll down and read,
18 speak to that. If we are this desperate in this
19 sense of order financially then we will never
20 catch up and we need the services of one of the
21 many companies one can meet at any National

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1  School Board Association conference capable of
2  taking over our entire operations at our current
3  or similar costs without any penalty to current
4  staff as they would become employees of that
5  company. They would also upgrade all the
6  transportation infrastructure they take over.
7  It's time to do what Howard County and other
8  counties are doing and admit we need to focus on
9  the core mission of academic achievement and stop
10 spinning our wheels literally in the mud over
11 something we are really not effective at and that
12 can cost effectively be outsourced.
13 This would also free up a significant
14 amount of HR hours which the efficiency review
15 also said we don't have enough staff hours to
16 fulfill those needs. Let's outsource all student
17 transportation and let student transportation
18 experts handle student transportation so we can
19 focus on education. And I would just point out
20 that in 2015 the Office of Legislative Audits had
21 a finding that the transportation department had

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1 not utilized routing software.  In 2020 the
2 Office of Legislative Audit had the repeat
3 finding, and we've heard recently that we still
4 don't have routing software that's effectively
5 placed.
6      So while that seems like a very bold
7 move, it actually can be incremental and there
8 are other school districts that do that, and I
9 think it's important that we focus on the
10 education, the things that we do well that we
11 need to do better, and I, so I'll be supporting
12 it, but I would think we might be open to a
13 motion to amend it to a certain dollar amount.
14      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
15 Mr. Thomas?
16      MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  I think that we
17 should definitely look into outsourcing our
18 transportation, definitely look into this, but I
19 don't think it should be in the budget.  I think
20 if we at the next board meeting could make a
21 motion to have a study conducted on this or a

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1 presentation on this matter, that would be great,
2 I would support that, but again, this is our
3 operating budget for right now and there's just
4 not enough information.
5      Also, talking about routing software, I
6 mean going back to the conversation we had about
7 the previous contract, there are things we could
8 have done about that now.  So again, I'm not
9 going to support this and I hope that we can
10 continue this conversation, because I do think
11 it's a conversation we should be having, but I
12 don't necessarily know if I'm in support of it
13 just yet, so thank you.
14      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
15 Dr. Williams?
16      DR. WILLIAMS:  I just want to bring to
17 the Board's attention, if you look on page 216
18 you will see under business services the number
19 of professional staff and support staff and it
20 may answer your question, it will answer your
21 question about the number of FTEs, it will answer

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1 the number of the amounts that we pay.
2      I will also caution the Board, it is
3 March, we have summer school, we have activities
4 that happen in June and July, and think about
5 what you're asking with a quick turnaround to
6 transport students that will continue during the
7 summer.  This motion, I will voice my opinion,
8 I'm very concerned about this motion, I'm very
9 concerned about what we've done with our bus
10 drivers in trying to secure additional bus
11 drivers and paying them extra, giving them a
12 retention bonus, looking at recruitment, and then
13 to go outsource all of them, I think that
14 message, there's a message that you're providing
15 to our bus drivers, and everyone who's working in
16 transportation.
17      MR. BROUSAIDES:  Mrs. Henn?
18      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes?
19      MR. BROUSAIDES:  If I may just add,
20 without having pored over the collective
21 bargaining agreement with the applicable

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1 employees here, I think I could safely go out on
2 a limb and say that there would likely be some
3 provisions in it that would make it very
4 difficult for the Board to enforce going forward
5 with something like this if the Board voted to do
6 so.
7      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Given the current
8 agreements?
9      MR. BROUSAIDES:  Yes.
10      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  So,
11 Ms. Jose?
12      MS. JOSE:  Thank you.  If this is
13 something this Board would choose to do the
14 proper thing if people had, you know,
15 professional experience, would be to go to the
16 superintendent, call for a study on
17 implementation, impacts, cost efficiency, before
18 we make such a huge decision.
19      We had an opportunity to get a zero
20 dollar contract between Baltimore County Police
21 Department and Baltimore County Government to get

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1 routing software, this Board rejected it. This
2 is going into operations. This will be used as
3 an example by other school system boards on what
4 not to do. And what's to say that this Board
5 will not reject the vendor that comes in?
6 Besides the fact that we will be breaking all
7 kinds of negotiating bargaining units and getting
8 1,200 people out of a job and dismantling the
9 entire transportation department and setting
10 forth into motion possibly a disaster in the
11 making. Thank you.
12     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Ms. Scott?
13     MS. SCOTT: Yes, thank you, Ms. Henn.
14 It's concerning that we would be doing something
15 that would be employee impacting, taking jobs
16 away from hard working BCPS employees is very
17 concerning. This motion is cost impacting to the
18 system and also, I have to keep saying it, it
19 goes to operations, which in our Public Works
20 operational efficiency review, it was stated that
21 the Board goes into operations, which we should

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1 not be doing.
2     And also lastly, I would say it's also
3 cost impacting. So for this and many other
4 reasons, I will not be supporting it. And I
5 think it's of concern that this was not sent to
6 us in advance so it could be properly vetted and
7 reviewed, and I'm seeing a pattern here that we
8 are having motion upon motion just sprung on us
9 at the last minute that are cost impacting,
10 employee impacting, that we are not given the
11 proper amount of time to properly review and vet,
12 and that's most concerning. Thank you.
13     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Any other
14 comments on this motion before we vote?
15 Mr. McMillion?
16     VICE CHAIR MCMILLION: Is transportation
17 broken? I think it is. However, I think the
18 transportation leadership is doing an outstanding
19 job of trying to fix it. We're the 25th largest
20 school system in the country, we transport
21 somewhere between I think it's 75 and 80,000

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1 students a day. A smaller school system that has
2 ten or 20 or 30,000 students, this might be
3 really functional for them, but a system our
4 size, I can't imagine -- I'm really curious. Out
5 of 25 school systems, 24 above us, how many
6 actually farm out all, contract out all their
7 transportation?
8     This is a mega mega mega operation and I
9 just can't support this as it is now, and I'd
10 like to see some more research and see maybe a
11 presentation on this topic. I'm not saying we
12 don't discuss it, but I just think that I can't
13 support this presently. Thank you.
14     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. I would
15 like to comment on this as well. I agree with
16 Mr. McMillion in that we've got real issues. I
17 think, I don't know that there's anyone on this
18 Board that would disagree with that statement,
19 and I hope that those listening hear that, that
20 this Board is very concerned about our ability to
21 deliver our students safely, reliably,

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1 efficiently, that that's the message that we take
2 away no matter how this vote goes, and that we
3 have to address those.
4     I would like to see the experts brought
5 in not to take over transportation but to tell us
6 how we can improve, seriously improve, because we
7 need to know and have the wisdom to know when to
8 ask for help, and I think this discussion here
9 tonight is, what more proof do we need to say we
10 need help? And I would support a study, I would
11 support bringing in experts not to outsource, but
12 to say here's what you can do better and
13 differently, and for this Board to provide
14 funding to be able to do that, to bring in
15 experts to say here's what we can do to help you,
16 and Board, here's what they need, because we all
17 want to provide what we need to be able to do
18 this better, so I'll leave it at that.
19     With that, Ms. Gover, may we have a
20 rollcall vote on the motion?
21     MS. GOVER: Ms. Rowe?

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1    MS. ROWE:  Yes.

2    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

3    MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

4    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

5    MS. MACK:  No.

6    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?  Ms. Jose?

7    MS. JOSE:  No.

8    MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

9    VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  No.

10    MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

11    MR. OFFERMAN:  No.

12    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?

13    MS. SCOTT:  No.

14    MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

15    DR. HAGER:  No.

16    MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

17    MR. KUEHN:  No.

18    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

19    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  No.

20    MS. GOVER:  Thank you.

21    CHAIRMAN HENN:  Thank you, the motion

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1  fails.

2    MR. THOMAS:  Ms. Henn?

3    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Thomas?

4    MR. THOMAS:  Yes.  I would like my

5  opinion vote for the record to be denoted as no.

6  Thank you.

7    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Dr. Hager?

8    DR. HAGER:  I also have a motion, I sent

9  it two weeks ago and we decided to postpone it to

10  this meeting.  I move to add to the budget a

11  $1,000 stipend for one teacher or staff member

12  per school to lead their school level wellness

13  team, also known as a wellness liaison, in

14  support of Policy 5470, which is our wellness

15  policy, which states that each principal shall

16  ensure their school complies with the wellness

17  policy by appointing a wellness liaison.

18    MS. CAUSEY:  Second, Ms. Causey.

19    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Would you

20  like to speak to your motion?

21    DR. HAGER:  Sure, I sent some rationale

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1  by email, but basically wellness health has been

2  required by the federal government since 2006,

3  and specifically there's a big focus on the

4  implementation of these wellness policies, in our

5  2021 tri-annual assessment which was due to the

6  USDA, we actually said that we would plan for

7  every school to have a wellness liaison.  And so

8  this is essentially an unfunded mandate right

9  now, teachers are not paid for this position,

10  it's not specified in the TABCO list of ways the

11  teachers are paid for extracurricular activities.

12  But it is a best practice, and I believe that

13  it's not fair to ask school teachers or other

14  staff to take on an unfunded mandate.  And so,

15  the $1,000 essentially aligns with the lowest

16  possible TABCO scale for clubs or coaches.  I

17  would eventually love to see this included as an

18  actual TABCO club that's specified in the

19  agreement.  And in my email I included Dr., or

20  Mr. Sarris on different ways that we could

21  essentially use the funds in the operating

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1  budgets to pay for it, so thank you.

2    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mrs. Causey?

3    MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you.  I'm really glad

4  that this motion was made.  I want to point out

5  that in February of 2019 the Board voted to

6  approve 15 minutes extra a day to recess for all

7  elementary students but we were, did not get the

8  funding for the 15 minutes that year, so that did

9  not get implemented.  But what we know is that

10  our students do need more focus on their health,

11  well roundedness.  I would also like to add that

12  the, in that same BCPS school day task force

13  recommendations was a recommendation to have

14  healthy start times, which is flipping the start

15  times of the secondary schools to later and the

16  elementary schools to earlier.  That

17  recommendation was not, it was requested by staff

18  that the Board not approve that recommendation

19  because transportation was a limiting factor.  So

20  perhaps one focus of these wellness groups can be

21  to really look at that, how can that be

1 implemented for our students, because it's well

2 researched and a lot of science behind that.

3 And the other issue is our students have

4 really been in a hard spot with the pandemic, and

5 so wellness is taking on a lot of meaning, not

6 just physical but also mental, social-emotional,

7 and so I think this motion is right on time for

8 what our students need and what our system needs.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Ms. Jose?

10 MS. JOSE: Thank you. Dr. Williams, or

11 maybe this question is to Dr. McComas, all of our

12 schools currently do have some kind of health

13 wellness teachers, coordinators, because we do

14 have different programs I believe after school,

15 you know, writing programs, whether it's chess

16 club, whether it's robotics, whether it's some

17 kind of physical activity that's going on, and so

18 how is it any different? I want to understand

19 what is different from what we currently have in

20 place.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Dr. Williams stepped

1 out. Dr. McComas, do you want to --

2 DR. HAGER: Dr. Zarchin helps with the

3 school health council.

4 MS. JOSE: Yes, Dr. Zarchin, if you

5 could answer that? We have something in place

6 already, and how is this you supplementing it, or

7 is it not?

8 DR. ZARCHIN: So we do not have a

9 position with a stipend. The way this would

10 help, it would take our systemwide goals as

11 mentioned earlier for food, nutrition, physical

12 activity, mental, emotional health, and bring it

13 down to the school level where you can work

14 together at the school level to set goals,

15 monitor and evaluate programs. So that would be

16 the difference, it's somebody who would be

17 responsible at the school level.

18 MS. JOSE: So it would be one teacher in

19 every school. Would that person be coordinating

20 with the therapist and counselor on site and

21 the -- I'm just trying to understand how is

1 $1,000 used.

2 DR. ZARCHIN: It wouldn't necessarily, I

3 believe as proposed have to be a teacher, but a

4 staff member who would work with the school and

5 then do work with the systemwide initiative.

6 DR. HAGER: Ms. Henn, may I?

7 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Sure.

8 DR. HAGER: Just to add to that, we have

9 a wellness policy in a lot of the layers of

10 specifically the rules around this policy include

11 school level implementation and really to do that

12 well, having a point person at the school level

13 who insures that this happens before lunch, and

14 kind of does all the different things that are in

15 the policy as really, again, an evidence-based

16 practice that is really important, and those

17 folks should be compensated for their time.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.

19 Mr. Thomas?

20 MR. THOMAS: Thank you. Does every

21 school -- oh wait, it doesn't matter -- oh wait,

1 yes. Does every school currently have a wellness

2 liaison, because I know the policy says that, so

3 if not, do you know currently how many schools

4 have an active wellness liaison?

5 DR. ZARCHIN: I don't know offhand.

6 MR. THOMAS: That's okay. Would this be

7 in effect to all of our schools, like including

8 our special schools as well, every single school,

9 Dr. Hager?

10 DR. HAGER: Yeah, the USDA tri-annual

11 assessment requires 100 percent response rate

12 about the activities that are happening within

13 the school relative to the wellness policy, so

14 every school in the system.

15 MR. THOMAS: Awesome. And how would

16 this, I mean, would this be a similar role as

17 like the technology in the school building, I

18 don't know if the technology, do they have like

19 EDAs? They do? We wouldn't have an EDA for

20 this, but it would be a thousand dollar stipend,

21 and in the future could this be negotiated to

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1  have an EDA for this?  Okay, thank you, this is
2  great, and thank you, Dr. Hager, for bring this
3  forward and the Board for this discussion, I'm
4  super excited to see this hopefully pass.
5      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any other
6  comments, questions?  Ms. Scott, I see you typing
7  in the chat.  Do you have a comment or question
8  on the motion on the floor?
9      MS. SCOTT:  Oh, no.  My comment would be
10 that I appreciate Dr. Hager sending it to us in
11 advance, so we actually had time to review it,
12 mull it over and actually respond to it.  Thank
13 you.
14     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  May I have
15 a rollcall vote please?
16     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?
17     MS. ROWE:  Yes.
18     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?
19     MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.
20     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?
21     MS. MACK:  Yes.

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1      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?
2      MS. JOSE:  Yes.
3      MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?
4      VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.
5      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?
6      MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.
7      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?
8      MS. SCOTT:  Yes.
9      MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?
10     DR. HAGER:  Yes.
11     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?
12     MR. KUEHN:  Yes.
13     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?
14     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.
15     MS. GOVER:  Thank you.
16     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The motion carries,
17 thank you.  Mr. Thomas?
18     MR. THOMAS:  Yes, I would like the
19 record to reflect my opinion vote in favor of
20 this motion.  Thank you.
21     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Sure.

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1      Board members, other comments,
2  discussion?  Mr. Kuehn?  Ms. Scott will be next.
3  Go ahead, Mr. Kuehn.
4      MR. KUEHN:  Thank you.  I have a fairly
5  straightforward and simple motion that I'm now
6  pasting into the chat for everyone to look at.
7      I move that the proposed FY-23 budget is
8  amended to included the following increases:  In
9  Department 001, Board of Education budget, is
10 modified to increase contracted services to
11 $300,000, and provide an additional $50,000 to
12 other charges.
13     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Is there a second?
14     MS. CAUSEY:  Second, Ms. Causey.
15     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
16     MR. KUEHN:  If I can speak to my motion?
17     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Please go ahead,
18 Mr. Kuehn.
19     MR. KUEHN:  Thank you.  So the fiscal
20 impact is $255,910, and the purpose for the added
21 budget to our specific budget stems from the

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1  Office of the Inspector General for Education's
2  findings that we went over our budget in the
3  past, I believe last fiscal year and possibly
4  this fiscal year.  The next board budget will be
5  a transitional budget, we're going to have all
6  new members, they're going to be deciding what
7  they want to do, and I want to make sure that
8  they have enough funding so that they don't have
9  to go back to the superintendent to ask for
10 funding in the future.  And that it also has, the
11 $50,000 is specific for training so that board
12 members can go to conferences, go to training,
13 and they don't have to worry about the training
14 budget outside of the Board being impacted.
15     So it's fairly straight and simple, so
16 hopefully this makes sense to everybody and we
17 can quickly get to a vote so that we can move
18 this along.  Thank you.
19     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, Mr. Kuehn,
20 and I have a question for staff.  If the Board
21 approves this motion and the Board office, or the

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1 Board does not spend this additional allocation,
2 can that be transferred just like any other in
3 the BAT, from any other area?
4     MR. SARRIS:  Yes.
5     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay, thank you.
6 Ms. Jose?
7     MS. JOSE:  Yes.  So my question may be
8 to Ms. Gover.  The Board typically has in our
9 budget, and I've seen this previously, we
10 allocate X amount of dollars for training for
11 board members, between 50,000 to 70, I'm not sure
12 that's the ballpark figure I remember.  Last year
13 and the year before that due to the pandemic we
14 did not spend that amount, that went into other
15 expenses, i.e., legal services due to our board
16 meetings being long and other legal problems
17 we've had.  So how is this 50,000 additional
18 dollars, what is that going into, because we
19 already allocate that money every year for
20 training for our membership, for MABE, NSBA,
21 those are already allocated.

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1     And I don't know, Ms. Gover, you might
2 be, I don't want to put you in a spot, but I
3 don't see how, what that additional 50K is going
4 to go to.  Is that going to go to legal if we
5 don't use that for training, as the previous
6 chair and vice chair have done, is that
7 additional money just got used up to buy legal
8 services and we didn't have any training.  So my
9 concern is just adding money that is not going to
10 help, we really need to have it allocated based
11 on properly efficiently doing things.  If board
12 members don't use the training, where does that
13 money go?
14     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Jose, I'm going to
15 ask Mr. Kuehn to respond to you since it's his
16 motion.
17     MR. KUEHN:  Thanks, those are great
18 questions.  So my understanding, and Mr. Tantleff
19 and Mr. Sarris can probably answer this, my
20 reasoning for putting the $50,000 in there for
21 training and conferences, what have you, is

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1 because my understanding is now all the training
2 is in a central pot and then we have to ask for a
3 transfer of sorts to the board budget and I was
4 trying to just shortcut that.  That is my goal
5 with adding the $50,000.  So can you please speak
6 to, like, isn't the training and stuff all
7 centralized at this point?
8     MR. TANTLEFF:  There is a large central
9 training budget, but each office also has the
10 ability to fund training.  As you know, we
11 reduced everyone's travel and conference budget a
12 couple years ago to fund the one percent COLA,
13 so --
14     MR. KUEHN:  Thank you.  I would also
15 suggest, Ms. Jose, that like I said, it's a
16 transitional year, there are going to be a lot of
17 new members on December 4th.  I will not be here,
18 I can promise everyone that I will not be here
19 going forward on this Board, but I believe there
20 are going to be a lot of new members, and that
21 will increase the need for more services and

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1 training, so I just want to make it available.
2 And I also want to make sure that the next Board
3 is not put into an embarrassing spot where they
4 go over the budget, so I'm providing funding, and
5 that's it.  Thanks.
6     MS. JOSE:  So Mr. Kuehn, if you could
7 clarify, we do have a board budget that Ms. Gover
8 works with board officers every year and that
9 comes to the Board, I don't know if board members
10 pay attention to it or not but I so since I'm a
11 numbers person, and that number is stuck in my
12 head that every year for the past three or four
13 years we have 50,000 to $70,000 allocated for
14 training, we have some X amount of dollars,
15 $24,000 for MABE, what is it, membership, NSBA,
16 we have money allocated for food.  We do have our
17 own budget, and if it's an issue that this Board
18 has been very ineffective and inefficient in
19 using that dollars, fiscal mismanagement is what
20 I would call it, but the training, what we didn't
21 use the past two years did not go back into the

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1  pot, so to say, it actually moved to other

2  expenses.

3     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Mr. Kuehn, would you

4  please respond?

5     MR. KUEHN: Okay. Yes, I believe that

6  the motion pretty much speaks for itself. I'm

7  trying to increase the amount because it's going

8  to be a transitional year. And for example,

9  people are going to be going to San Diego for a

10 conference, I believe in April, and that's

11 expensive. And if every member went, you know,

12 we would spend, you know, 20 to $30,000 just for

13 one conference. So I do understand your point,

14 Ms. Jose, and I'm just trying to give the next

15 Board leeway, and those funds can be moved in the

16 BAT as Mr. Tantleff explained. Thank you.

17    CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. And I have

18 a point before Mr. Thomas is next with a

19 question, one of governance. And that is the BAT

20 is under the jurisdiction of the superintendent,

21 the Board has previously not been involved in

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1  that process, and when the OIGE found that the

2  Board had exceeded our board office budget, there

3  was an opportunity when that could have been

4  corrected through the BAT process, the Board was

5  not involved in that process. So I will be

6  supporting this motion because I think of it as

7  an insurance policy for us that we are providing

8  what we think we may need, not we may need, but

9  what the future Board may need because they will

10 be coming on during the next fiscal year and we

11 need to be looking out for them, and we certainly

12 don't want to repeat the same mistakes that we

13 made, so I will be supporting this motion for

14 that reason. Mr. Thomas?

15    MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Ms. Henn. I

16 guess, so the cost would be $255,000; is that

17 correct? Okay. So with this money, could this

18 be used better just like contract fees? Could we

19 use some of that money to have an additional FTE,

20 an additional senior executive assistant?

21 Because we know that Ms. Gover actually works

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1  incredibly hard for all the things that we do,

2  and I just think one of the best way to use these

3  funds towards the Board's budget would be to

4  actually have another person to assist us in our

5  duties as board members and having another person

6  who is here for the Board of Education and

7  independent to the Board of Education for our

8  activities.

9     So that's something that I would like to

10 see, not necessarily just money allocated towards

11 conference fees, because as we know, not all

12 board members are participating in the

13 conferences, and there's less than half of us at

14 some board conferences. So that's something I

15 would really love to see, is having another FTE.

16 I can't make a motion, or amendment for that

17 matter, so I'm throwing that out there if anyone

18 wants to take that, so that's what I would like

19 to see, is another FTE to support the work of our

20 senior executive assistant and to help the work

21 of the Board of Education. Thank you.

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1     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Ms. Rowe?

2     MS. ROWE: So this is budget discussion

3  and every department in the school system submits

4  requests for the amount of money that they want

5  and yet somehow, last year, the year before,

6  whatever, this Board managed to submit requests

7  that did not adequately cover our expenditures

8  because we had a legal services line item of zero

9  dollars in our budget. And I would just like to

10 point out to everyone here, this Board does in

11 fact have an Office of the Treasurer, and I would

12 like the treasurer to take responsibility for

13 answering how the Board's budget is not going to

14 come up negative because we have zero funds for

15 line items. The treasurer is Dr. Williams.

16    DR. WILLIAMS: So, I'm sorry, Ms. Rowe,

17 I was in another place. We will continue as

18 reported in the efficiency review, we will

19 provide the Board a status of the budget on a

20 regular basis, particularly to the board

21 leadership as well as to the Board, as we've done

1 before.

2     MS. ROWE:  I'm talking about the Board's

3 budget.

4     DR. WILLIAMS:  That's what I'm talking

5 about.

6     MS. ROWE:  Okay.

7     DR. WILLIAMS:  Let me finish please,

8 thank you.  Anything related to the legal

9 services, we will continue to alert the Board in

10 terms of where we are with those legal fees.

11     MS. ROWE:  So are we going to have a

12 board line item for legal fees in our board

13 operating budget or are we going to continue to

14 have the OIGE say that you overspent because your

15 line item was zero, which is unrealistically low

16 considering just doing the superintendent search

17 alone cost $160,000.  And the last time we had to

18 do one, the previous Board tried to stop us from

19 doing it by not allocating the money, which we

20 obviously spent anyway, and then got dinged by

21 the OIGE.  Could we maybe not do that again, and

1 stop dancing around what we're really talking

2 about here.

3     MS. SCOTT:  Point of order, Ms. Henn.

4     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes, what is your

5 point of order, Ms. Scott?

6     MS. SCOTT:  Yes, it seems that the board

7 member, Ms. Rowe is actually attacking the

8 treasurer, Dr. Williams, and is not being very

9 clear.

10     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, Ms. Scott.

11 Ms. Rowe, if you could watch your tone?

12     MS. ROWE:  I apologize.  I'm frustrated

13 because it seems no one wants to have the actual

14 conversation.  It was not my intent to attack

15 Dr. Williams, I would just like for someone to

16 recognize that we can't have a legal services

17 line item of zero dollars and not overspend.

18     DR. WILLIAMS:  Well, let me respond,

19 since you posed the question.  I didn't hear the

20 motion.  I asked Chair Henn, wasn't that the

21 motion, to add more funds to the budget?

1     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  And I will restate the

2 motion.

3     DR. WILLIAMS:  Okay.

4     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  So the motion is for

5 contracted services, of which legal services

6 could be drawn from, and the motion does allot

7 that.  There is an amount in this current fiscal

8 year 23 budget that we are considering for legal

9 services, which is based on the anticipated

10 expenditures.

11     MS. ROWE:  Thank you, and again, I

12 apologize for expressing my frustration.

13     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  I believe

14 Dr. Hager had the next question.

15     DR. HAGER:  You can go ahead.

16     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay, and Ms. Jose,

17 you asked for clarification, or do you have a

18 point of clarification.

19     MS. JOSE:  Yes.  I can go after

20 Dr. Hager, unless she's done.

21     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.  Ms. Jose, I'm

1 sorry, you've exceeded your time.  Ms. Causey or

2 Ms. Mack, which one is first?  Go ahead,

3 Ms. Mack.

4     MS. MACK:  I would like to call the

5 question.

6     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Is there a second?

7     DR. HAGER:  Second, Hager.

8     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  May we

9 have a rollcall vote on calling the question?

10     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

11     MS. ROWE:  Yes.

12     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

13     MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

14     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

15     MS. MACK:  Yes.

16     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?

17     MS. JOSE:  Yes.

18     MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

19     VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

20     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

21     MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.

1  MS. GOVER: Ms. Scott?

2  MS. SCOTT: Yes.

3  MS. GOVER: Dr. Hager?

4  DR. HAGER: Yes.

5  MS. GOVER: Mr. Kuehn?

6  MR. KUEHN: Yes.

7  MS. GOVER: Ms. Henn?

8  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Yes. The motion

9  carries.

10  MR. THOMAS: Ms. Henn, I'd like the

11  record to reflect that I would vote in support,

12  thank you.

13  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: And we'll now have a

14  rollcall vote on the motion.

15  MS. GOVER: Ms. Rowe?

16  MS. ROWE: Yes.

17  MS. GOVER: Ms. Causey?

18  MS. CAUSEY: Yes.

19  MS. GOVER: Ms. Mack?

20  MS. MACK: Yes.

21  MS. GOVER: Ms. Jose?

1  MS. JOSE: No.

2  MS. GOVER: Mr. McMillion?

3  VICE CHAIR MCMILLION: Yes.

4  MS. GOVER: Mr. Offerman?

5  MR. OFFERMAN: Abstain.

6  MS. GOVER: Ms. Scott?

7  MS. SCOTT: No.

8  MS. GOVER: Dr. Hager?

9  DR. HAGER: Yes.

10  MS. GOVER: Mr. Kuehn?

11  MR. KUEHN: Yes.

12  MS. GOVER: Ms. Henn?

13  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Yes. The motion

14  carries.

15  MR. THOMAS: Ms. Henn, I'd like the

16  record to reflect an opinion vote in support.

17  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Were there

18  any other outstanding questions not on the motion

19  on the floor that anyone indicated?

20  MS. SCOTT: Yes, Ms. Henn.

21  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Scott?

1  MS. SCOTT: Yes. I move that the Board

2  adopt the superintendent's fiscal year 23

3  operating budget.

4  MS. JOSE: Second.

5  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: There's a motion and a

6  second. Would you like to speak to your motion?

7  MS. SCOTT: I believe it's self evident.

8  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Jose, would you

9  like to speak to your second?

10  MS. JOSE: No, thank you.

11  MS. CAUSEY: Madam Chair, could the

12  motion be restated please?

13  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Ms. Scott, would you

14  please restate your motion, and would you

15  consider adding as amended?

16  MS. SCOTT: I wasn't amending -- oh,

17  you're saying because of the motions that were

18  made?

19  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Tonight, and passed,

20  yes.

21  MS. SCOTT: Okay. So I move that the

1  Board adopt the superintendent's fiscal year 23

2  budget as amended.

3  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. And

4  Ms. Jose, do you second that?

5  MS. JOSE: Second, yes.

6  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.

7  Mrs. Causey?

8  MS. CAUSEY: Madam Chair, I'm not in

9  favor of that at this time. There were questions

10  that I sent in that I wanted to ask staff about

11  and a proposed motion for clarification of the

12  SRO professional development funding, as well as

13  another motion that I already submitted.

14  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Okay. Would you like

15  to ask your question at this time?

16  MS. CAUSEY: So my question is for board

17  members to not support this at time so that we

18  can continue discussion briefly and then vote on

19  it at a later time.

20  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: What would

21  Mrs. Causey's motion be to --

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1  (Mr. Brousaides inaudible, not on
2  microphone.)
3  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  And then could the
4  Board reconsider that motion again in the same
5  session?
6  MS. CAUSE:  A new motion could be made.
7  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Or could the same
8  motion be reconsidered?
9  (Mr. Brousaides inaudible, not on
10 microphone.)
11 CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay, thank you.
12 MS. ROWE:  I move to postpone this
13 motion pending further questions and motions or
14 amendments.
15 CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Move to table it?
16 MS. ROWE:  Move to table it until later
17 in this meeting after Ms. Causey's motions have
18 been made.
19 CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Second?  Okay, there's
20 a motion and a second.  Any discussion?  The
21 motion was to table the motion on the floor.

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1  Mr. Thomas?
2  MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  I can't vote on
3  this, but I would vote in support of this just
4  because this is our last work session on the
5  budget, so I think it's important that all board
6  members have the opportunity to discuss something
7  and if there's a motion, an amendment coming
8  forward, I would like to hear the amendment.
9  Thank you.
10 CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  I agree, that if board
11 members have motions and questions that remain to
12 be asked, I believe they should be heard and have
13 the opportunity.  Mr. Offerman?
14 MR. OFFERMAN:  I just want to be clear
15 that the motion does not end when, after
16 Ms. Causey makes her comments or motions,
17 correct?
18 CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Correct.
19 MR. OFFERMAN:  Thank you.
20 (Mr. Brousaides inaudible, not on
21 microphone.)

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1  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay, thank you,
2  Mr. Brousaides.
3  MS. JOSE:  Excuse me, Ms. Henn, I'm
4  sorry.  Could you repeat what Mr. Brousaides
5  said?  I apologize, I couldn't hear him.
6  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Howie is going to
7  advise us on the appropriateness of tabling the
8  motion on the floor.
9  MS. HOWIE:  So members of the Board, if
10 you want to lay a motion on the table that is a
11 proper motion and it's only when you have
12 something that is more pressing that you want to
13 deal with at this moment.  You have a motion that
14 has been, I believe your postponement, your
15 motion to postpone was not seconded, so that
16 hasn't been discussed, correct?
17 CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  It was seconded.
18 MS. HOWIE:  So there's a motion to
19 postpone on the table.  I didn't hear to when you
20 wanted to postpone it.
21 MS. ROWE:  Oh, until after motions and

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1  questions regarding the budget have been all
2  heard, so today later.
3  MS. HOWIE:  So with respect to the
4  motion to lay on the table, I do not believe that
5  that is in order at this time.  With respect to
6  the motion to postpone it to a definite time, the
7  motion to postpone takes precedence over the main
8  motion, so you can deal with the motion to
9  postpone at this time, that can be debated, and
10 you can then process the motion to postpone, but
11 you have to clarify exactly when you want to
12 postpone it to, so the motion to postpone is
13 until a definite time.  I'm sorry, is that clear,
14 members of the Board?
15 CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.
16 MS. ROWE:  Well, can we say postpone
17 until all motions have been heard tonight?  The
18 intent is that that motion be the last one we do,
19 but Ms. Causey stated she has motions still that
20 she didn't get to say.
21 MS. HOWIE:  So the other thing that the

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1 Board can do is simply vote down the motion to
2 adopt the budget and then deal with additional
3 motions.
4     MS. ROWE:  So then, do we get into
5 reconsideration of something already decided
6 rules?
7     MS. HOWIE:  You don't have to, you
8 wouldn't have to reconsider, you just renew the
9 motion.  You can, if you want to reconsider, then
10 it would have to be moved by the prevailing side.
11     MS. ROWE:  Okay.  So what's the
12 procedure for renewing a motion once we get to
13 that part.
14     MS. HOWIE:  Again, you can simply make
15 that motion again at that point.
16     MS. ROWE:  Okay, thank you.
17     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Rowe, I'd like to
18 hear from board members to see what we still have
19 to process during this agenda item to determine a
20 time on which to move to postpone, an approximate
21 time, and then limit discussion on this agenda

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1 item to that time, at which point we can consider
2 the motion to adopt the budget.
3     MS. ROWE:  I have no further motions for
4 the budget.
5     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.  Does anyone
6 other than Ms. Causey have any further motions
7 for the budget at this time?  Ms. Mack, you have
8 one?  Mrs. Causey, how many do you have?
9     MS. CAUSEY:  At least two or three,
10 depending on staff comments.
11     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Does anyone else have
12 any further motions?  Hearing none, Ms. Rowe,
13 would you like to make your motion to postpone
14 until, what time would you suggest?
15     MS. ROWE:  If every board member uses
16 two minutes for each motion, I don't know, how
17 long does it take us to get through a motion?
18     (Ms. Howie inaudible, not on
19 microphone.)
20     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  We need a definitive
21 time versus postponed, okay.

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1     MS. ROWE:  I mean we've got four
2 motions, so theoretically two hours.
3     (Mr. Brousaides inaudible, not on
4 microphone.)
5     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Jose suggested
6 midnight.
7     MS. ROWE:  If we can renew it, then I
8 think we should get rid of the postponement
9 because we don't know what time to make it to.
10     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.
11     MS. ROWE:  Do we have to vote and
12 process the postponement?
13     (Mr. Brousaides inaudible, not on
14 microphone.)
15     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  You can withdraw as
16 long as the second is withdrawn.
17     MS. ROWE:  I'm not actually sure it was
18 ever seconded.
19     MR. BROUSAIDES:  We need unanimous
20 consent to withdraw the motion to postpone.
21     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.  All in favor,

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1 does anyone object to withdrawing the motion to
2 postpone?  No objections, it's withdrawn.
3     MR. BROUSAIDES:  So now we can process
4 Ms. Scott's motion and if the Board wants to vote
5 it down so that other motions can be heard from
6 Ms. Scott and Ms. Scott, then voting down the
7 motion on the table is the way to proceed.
8     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.  So now we will
9 process Ms. Scott's motion and a no vote will
10 allow other motions to proceed, and we will, the
11 plan will then be to reconsider this after other
12 motions are heard.  Ms. Gover, may we have a
13 rollcall vote?  This is to adopt, to Ms. Scott's
14 motion.
15     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?
16     MS. ROWE:  No.
17     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?
18     MS. CAUSEY:  No.
19     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?
20     MS. MACK:  No.
21     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?

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1   MS. JOSE: Yes.

2   MS. GOVER: Mr. McMillion?

3   VICE CHAIR MCMILLION: No.

4   MS. GOVER: Mr. Offerman?

5   MR. OFFERMAN: Abstain.

6   MS. GOVER: Ms. Scott?

7   MS. SCOTT: Yes.

8   MS. GOVER: Dr. Hager?

9   DR. HAGER: No.

10  MS. GOVER: Mr. Kuehn?

11  MR. KUEHN: No.

12  MS. GOVER: Ms. Henn?

13  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: No.

14  MS. GOVER: Thank you.

15  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: The motion fails.

16  MR. THOMAS: Ms. Henn?

17  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Mr. Thomas?

18  MR. THOMAS: I'd like the record to

19  reflect that I would vote no if given the

20  opportunity.

21  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. So we will

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1   continue now with Mrs. Causey's motion, I

2   believe.

3   MS. CAUSEY: Thank you. If I could have

4   staff refer to questions sent in about the SRO

5   professional training, and respond to the last,

6   second to last statement about funding could be

7   allocated from fiscal year 2022 if approval,

8   could you unpack that for the Board please?

9   MR. TANTLEFF: Several components of a

10  conference would need to be paid for this year,

11  travel arrangements and the conference fee

12  itself, probably about two-thirds of the total

13  $256,000 spent, and Dr. Williams would fund that

14  from central dollars that we have available to

15  support travel.

16  MR. SARRIS: Can I just correct that to

17  $156,000?

18  MS. CAUSEY: Certainly.

19  MR. SARRIS: Mr. Tantleff, you said 256.

20  MR. TANTLEFF: Yes, sorry, $156,000.

21  MS. CAUSEY: So is approval required by

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1   the Board tonight to make sure that that happens?

2   MR. TANTLEFF: Not the 2022 component.

3   If you want to add the $156,000 to the 2023

4   budget, which would then fund the hotel and

5   per diem for this summer and then next year, so

6   in summer of '23 we'd fund the same 2022 expenses

7   we're talking about, the conference registration

8   and flight arrangements, that would keep it in

9   the budget in perpetuity in essence.

10  So we would self fund the first chunk of

11  it that's due right now, then you already

12  approved last board meeting to add the $156,000

13  to the 2023 budget, which will complete the

14  funding this summer and support the funding for

15  next summer to have to be done during the fiscal

16  year ahead of time.

17  MS. CAUSEY: If I could ask you to read

18  the answers to number 45?

19  MR. TANTLEFF: Every one? The first one

20  says --

21  MS. CAUSEY: About approval.

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1   CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Mrs. Causey, what's

2   the question?

3   MS. CAUSEY: The information is not

4   clear.

5   CHAIRWOMAN HENN: 45?

6   MS. CAUSEY: And I would like it to be

7   made clear without me using all my time. So if

8   I'm responding to staff, I don't think that

9   should be my time.

10  MR. TANTLEFF: The board's motion would

11  cover the FY-2023 portion per diem and hotel of

12  the July 2022 conference and the registration and

13  travel for the July 2023 conference. The FY-2022

14  expenses associated with the July 2022 conference

15  would be funded from outside of the Office of

16  School Safety's budget.

17  MS. CAUSEY: It also says, when will the

18  SROs receive communication that this has been

19  approved, are you able to preauthorize our SROs

20  responses for their own reservations and travel

21  arrangements? And it says, SROs would receive a

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1 travel request form as soon as approval is
2 received to move forward.  The Department of
3 School Safety handles registration and making all
4 travel arrangements.
5         So what approval is required, is it
6 approval by this Board?  Because I don't want to
7 leave this meeting --
8         MR. TANTLEFF:  No, it's internal.
9         MS. CAUSEY:  -- unclear, and get another
10 call from one of our hard working SROs about this
11 issue, which should not have been an issue.
12         DR. WILLIAMS:  So Ms. Causey, if an SRO
13 calls you, please direct them to this office or
14 Ms. April Lewis' office.
15         MS. CAUSEY:  There's some pretty clear
16 reasons --
17         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Causey,
18 Dr. Williams is speaking.
19         DR. WILLIAMS:  Ms. Causey, would you
20 like for me to respond at this time?  So as I was
21 saying, the approval is internal if we're looking

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1 at what Mr. Tantleff said, there are funds that
2 need to happen now and funds that need to happen
3 in the new fiscal year.  So at this point we have
4 talked about supporting the SRO conference and we
5 will be notifying the appropriate staff in terms
6 of planning those next steps.  So we've had a
7 discussion about this before, I thought that
8 response was clear.  We're ready to move forward
9 in providing that opportunity for our SROs.
10         MS. CAUSEY:  So thank you then.  Why
11 does the last statement there say the
12 superintendent has been working with the county
13 executive on this issue and the CE may provide
14 additional funding?
15         DR. WILLIAMS:  That's what the
16 conversation had been at the last board meeting
17 and when I referenced I would reach out to the CE
18 to ask for additional support regarding this
19 conference for the SROs.
20         MS. CAUSEY:  And if he says no, then
21 you'll find money for it?

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1         DR. WILLIAMS:  That was the response
2 from the budget office, correct.
3         MS. CAUSEY:  Okay, so I don't need to
4 make a motion tonight about making sure that SROs
5 can get there?
6         MR. TANTLEFF:  Budgetarily this is taken
7 care of.
8         MS. CAUSEY:  Okay, thank you.
9         Earlier I sent by email -- I have to do
10 it by memory but you all have it in -- here we
11 go.  I move that an FTE, $149,000 including
12 fringes, be allocated from the current proposed
13 operating fiscal year 2023 budget, and be
14 allocated to reinstate the Board's ombudsman
15 position reporting to the Board.
16         MS. ROWE:  Second.
17         MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you.  There is
18 already a prior job description, and the amount
19 came from staff from a prior budget cycle.
20         May I speak to my motion, Madam Chair?
21         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Once there's a second,

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1 and would you please put it in the chat?
2         MS. ROWE:  I did second.  Second.
3         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Rowe, I didn't
4 hear your second, so I need to acknowledge it.
5 Would you please put your motion in the chat?
6         MS. CAUSEY:  I don't have access to the
7 chat but I did email it to everyone, including
8 our executive assistant, hard working.
9         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes, you can speak to
10 your motion.
11         MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you.  As was pointed
12 out earlier by a colleague board member, we have
13 one executive assistant to support 12 board
14 members and all of the work that's required.
15 Public Works has recommended many improvements
16 for the Board, for the operations, for
17 governance, for professional development, and
18 recommendations for improvement in communications
19 with community.  As I said, there's only one
20 senior executive assistant, and we also have been
21 receiving requests from our area education

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1  advisory councils, they've been requesting
2  support to engage community, which would be right
3  in the sweet spot of this position.
4       Also, we have 11 board members who do
5  not have a program specialist to help with town
6  halls and any of those sorts of things.  So
7  there's a lot of work that needs to be done and
8  we hear it constantly, that the Board needs to be
9  more responsive, needs to be more open,
10 transparent.  We have stakeholders that routinely
11 email us with concerns.  There has not been a
12 sufficient feedback loop in my opinion, and so
13 this would be very helpful.
14      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Dr. Hager
15 and then Ms. Rowe.  Okay.  Ms. Rowe, do you want
16 to speak to your second?
17      MS. ROWE:  So we used to have an
18 ombudsman.  In fact, we were one of the first
19 school systems to ever have an ombudsman, and
20 then a bunch of other school systems decided to
21 get ombudsmen.  And then somewhere along the way

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1  two superintendents ago, we decided we didn't
2  need an ombudsman any more.  I can't imagine a
3  school system the size of our ours not having an
4  ombudsman, so it's fantastic that we could do
5  this.
6       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Dr. Hager?
7       DR. HAGER:  I like this idea and I liked
8  Mr. Kuehn's idea, and I feel like there is a lot
9  of overlap is my only concern.  We added $250,000
10 to our budget in my mind to address a lot of the
11 same concerns and I just want to know how this
12 would be different, and if Ms. Causey can answer
13 the question, than what we already have passed.
14      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Causey, would you
15 like to address that?
16      MS. CAUSEY:  Certainly.  So this was a
17 position before as Ms. Rowe stated, and as we've
18 seen during the pandemic, that there is
19 increasing levels of parent engagement, student
20 engagement and stakeholder engagement, and the
21 Board has not been able to pass any communication

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1  protocol developed with current resources.  And
2  in Public Works, they made several
3  recommendations about communication and this is
4  exactly what the position facilitates.
5       Additionally, we just voted this evening
6  to add an extracurricular activity liaison to the
7  schools and this would be, could have similar
8  things for the 12 board, or excuse me, 11 board
9  members that don't have a program specialist
10 supporting their work in terms of, you know, all
11 of the different extracurricular things that
12 board members do, maybe coordinating town halls,
13 coordinating different visits and things of that
14 nature.  So I think it's beyond past due and
15 again, it aligns with Public Works and it aligns
16 with our policies for community engagement.
17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
18 Mr. Thomas?
19      MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  I have
20 suggested this earlier, so I am in favor of this.
21 So one of the comments I have, I would look at

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1  other -- not with this bill, this would never
2  happen in terms of operations right now, but I
3  look at other school systems that have entire
4  staff dedicate just to the board of education.
5  And honestly, I feel like we're taking staff
6  members away from the jobs that they have, the
7  jobs in our school system when we're asking them
8  so many different things to do on behalf of us.
9  So I fully support this, I think that we do need
10 someone who is separate from our staff so they
11 can do the job that they're here to do, which is
12 our students and our education system, and not
13 have to necessarily always respond to the
14 requests of us board members.
15      So I think this is a great addition, and
16 I think that working in collaboration with our
17 senior executive assistant it would help this
18 Board be more productive, it would help the Board
19 maybe even create some better relationships.  I
20 think I discussed this in the past with you all,
21 but to have someone who is not attached to the

1 school system necessarily when discussing those

2 matters, it definitely I think could help with a

3 lot of the issues we have on this Board.  So I am

4 in support of this and I am glad there was a

5 motion made after I had kind of left it out

6 there.

7     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any other

8 comments or questions, board members?  Hearing

9 none, may we have a rollcall vote please?

10     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

11     MS. ROWE:  Yes.

12     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

13     MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

14     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

15     MS. MACK:  Yes.

16     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Jose?  Mr. McMillion?

17     VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

18     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

19     MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.

20     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?

21     MS. SCOTT:  No.

1     MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

2     DR. HAGER:  Abstain.

3     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

4     MR. KUEHN:  Yes.

5     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

6     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.  The motion

7 carries.  Mr. Thomas?

8     MR. THOMAS:  Thank you, Ms. Henn.  I

9 would like the record to reflect that I would

10 vote in support of this.  Thank you.

11     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

12 Ms. Causey, did you have anything additional?

13     MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you.  On January 11th

14 Dr. Williams provided this to the Board of

15 Education.  My understanding is that it has now

16 been attached to BoardDocs for January 11th.  And

17 I just wanted to ask you to explain the rationale

18 on page one of three and two of three, and three

19 of three, what that means fiscally in not

20 implementing Public Works recommendations to be

21 done in fiscal year 23 but being pushed off to

1 fiscal year 24.

2     MR. TANTLEFF:  Ms. Causey, can you

3 clarify exactly where you're looking?  We have

4 the pages, which lines are you referring to?

5     MS. CAUSEY:  Any of the lines that say

6 hold-fiscal year 24.

7     MR. TANTLEFF:  Those are initiatives, I

8 think Dr. Williams' feedback last time was those

9 are still being evaluated to be considered in the

10 FY-2024 budget.  What else would you care to know

11 about that?

12     MS. CAUSEY:  So Public Works has said

13 that it would be unwise and a disservice to our

14 students if we delay implementation of these

15 recommendations.

16     MR. TANTLEFF:  Well, I'll just, one

17 comment is most of what's on this page is

18 changing the seniority of existing positions,

19 it's not adding or reducing positions, not that

20 there isn't some of that, but for the most part

21 these are positions that are in place.  Their

1 proposal was not to change the responsibilities,

2 their opinion was that some of the jobs should be

3 more senior than they are now.

4     MS. CAUSEY:  There's also a number of

5 organizational changes.

6     MR. TANTLEFF:  Are you referring to the

7 chapter eight section?

8     MS. CAUSEY:  Chapter eight --

9     MR. TANTLEFF:  I'm not sure what

10 question I can answer, Ms. Causey.

11     MS. CAUSEY:  Well, I can't answer it.

12 There's all of these positions --

13     MR. TANTLEFF:  But they're not creating

14 positions.  The positions on these pages almost

15 in their entirety are changing seniority due to

16 recommendations.

17     MS. CAUSEY:  Can you explain the fiscal

18 impact that is on each of those pages?

19     MR. TANTLEFF:  I don't understand your

20 question, I'm sorry.  The fiscal impact when you

21 end up doing --

1  MS. CAUSEY: Can you unpack --

2  MR. TANTLEFF: I'm trying to answer you,

3  I'm just --

4  MS. CAUSEY: -- the three-page

5  spreadsheet that has all kinds of numbers in red

6  and it says holds?

7  DR. WILLIAMS: So this document, if I

8  may, this document was taking the recommendations

9  from Public Works going through all 759 pages and

10  looking at the FTEs in which they were

11  recommending additions, abolishments,

12  reorganizations. So what you see on these three

13  pages are the actual costs or savings, and

14  actions that we looked at, I looked at as I

15  presented this in my budget in January. And so

16  some of these are on hold for reasons, to have

17  further conversation about what that may mean for

18  a particular department, and some were accepted,

19  and some decisions were made not to have, not to

20  move forward, as you read the entire document.

21  And I think Dr. Yarbrough can give me

1  the percentage. Even Public Works said 70 or 80

2  percent of the recommendations would be followed

3  and again, it was their recommendation based on

4  their time with us and getting feedback and

5  looking at just our organization. So we moved

6  forward with what we felt was important at this

7  time with major consideration as we look at

8  FY-24, particularly with some of those positions

9  that were being changed.

10  So the document shows the positions and

11  it shows the actual costs in moving forward, as

12  well as the actual savings in moving forward.

13  MS. CAUSEY: And so what is the bottom

14  line for the fiscal impact, savings delayed or

15  costs incurred?

16  DR. WILLIAMS: So Mr. Tantleff, when we

17  presented the budget, we gave for chapter one, it

18  was one point --

19  MR. TANTLEFF: Yes, 1.7 million and a

20  reduction of nine FTEs. And then we looked at

21  our technology, we had some savings with our

1  technology, $6 million from exiting contract

2  reductions.

3  DR. WILLIAMS: And then what's listed

4  here are some other positions where we're holding

5  to accept or one, for example a recommendation,

6  and Dr. McComas and I had many conversations

7  about combining mathematics and science to one

8  coordinator, English and social studies, we felt

9  that was not appropriate at this time for our

10  system. So there had to be some decisions made,

11  so this is giving you just a snapshot of those

12  decisions pertaining to FTEs.

13  And remember that we will be coming

14  forward to the Board to give the full package,

15  you know, we have the division workgroups, the

16  Blueprint workgroup and the stakeholder workgroup

17  looking at the recommendations not affiliated

18  with FTEs, and we will be coming forward in March

19  of April to give that update to the Board as to

20  where we are with those recommendations.

21  MS. CAUSEY: I move that Public Works

1  recommendations be implemented in fiscal year 23

2  as recommended unless the Board has specifically

3  approved the superintendent's recommendation to

4  delay or modify. The proposed operating budget

5  will be realigned to support those

6  recommendations' fiscal impact.

7  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Dr. Hager, did you

8  have a comment about Ms. Causey? No? We need a

9  second first but I needed to ask you, Dr. Hager

10  if you had a comment before the motion was made.

11  No? Okay. So we need a second before we have a

12  discussion on the motion. Is there a second?

13  MS. ROWE: I'll second for the sake of

14  discussion.

15  CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you, Ms. Rowe.

16  Any discussion? Ms. Causey, would you like to

17  speak to your motion, and then Mr. Thomas.

18  MS. CAUSEY: Thank you. So the BCPS

19  operational efficiency review was conducted along

20  with the Baltimore County Government, and they

21  found through surveys and community input

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1 significant areas for improvement. These are
2 professionals who have been involved in
3 education, they came highly regarded, and they
4 have made specific recommendations in order for
5 us to improve the education that we provide to
6 our students, and also to improve the morale of
7 our employees because we need to have the staff,
8 that's what we've seen this year, we need to have
9 the staff to support our students.
10     So there's a number of recommendations
11 that I have brought up at different committee
12 meetings that are not being addressed. The Board
13 has 12 recommendations just on one of the first
14 pages and there have not been resources allocated
15 in order to get that done. So it needs to done
16 and I think that the Board needs to be bold and
17 it needs to say are we going to have a lasting
18 impact on the improvement of this entire system
19 for our students as recommended by this
20 professional organization.
21     And not only did the findings that they

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1 had, you know, stand with the thousands of
2 employees and community members that provided
3 input, but it was very consistent with what this
4 Board found through our community input process
5 during the superintendent search. So this is not
6 just one point of data, this is consistent data,
7 and we've heard it from our staff and from our
8 key stakeholders that have come and talked to us
9 about the issue of the culture, about the issue
10 of the structure, and we have some amazing,
11 dedicated and talented people, they need to be in
12 the right place to get the work done.
13     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.
14 Mr. Thomas, did you have a comment on the motion?
15     MR. THOMAS: Yes, thank you. I just
16 feel like this a huge oversight into what
17 Dr. Williams is doing and in the conversations
18 we've been having as a board with him about
19 everything that matters. I mean, a lot of these
20 efficiency recommendations have been implemented
21 in the budget, and Dr. Williams, is that correct?

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1     DR. WILLIAMS: Yes, based on --
2     MR. THOMAS: Okay.
3     DR. WILLIAMS: So let me clarify. There
4 are efficiencies in how we do our work and then
5 there were savings around what this Board shared
6 and the feedback that the cabinet was too large.
7 So that wasn't just some work we could just do
8 overnight, that took some time, so I just -- yes,
9 so to answer your point.
10     But also, and I see Dr. Yarbrough is
11 here, we have these workgroups that talk about
12 the efficiencies and how we do our work, to talk
13 about morale and climate, it's why we put forth a
14 salary study, because that was one aspect.
15 There's also other things dealing with work
16 conditions, training, so it's not just one thing,
17 it's several things that we're looking at.
18 Dr. Yarbrough, anything you want to add?
19     DR. YARBROUGH: Thank you.
20 Dr. Williams, you are correct. In terms of how
21 we've approached this work, there were 197

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1 recommendations in total that were provided to
2 us. Approximately 150 of those went to the
3 division workgroups, the Blueprint review team,
4 as well as the multistakeholder workgroups. If
5 you total up the number of people that are on
6 those groups, you will see that we have more than
7 a hundred staff members represented, we have
8 parents represented, we have all of the BCPS
9 Board of Education stakeholder groups
10 represented, we have all of our unions
11 represented at each step of the way.
12     And so one of the things that they had
13 to do, the people who were closest to the work
14 had to unpack the specific recommendations, they
15 brought in the context, the background, and then
16 analyzing it with what was recommended by Public
17 Works, they had to make best decisions about
18 whether or not they could implement as written,
19 they could implement with specific modifications,
20 or no, and the no was with a rationale to explain
21 why this was not in alignment with our specific

1 either strategic plan or goals, or best with

2 where we were for the system.

3      And so what's happening in March when

4 you have that update is you will see all of those

5 recommendations.  The recommendations in addition

6 to going through the web page now where you can

7 see the action minutes as well as the agendas

8 that each group has worked through, what happens

9 in the March report is you see by tier, you see

10 the estimated timeline for implementation that

11 they provided.  The earliest implementation

12 timeline if I remember correctly was from October

13 to December, and that was tier one of the cabinet

14 restructuring.  As Dr. Williams has stated, all

15 of the recommendations from chapter one in terms

16 of cabinet restructuring have taken place as

17 recommended.

18      I believe it was the end of September or

19 beginning of October when Dr. Williams identified

20 the three key goals as we moved through this

21 process and that the savings, because Public

1 Works as you noted gave $35 million worth of

2 savings over five years.  The commitment made by

3 BCPS was to identify $6- to $7 million of savings

4 within the first year and in the proposed budget

5 you already see over $6 million, I believe it's

6 $6 million for technology and $1.7 million in

7 chapter one, as previously stated.

8      And so in terms of the climate and

9 morale plan, thank you for bringing that up

10 because that has been a major area of focus,

11 particularly with the impact of the pandemic, and

12 so there were many steps that have been taken

13 directly in alignment with the efficiency report.

14 It was turned over to organizational

15 effectiveness to lead, they led focus groups for

16 non-represented staff to make sure that we had

17 the voice and the input of staff members across

18 Team BCPS, put that together with the surveys in

19 the booklet, as well as the stakeholder survey

20 results that we had to come up with a plan.

21      We've been meeting monthly with our

1 unions.  Unions either met with all of their

2 membership or they had workgroups where they

3 gathered feedback from to identify what were

4 their priorities that they wanted in a systemwide

5 climate and morale plan, and that is the work

6 that we have been doing every month while we meet

7 with them, to really be laser focused on what are

8 the needs of our staff members across all of our

9 unions.

10      We also have made sure that this year in

11 the interim based on this information, we are

12 focused on engagement, we focused on wellness as

13 well as recognition.  Those things look like Chat

14 and Chew with cabinet members, they look like the

15 gift of time which many members of this Board

16 have volunteered in, they look like, you know,

17 BCPS Connect sessions for all staff members to

18 participate in based on their area of interest.

19 It looks like a renewed focus with our employee

20 wellness, EAP service, as well as the speaker

21 series that really focused on mindfulness and

1 best practices for staff members as they led and

2 supported students during this difficult time.

3      The only other things I would add are

4 the upcoming elements that you can expect in this

5 comprehensive climate and morale plan in addition

6 to what we're doing in the interim.  We are not

7 waiting for next year to implement, we

8 immediately began implementation to let staff

9 members know with your support how much we value

10 them, the additional half day you provided for

11 staff members to rest and recharge, the day off

12 before the holiday break, the retention bonus

13 that you provided, but we're going to use the

14 stakeholder survey results which will close soon,

15 those will be used as part of the FPP plan and

16 the office project progress plans under the

17 direction of Dr. Williams, that the survey

18 results will be shared with the stakeholders in

19 the specific office or the stakeholders in the

20 specific school, they will collaboratively

21 identify and develop goals.  We will provide

1 support from the central office whether that
2 support is coaching, whether that support is
3 resources that they need so they can move towards
4 not only a systemwide plan where we're improving
5 morale, but where we're improving morale and
6 taking ownership for it at the school-based level
7 or at the office level.
8      So those are a few additional highlights
9 that I wanted to provide in terms of where we are
10 with savings right now, when you can expect an
11 updated full report with all 197 recommendations,
12 as well as how you can expect to see the climate
13 and morale plans show up in schools and offices
14 and what we have done to date.
15      MR. THOMAS:  Whoa.  Thank you,
16 Dr. Yarbrough and thank you, Dr. Williams, that
17 was incredible, thank you for outlining all of
18 the aspects of the efficiency review that we've
19 been discussing.  That answers my question so
20 thoroughly, and with that, I think we're rushing
21 into it at this moment if this motion amendment

1 to the budget were to pass, I think we should
2 just wait for the report that's coming forward
3 and then move on from there.  Thank you.
4      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Dr. Hager?
5      DR. HAGER:  I agree with Mr. Thomas and
6 wanted to say these are recommendations and not
7 mandates, so we need to allow the system to go
8 through all the things that you're just saying
9 and kind of -- and I appreciate how many of the
10 recommendations you are putting into place this
11 year, you don't have to, but you're choosing to
12 because you recognize that it can improve things.
13 So I agree with Mr. Thomas.
14      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Rowe?
15      MS. ROWE:  So I would just like to point
16 out for the sake of the public, this was given to
17 us but I believe this is the work session we
18 sought, so we didn't get the full explanation of
19 this during this board session.  But looking
20 through this, so just, maybe I counted wrong,
21 it's late, so we're accepting according to these

1 charts about 28 recommendations, and then another
2 32 we're putting on hold until 2024 budget, so
3 next year, and we're realigning approximately
4 five, and then we're declining 19
5 recommendations.  But am I right, in declining
6 those 19 recommendations we're declining to
7 eliminate a position, not declining to create
8 one?  Okay.  And at some further report, are we
9 going to get an explanation position by position
10 why that didn't happen?  Okay.  Thank you.
11      DR. YARBROUGH:  You're welcome.
12      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Mr. Kuehn?
13      MR. KUEHN:  Okay.  I just had a question
14 for Ms. Causey.  So your, the current motion on
15 the floor says execute all these recommendations
16 in FY-23, correct?  But the timelines that were
17 part of those recommendations, that's part of the
18 whole thing, but that, we don't need to worry
19 about the timelines that were part of that,
20 you're fine with Dr. Williams moving along at the
21 pace that he currently is for 23, or no?  No.

1 Okay.  Never mind.
2      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Mack?
3      MS. MACK:  I just wanted to point out,
4 Ms. Causey just said it, that when we get a
5 report in March the budget will be out of our
6 hands at that time, so that does concern me.  I
7 do think this motion is much too broad and
8 probably does get into operations, but I have
9 always personally had a concern that the county
10 government paid over a million dollars for a
11 company of experts to come in and evaluate us and
12 you know, things that I see on this list, like
13 the reorganization of the Department of Special
14 Education and the reorganization of the Office of
15 Health Services, and a grant specialist have all
16 been held to FY-24.  So while I don't necessarily
17 support this motion because it is so broad, I do
18 think there are important things on this list
19 that should not be deferred for another budget
20 cycle, and I really don't know how to address
21 that.

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1  DR. WILLIAMS: Dr. Yarbrough, please
2  respond.
3  DR. YARBROUGH: Yes. Thank you,
4  Ms. Mack, for that question. And what I can
5  share with you is what Dr. Williams has shared
6  with us, is that when we get recommendations from
7  a workgroup, particularly around either a
8  workgroup or the division closest to the
9  workgroup, for example you identified the
10 Department of Special Education, if Dr. McComas
11 and Dr. Pierandozzi identifies that there is a
12 specific need in alignment, and we are working
13 under Dr. Williams' leadership with the Division
14 of Human Resources to identify current resources
15 to support it, that is his preference, that we
16 move forward with the urgent needs.
17 And I think the one thing that is most
18 important to note is in terms of adding
19 positions, the majority of the recommendations
20 for savings, unless there was communication and
21 discussion, those have moved forward to make sure

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1  that we were fiscally responsible in terms of
2  addressing the needs of Team BCPS. But we
3  certainly in the update will provide you with
4  very specific information around how
5  recommendations are being addressed and feedback
6  from the division workgroups.
7  MS. MACK: Thank you. I have one
8  specific question, because I happen to be looking
9  at it, where we say eliminate the passport
10 program and then the action is consideration, but
11 yet in the far right column we show the actual
12 savings. So what in that case does consideration
13 mean?
14 DR. WILLIAMS: So that was one of the
15 recommendations that Public Works provided. They
16 did not consider that there are students who are
17 currently in the first year or second year of
18 that program, and just to eliminate it
19 completely, you will be getting emails from
20 parents about not having an option for this year
21 to finish a program in certain schools.

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1  So again, I just think for this Board,
2  we went through the 759 pages and all the
3  recommendations, and the one thing that Public
4  Works would not reference is that they made
5  recommendations previously but no school system
6  was in a pandemic.
7  MS. MACK: Dr. Williams, I don't know if
8  you --
9  DR. WILLIAMS: So therefore, I'm just
10 saying we took this seriously about what we could
11 do immediately and what we could do months down
12 the road based on our circumstances here. And if
13 you look at this particular chapter, chapter
14 eight is heavily around the educational
15 programming, so that would be C&I, they did some
16 discussions with safety and security and I
17 believe research and accountability, but as you
18 can see, a lot of the savings, a big chunk of the
19 sayings was around eliminating the passport, so
20 if you eliminate it completely that would be the
21 saving of over $3 million.

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1  MS. MACK: But that's really my
2  question, it shows as actual savings, so if
3  somebody in the public was looking at this they
4  would think we were eliminating it, because it's
5  showing $3.1 million --
6  DR. WILLIAMS: Oh, but the action shows
7  consideration, so you're right.
8  MS. MACK: That's all I was asking, was
9  a clarification. So the actual savings is not
10 actual savings, because it's being considered,
11 okay. That's what I wanted to know, thank you.
12 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.
13 DR. WILLIAMS: Again, I would just point
14 out to the Board, a lot of the savings, chapter
15 one was over one million and then chapter eight
16 was over four million, I believe, and chapter
17 eight involved multiple offices and a big chunk
18 of that was the educational programming.
19 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Great, thank you.
20 There's a motion on the floor and a second.
21 Ms. Gover, may we have a rollcall vote please?

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1    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

2    MS. ROWE:  No.

3    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

4    MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

5    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

6    MS. MACK:  No.

7    MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

8    VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  No.

9    MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

10   MR. OFFERMAN:  No.

11   MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

12   DR. HAGER:  No.

13   MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

14   MR. KUEHN:  No.

15   MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

16   CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  No.  The motion fails.

17   MR. THOMAS:  Ms. Henn?

18   CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Thomas?

19   MR. THOMAS:  Please let the record

20   reflect that I would have voted no.

21   CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mrs. Causey, did you

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1    have anything else for consideration?

2    DR. WILLIAMS:  Thank you, Dr. Yarbrough.

3    MS. CAUSEY:  Madam Chair, I'm out of

4    time.

5    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay, thank you.

6    Ms. Mack?

7    MS. MACK:  I have one motion to make and

8    it should be fast, it's in the chat.

9    I move that the superintendent and his

10   staff when in discussions with our funding

11   partners, prioritize the preservation of the

12   381.3 FTEs included in the proposed budget, and

13   the increase in compensation for the employees

14   outlined on pages 36 and 38 of the

15   superintendent's January 11th budget

16   presentation.

17   MS. ROWE:  Second, Rowe.  Second.

18   CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, Ms. Rowe.

19   Is there any discussion?

20   MS. MACK:  May I speak to my motion?

21   CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Please go ahead.

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1    MS. MACK:  I am a strong proponent of

2    asking for what is needed and I have to applaud

3    Dr. Williams and his staff for the increase in

4    people in this budget.  However, the proposed

5    budget is 20.9 percent over maintenance of effort

6    and I believe the highest maintenance of effort

7    that's ever been approved by the county executive

8    and his team was about 5.2 percent, so this

9    budget could be subject to significant cuts by

10   our funding partners, and I am asking that you

11   and your staff when you meet with the county be

12   very clear that the cuts should not include the

13   381.3 FTEs and the pay increases contained in the

14   proposed budget, because I personally believe we

15   are not going to turn this school system around

16   unless we have the people to do it.

17   CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Rowe,

18   did you want to speak to your second?

19   MS. ROWE:  I agree with what Ms. Mack

20   said.  We need to be doing everything that we can

21   to put people in the schoolhouse to help these

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1    kids, particularly in a pandemic, and if there

2    was ever a year to fund more positions in

3    schoolhouses, it's this one.

4    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Mr. Thomas

5    and then Mrs. Causey.

6    MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  Do you have the

7    381.3 increase?

8    MS. MACK:  Yes.

9    MR. THOMAS:  Okay, thank you.  I just

10   wanted to confirm.

11   CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

12   Mrs. Causey?

13   MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you.  I just wanted

14   to ask the question, the 381 increases in staff,

15   to what enrollment is that tied?

16   MR. SARRIS:  It's based on the projected

17   enrollment for September 20th, 2022.

18   MS. CAUSEY:  It's based on the projected

19   of 2022 or the actual from September of 2022?

20   MR. SARRIS:  The funding is based on the

21   actual of the past year, but the programs are

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1 designed to serve the enrollment we expect for
2 the coming school year.
3      MS. CAUSEY:  And is that reflected in
4 the student count report that's later on the
5 agenda for this meeting?
6      MR. SARRIS:  I haven't looked at that.
7 I don't know what that report says.
8      MS. CAUSEY:  The student counts?
9      MR. SARRIS:  Well, they get the same
10 data that's being presented to the Board, so I
11 would say yes, but I have not specifically looked
12 at that agenda item.
13      MS. CAUSEY:  So what, so how did you
14 come up with your projection upon which the
15 operating budget was prepared?
16      MR. SARRIS:  The Department of
17 Facilities and Strategic Planning came up with
18 that projection.
19      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Causey, given the
20 lateness of the hour, is this pertinent to the
21 vote on the motion on the floor, and do we need

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1 to have this debate over enrollment numbers at
2 this hour?
3      MS. CAUSEY:  My only concern is that if
4 we are over requesting and then given the Public
5 Works finding around increasing the projection
6 for staff over four percent, rather than two
7 percent which is the district standard, and then
8 it ends up with a whole bunch of money that then
9 needs to be budget allocated transferred, which
10 is another Public Works finding that it's not
11 presented to the Board in a timely fashion and it
12 quote-unquote, undermines the authority of the
13 Board in budgetary matters.  So that's my
14 concern, is whether the operating budget is
15 sufficiently aligned with a realistic projection
16 of enrollment.
17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  So we're requesting
18 too many positions based on enrollment, okay.
19 Mr. Offerman?
20      MR. OFFERMAN:  I would just say, and
21 this is not a Public Works statement, but I don't

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1 think we can request too many, literally.  And I
2 know that's not practical, but I would fight for
3 every person we need and could get at any time.
4 Thank you.
5      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Mr. Kuehn?
6      MR. KUEHN:  So in principle I support
7 this motion, sorry, it's late, but my concern is,
8 and I want to understand the actual action that
9 we are asking or directing Dr. Williams and staff
10 to take.  Because when you use words like
11 prioritize or preservation, so in my mind, and I
12 want to be clear on this, everything else in the
13 budget goes before any of this money is touched?
14 Okay, thanks.
15      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any other
16 comments or questions?  Ms. Mack, you've spoken
17 to your motion, Mr. Thomas, you've spoken
18 already.  Is there anyone else who has not spoken
19 that wants to?  Okay.  Ms. Causey briefly, and
20 then -- oh, Dr. Hager?
21      DR. HAGER:  So now I'm also very tired.

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1 Prioritize the preservation, it is a
2 conversation, though, so I that know we don't
3 have the ability to just say, you know, we can't
4 make hard core demands, right?  So your point is
5 just to please prioritize these two things; is
6 that correct?
7      MS. MACK:  (Inaudible, off microphone)
8 ... then I don't think we need this many social
9 workers, I want Dr. Williams to say but we do.
10      DR. HAGER:  Exactly.
11      MS. MACK:  And we need this many
12 teachers, and we do need to increase the pay as
13 outlined on page 38, 36 and 38 of my budget
14 presentation, because we need to retain people,
15 we need to hire people, and we need more people
16 for our schools.
17      DR. HAGER:  I definitely support the
18 concept, I just want to make sure I understand
19 that we aren't completely in control, though, so
20 thank you.
21      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mrs. Causey and then

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1 Mr. Thomas.

2       MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you.  And I want to

3 say, I absolutely support the intention of this

4 motion.  My concern is, and it was one that was

5 expressed to me, is that we have staff, they're

6 asking for additional dollars, and are we asking

7 for new staff that we won't hire at the expense

8 of fiscally supporting the employees we have now

9 in the manner in which they're asking.  So that's

10 my only concern.  But it's a conversation, and I

11 totally support the conversation of resources in

12 the schoolhouse, human resources.

13       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Mack and then

14 Mr. Thomas and then Ms. Rowe.

15       MS. MACK:  Ms. Causey, I specifically

16 asked in one of the budget sessions, and I went

17 back to make sure that it was recorded, are we

18 fully filling any vacancy within the schoolhouse,

19 and the answer was yes.  So in my mind I'm not

20 asking to do something in lieu of something else,

21 but in addition to.

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1       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Thomas?

2       MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  So the 381

3 increased FTEs, those are only school-based FTEs,

4 that wouldn't include like the coordinator of

5 student activities discussed today, or central

6 office staff?  Okay.  But just, that doesn't

7 include central office staff, the 381?  Okay.

8       MS. MACK:  No, it's schoolhouse staff.

9       MR. THOMAS:  Okay, thank you.

10       MS. MACK:  Well, I'm sorry,

11 psychologists reside sometimes in the central

12 office, so yes, some of the staff are central

13 office staff, but most of the staff are

14 school-based staff.

15       MR. THOMAS:  Okay, thank you.

16       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Rowe?

17       MS. ROWE:  Does someone know

18 approximately of all the FTEs that we had in last

19 year's budget, how many of them were never filled

20 with an employee, such that they were basically

21 unfilled FTEs?

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1       MR. TANTLEFF:  The superintendent's

2 budget last year didn't propose new positions, it

3 was a maintenance of effort budget if you recall,

4 so we just were going after compensation

5 increases.

6       MS. ROWE:  So when we have vacant FTEs,

7 is it because the FTE was never filled or because

8 it became vacant in the school year?

9       MR. TANTLEFF:  Any school-based position

10 HR is actively trying to fill, so if it became

11 vacant during the school year, a teacher

12 resigned, they will immediately try to fill that.

13 If it's vacant going into the year, they're

14 actively trying to fill these positions too.

15       MS. ROWE:  Do we know approximately how

16 many months or years a position stays vacant for,

17 and where it was that a long-term sub filled that

18 position?

19       MR. TANTLEFF:  I would see if that data

20 is available.

21       MR. HARTLOVE:  I would say, I mean I'm

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1 new, but I would say we have trouble, every

2 school system is having trouble filling

3 positions, but I don't believe it's the practice

4 that we hold vacant positions.  As Mr. Tantleff

5 said, we're actively trying to hire all the

6 positions that we have, it's just some we have a

7 lot of trouble finding folks for, but we don't

8 have a policy where we say let's hold these

9 positions.  We would love to be 100 percent

10 filled.

11       MS. ANDERSON:  Yes, and I agree with

12 Mr. Hartlove here.  Our process in HR is if a

13 position does become vacant we would work to fill

14 that position.  Similarly as new positions are

15 added within our budget, we develop a process

16 plan whereby we work to fill that position as

17 well.  So it's not a standard operating procedure

18 to allow positions to remain vacant throughout

19 the entirety of the fiscal year.

20       MS. ROWE:  Okay, so does that not happen

21 then?  Like what's the longest that something's

Page 254

1  been vacant, what's the average?

2       MS. ANDERSON:  Not wanting to provide an

3  incorrect response, I'll research that

4  information and provide you a full answer.

5       MS. ROWE:  Thank you.

6       MS. ANDERSON:  Because we can't look at

7  vacancies unilaterally, we have to look at the

8  vacancy with respect to the specific position

9  that's vacant.  And in BCPS we also need to look

10  at the position with respect to zones, so there

11  are various variables that go into a position

12  vacancy, as well as the long-term effects of that

13  vacancy.

14       MS. ROWE:  I would be very interested to

15  know how long it takes to fill a vacancy and then

16  once we hire that person, how long it takes to on

17  board them.

18       MS. ANDERSON:  Sure.

19       MS. ROWE:  Thank you.

20       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any other

21  comments or questions before we vote?  Mr. Kuehn?

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1       MR. KUEHN:  So one of our items in

2  information is the financial report for the month

3  ending December 2021.  And I'm wondering if

4  Mr. Sarris or Mr. Tantleff can tell us what funds

5  have not been expended that were specific for

6  teaching resources.  I'm guessing you know the

7  number, it's just the matter if I'm asking the

8  question the right way.

9       MR. TANTLEFF:  So activity three is the

10  primary activity that covers teachers in the

11  schoolhouse and we have a significant number of

12  teacher vacancies, so we project that by year-end

13  we will be under spent by more than we typically

14  would in that activity.  Activity six also has a

15  lot of teachers, that's special education, but

16  that report is really just telling you how much

17  we've spent year to date and giving you a gauge

18  of that versus the total budget.

19       MR. KUEHN:  But it doesn't tell us how

20  much we were supposed to spend up to that point?

21       MR. TANTLEFF:  No, it doesn't in the

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1  budget.

2       MR. SARRIS:  So in other words, if you

3  look at instructional salaries, we have spent

4  42.2 percent relative to 50 percent of the year,

5  so that variant is representing --

6       MR. KUEHN:  That's understandable when

7  we haven't filled them all.

8       MR. SARRIS:  Right.

9       MR. KUEHN:  Thank you.  I have no

10  further questions.

11       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Gover,

12  may I have a rollcall vote please?

13       MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

14       MS. ROWE:  Yes.

15       MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

16       MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

17       MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

18       MS. MACK:  Yes.

19       MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

20       VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

21       MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

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1       MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.

2       MS. GOVER:  Ms. Scott?  I'm sorry.

3  Dr. Hager?

4       DR. HAGER:  Yes.

5       MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

6       MR. KUEHN:  Yes.

7       MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

8       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.  The motion

9  carries.  Mr. Thomas?

10       MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  I'd like the

11  record to reflect that I would vote in support.

12  Thank you.

13       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Mack,

14  did you have anything else?

15       MS. MACK:  No.

16       CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  I have one

17  motion I'd like to make at this time if I may.

18       I move to increase the allocation of

19  funding in the FY-2023 operating budget for

20  alternative education programs to be equal to or

21  greater than the highest school system's per

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1 pupil allocation for alternative education

2 programs in the state, not to exceed one million.

3      MS. CAUSEY:  Second, Causey.

4      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, and that is

5 in the chat.  So I will comment on my motion.

6      Currently feedback I've gotten from our

7 school system staff is that our alternative

8 education programs are underutilized, that

9 places, that they are unable to get placements

10 for students that are in need of the services,

11 that they have received overwhelmingly positive

12 feedback from students who need those placements

13 and that warrant additional services to be made

14 available, and that they are desperate for these

15 placements and cannot get them.

16      This is a service that we are in need of

17 providing more.  Again, as Ms. Mack said, we are

18 in need of people for our students, and this is

19 one area that certainly the social and emotional

20 needs of our students have never been greater in

21 the pandemic, and this is one area that folks are

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1 begging us to help them with.

2      So that said, this is a way to be

3 responsive to ensure that we are providing equal

4 to or greater than the level of supports that

5 other LEAs are providing in the state.

6      Yes, Mr. Thomas, and then Ms. Mack.

7      MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  So what's the

8 purpose of money being allocated?  My question is

9 like what's the purpose for that money, like do

10 you have, besides just giving money to the

11 alternative education, like what's the purpose,

12 what's that pool of money to be used for?

13      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Whatever the needs of

14 those programs are to accommodate more student

15 placements, staffing.

16      MR. THOMAS:  Okay, so it could be

17 allocated for staffing?

18      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Supplies, whatever

19 they need to serve more students.

20      MR. THOMAS:  Okay.  So why didn't we

21 just add more FTEs to the alternative education

Page 260

1 programs?

2      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  It's to award, to give

3 staff flexibility to provide what they need.

4      MR. THOMAS:  Okay.  Can I ask

5 Dr. Williams and staff, what would you guys use

6 this amount of funding for those programs?

7      MR. SARRIS:  So a lot of --

8      DR. WILLIAMS:  I think to your point, it

9 would be, and Mr. Sarris, you can look at the

10 current allocation, would be to look at what we

11 currently fund and expanding that funding for the

12 instructional materials, it could be additional

13 types of FTEs that may be necessary.  I don't

14 have the specifics right now.  We of course would

15 have to work with our alternative schools and

16 look at the needs and prioritize.  Mr. Sarris,

17 anything you want to add to that?

18      MR. SARRIS:  Yeah, I'm trying to -- a

19 lot of the alternative programs, they spend to

20 pay teachers and tutors to do additional hours,

21 and might not necessarily require FTEs, but I

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1 need to quickly find that section to see --

2      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  While you're looking

3 that up, one example that I was told is that

4 alternative programs will only serve students

5 with very limited IEPs, so there may be staff,

6 special educators that we could provide for a

7 wider range of students that have more

8 complicated needs if we were to provide

9 additional staff.

10      MR. THOMAS:  Okay.  And this is only for

11 the BCPS alternatives, not the nonpublic schools

12 that we have our students also going to.

13      MR. SARRIS:  So I'm not clear now if

14 we're talking about special education, or

15 alternative programs like evening, weekend,

16 bridge programs, that kind of thing.

17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Alternative schools.

18      MR. SARRIS:  Oh, alternative schools,

19 okay.

20      MR. THOMAS:  Like the Crossroads Center?

21      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.

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1    MR. THOMAS:  Okay.

2    MR. SARRIS:  So I think that would, to

3  increase placements, we probably would need staff

4  in those alternative schools, so we would have to

5  work with the program directors and the

6  principals to see, allocate that million dollars

7  between staff and non-salary expenses, and so we

8  would, as we'll do with all these motions, we'll

9  begin work tomorrow morning and we can provide

10  you with an update of how best to increase seats.

11  Is that the right direction?

12    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes, thank you.

13    MR. THOMAS:  Okay.

14    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  So I have updated my

15  wording, thank you, Dr. Hager, for alternative

16  education schools to make that clear.  That was

17  the intent.

18    MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  Do we know

19  what -- okay, so it says equal to or greater than

20  the highest school system's per pupil allocation

21  in alternative education programs in the state.

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1  Do we know what that number is, and does that

2  exceed one million and are we just going to be

3  allocating $1 million?

4    MR. SARRIS:  I don't know off the top of

5  my head.  I'm sure that --

6    MR. THOMAS:  Okay.

7    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.  Ms. Mack?

8    MS. MACK:  I just wanted to say, before

9  the pandemic started I was able to visit the

10  Crossroads Center and another alternative school,

11  and what I found to be very interesting was one

12  of the biggest problems they have at those

13  schools is that a lot of kids become so

14  comfortable there that they don't want to leave,

15  that they thrive on the personalized attention

16  that they're getting, the smaller class sizes,

17  and I think they feel safer sometimes in that

18  environment.  So I fully support this, because I

19  think we need to utilize the alternative programs

20  for whatever reason a student is sent there, and

21  recognize that they are beneficial to students

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1  such that some of them don't ever want to leave,

2  so I fully support this motion.

3    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Dr. Hager?

4    DR. HAGER:  I'm getting confused again.

5  Are we talking about schools like Catonsville

6  Center for Alternative Studies, or schools for

7  students with special education needs?  I'm

8  sorry, so we're talking about --

9    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Right.

10    MR. SARRIS:  So Crossroads is one that

11  started out as a transitional program that has

12  really been extended as a, you know, a full

13  program through graduation.

14    DR. HAGER:  Okay, I was just clarifying,

15  thank you.

16    MR. SARRIS:  And we have at this point

17  299 students projected between all four schools,

18  Crossroads being far and away the largest at 174

19  and Meadowood being the smallest at 20.  So I

20  just, and their non-salary budget is about

21  400,000.

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1    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  And my motion puts a

2  cap on it, but I'm interested in seeing how other

3  schools are, comparable schools are funded so

4  that we can make sure, and I have no idea what

5  that looks like, but that's why I put that cap

6  there, again, with the goal of increasing

7  placements.

8    MR. SARRIS:  Okay, thanks.

9    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any other

10  discussion?  Okay, Mr. Thomas.

11    MR. THOMAS:  Yes.  I just wanted to say

12  that I, although I would have liked to have

13  more information, you know, how we allocate FTEs

14  beforehand, I think that although I can't vote, I

15  am in support of this.

16    I had the opportunity to visit Rosedale

17  Center, it was one of my first school visits, and

18  that was a concern that was brought out, the same

19  thing that Ms. Mack said about students who don't

20  want to leave, was so true, and how much more

21  resources that they needed in order to maintain

1 having students there and also to really engage

2 with them, so yeah.

3    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

4 Mrs. Causey?

5    MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you, Madam Chair, for

6 bringing this up.  I support this.  I've heard

7 from educators around the district that there are

8 seemingly more students that have, you know, some

9 broader issues that would be helped at these

10 schools, which would then allow the comprehensive

11 schools, you know, when a student is given a lot

12 of resources that the alternative schools are

13 designed to provide, it allows the comprehensive

14 schools to be more efficient and effective for

15 those students in that community as well.

16    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Do I need

17 to restate my motion or restate it,

18 Mr. Brousaides?

19    (Mr. Brousaides inaudible, not on

20 microphone.)

21    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  So I will

1 restate it.  I move to increase the allocation of

2 funding in the FY-2023 operating budget for

3 alternative schools to be equal to or greater

4 than the highest school system's per pupil

5 allocation for alternative schools in the state,

6 not to exceed one million.

7    MS. CAUSEY:  And I'm the second, that

8 accepts that completely.

9    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any

10 objection?  Thank you.  Ms. Gover, may we have a

11 rollcall vote please?

12    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

13    MS. ROWE:  Yes.

14    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

15    MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

16    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

17    MS. MACK:  Yes.

18    MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

19    VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

20    MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

21    MR. OFFERMAN:  No.

1    MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

2    DR. HAGER:  Yes.

3    MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

4    MR. KUEHN:  Yes.

5    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

6    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.  The motion

7 carries, thank you.  Mr. Thomas?

8    MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  I'd like to

9 state for the record that I am in support of this

10 and would like that to be noted, thank you.

11    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any other

12 discussion, board members?  No.  Okay.  Ms. Mack?

13    MS. MACK:  I'd like to make a motion to

14 accept the proposed FY-2023 budget as amended.

15    MR. OFFERMAN:  Second.

16    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Any discussion?  May I

17 have a rollcall vote please?

18    MR. HARTLOVE:  Would you like us to

19 summarize what's been discussed?  No?

20    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you, though.

21    MR. SARRIS:  I wanted to see him do it.

1    DR. HAGER:  Come on, let's put the

2 newbie to the test.

3    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  We would love a

4 written summary.

5    MR. HARTLOVE:  Sounds good, okay.

6    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  So there's been a

7 motion and a second, no discussion.  May I have a

8 rollcall vote?

9    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

10    MS. ROWE:  Yes.

11    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

12    MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

13    MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

14    MS. MACK:  Yes.

15    MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

16    VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

17    MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

18    MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.

19    MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

20    DR. HAGER:  Yes.

21    MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

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1  MR. KUEHN:  Yes.

2  MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

3  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.  The motion

4  carries.

5  MR. THOMAS:  Ms. Henn?

6  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The budget is adopted

7  as amended.

8  MR. THOMAS:  I'd like to state for the

9  record that I would vote for this, thank you.

10  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.

11  Yes, thank you all.

12  Ms. Mack, your motion was as amended,

13  correct, you did state that?  Thank you, I just

14  wanted to make that clarification.

15  The next item on the agenda is

16  unfinished business, consideration of board

17  policies, which was postponed from the

18  February 8th, 2022 board meeting, and for that I

19  call on the policy review committee chair,

20  Ms. Rowe.

21  MS. ROWE:  Members of the Board, the

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1  policy review committee asks that the Board

2  accept the committee's recommendation to amend

3  the following, Board Policy 7230, facilities and

4  construction, financing capital projects funded

5  by private donations.  This recommendation is

6  presented to you on tonight's agenda as

7  Exhibit K.

8  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Do I have a motion to

9  adopt the recommendation of the Board's policy

10  review committee?

11  MR. THOMAS:  So moved, Thomas.

12  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  No second is needed

13  since the recommendation comes from the

14  committee.  Is there any discussion?

15  Mrs. Causey?

16  MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you.  Earlier I

17  emailed -- well, in previous meetings I had

18  discussed concerns given some information about

19  many projects that have been a lengthy time

20  getting approved, where I wanted to make

21  amendments and I had talked about it at the last

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1  meeting, so I had emailed, and now I'm trying to

2  find it.  If anyone gets there first, just let me

3  know.

4  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Causey, what were

5  your concerns about the policy, can you summarize

6  them?

7  MS. CAUSEY:  Certainly.  It was adding

8  language to be more descriptive in the issues

9  addressed in the policy, just in terms of -- it's

10  here somewhere -- including specific donor

11  information, including type of donor, whether

12  units of government, nonprofits, business,

13  community groups, PTA, individuals, the amount of

14  donation, and the type, whether it's funds, in

15  kind or service, and then adding a reporting, the

16  superintendent will provide a semiannual report

17  to the Board on the approval process and the

18  implementation of capital projects.

19  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  May I ask, is that

20  level of detail currently included in the

21  superintendent's rule?  Or would you care --

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1  Ms. Rowe, is the --

2  MS. CAUSEY:  The detail is addressed in

3  the superintendent's rule, yes.  But in

4  evaluating the policy analysis presented from

5  staff, that there are other boards that have

6  additional detail and as a board we've sometimes

7  been including requests, so --

8  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Do you have a motion?

9  Actually there's a motion on the floor.  Do you

10  have --

11  MS. CAUSEY:  Yeah, I do.  It literally

12  disappeared, but I show here that I emailed it to

13  20 people.

14  CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.  So we need to

15  process the motion on the floor and then if you

16  have suggestions to incorporate your

17  superintendent's rule, unless you'd like to make

18  another motion regarding the policy, but we need

19  to process this.

20  MS. CAUSEY:  I move that Draft Policy

21  7230 be amended by adding the following language

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1  on page one, line 37 at the end of the phrase,

2  who submit capital project proposals. The

3  addition is, including specific donor

4  information, donor type, whether unit of

5  government, nonprofit organization, business,

6  community group, PTA, individuals, et cetera;

7  type of donation funds, donation in kind,

8  donation of service. On page two, line four,

9  number four, satisfactory completion of the

10  capital project with appropriate school system

11  management and oversight. And finally, on page

12  two, line seven, at the end of the statement, the

13  Board directs the superintendent to implement the

14  policy, adding, the superintendent will provide

15  semiannual reports to the Board on the

16  implementation of policy and superintendent's

17  rule regarding approval process and project

18  completion.

19      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: So were these changes

20  discussed in committee, or are you proposing

21  moving them back to committee.

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1      MS. CAUSEY: No, I'm adding, I'm making

2  a motion to add it here and then pass the policy.

3      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Is there a second?

4      MS. ROWE: Second.

5      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Do you have it? Is

6  that prepared that you can send?

7      MS. CAUSEY: Yes, I'm trying to cut and

8  paste it back together.

9      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Yes. You're offering

10  this as an amendment to the motion on the floor?

11      MS. CAUSEY: Yes, ma'am.

12      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: So if Ms. Gover can

13  put it in the chat for those on the chat? Thank

14  you. So you are moving to adopt the

15  recommendation of the Board's policy review

16  committee as amended --

17      MS. CAUSEY: Yes.

18      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: -- with the following

19  language that you stated.

20      MS. CAUSEY: Yes, ma'am.

21      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Any questions?

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1  Mr. Thomas?

2      MR. THOMAS: Thank you. I just, if I

3  hadn't received this previously as an attachment,

4  I would love to have discussion about this and

5  get into this, but we're just receiving this and

6  it's really late, so I would just ask that we

7  move this policy back to the policy review

8  committee and then we can have the discussion

9  there. We have a number of upcoming meetings and

10  so I think that would be best. So if Ms. Causey

11  is willing to withdraw your motion and Ms. Rowe,

12  your second, then I think we could, that would be

13  best.

14      MS. HOWIE: So respectfully, members of

15  the Board, this policy has been postponed twice.

16  It was voted out of committee without any of this

17  discussion, so this is the first time that anyone

18  is hearing about possible changes to the policy.

19  And it was voted on in first reader as well,

20  there were no questions in first reader. This is

21  not the best way to make decisions, respectfully.

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1      MS. CAUSEY: Madam Chair, if I may? It

2  was discussed. In fact there's two additional

3  documents that have been attached, that staff

4  replied to my questions and concerns that I

5  raised the first time, where I said that I was

6  going to be adding an amendment.

7      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: And I would like the

8  committee chair to comment on this matter. What

9  is your recommendation, Ms. Rowe?

10      MS. ROWE: That we take a recess so we

11  can all go to the bathroom, and I can look at

12  this in the context of the policy and then make a

13  recommendation.

14      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: I'm not going to honor

15  the recess because we need to make a decision on

16  this and move forward. But I agree with

17  Mr. Thomas that this is not how to process a

18  policy, that we've never seen the changes to it,

19  it's 11:30 at night.

20      MS. ROWE: If we could put it back to

21  policy review, that's fine. I'm just uncertain

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1 as to how we do that when we have a motion and an

2 amendment on the floor.

3      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  So Mrs. Causey, would

4 you consider withdrawing your motion and then

5 moving the policy back to policy review

6 committee?

7      MS. CAUSEY:  I don't think I can

8 withdraw it, but I can amend my amendment to --

9      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  You can withdraw your

10 amendment, your motion to amend.  You can

11 withdraw and then people vote on it, with

12 consent.

13      MS. CAUSEY:  Okay.  I move to withdraw

14 my motion and send it back to the policy review

15 committee.

16      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Are there any

17 objections?  Okay.  So now the original motion

18 stands.  If we wish to instead move it back to

19 policy review committee we can vote that down, so

20 may I have a rollcall vote on the original motion

21 on the floor to accept the recommendation of the

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1 policy review committee?

2      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

3      MS. ROWE:  No.

4      MS. CAUSEY:  I'm sorry, I thought we

5 were voting on --

6      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  And then we can move

7 to move it back.  There's a motion on the floor

8 that we're processing, to adopt the

9 recommendation of the Board's policy review

10 committee.

11      MS. CAUSEY:  No.

12      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

13      MS. MACK:  No.

14      MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

15      VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

16      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Thomas?

17      MR. THOMAS:  No.

18      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

19      MR. OFFERMAN:  Abstain.

20      MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

21      DR. HAGER:  No.

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1      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

2      MR. KUEHN:  No.

3      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

4      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  No.  That motion

5 fails.  Mrs. Causey, would you like to make your

6 motion now?

7      MS. CAUSEY:  I move to send it back to

8 policy review.

9      MR. THOMAS:  Second, Thomas.

10      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  May I have

11 a rollcall vote please?

12      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?

13      MS. ROWE:  Yes.

14      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?

15      MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.

16      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?

17      MS. MACK:  Yes.

18      MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?

19      VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.

20      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Thomas?

21      MR. THOMAS:  Yes.

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1      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Offerman?

2      MR. OFFERMAN:  Yes.

3      MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?

4      DR. HAGER:  Yes.

5      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?

6      MR. KUEHN:  Yes.

7      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?

8      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.

9      MS. GOVER:  Thank you.

10      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The motion carries,

11 thank you.

12      The next item on the agenda is the

13 update on the Blueprint.  For that I call on

14 Dr. Williams and Mr. Dixit.

15      MS. ROWE:  Madam Chair, could we recess

16 for three minutes?

17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  This is the -- we have

18 two final items.  If you need to, Ms. Rowe, if

19 you need to step out.

20      DR. WILLIAMS:  So this evening we

21 actually have Dr. Boswell-McComas and Mr. Dixit.

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1    DR. MCCOMAS:  So good evening again,
2  members of the Board, Dr. Williams.  Mr. Dixit
3  and I are here this evening to provide you an
4  update on Blueprint for Maryland's Future, and
5  specifically this evening we will be focusing on
6  progress with implementation of our Blueprint
7  related to facilities, focusing in on CTE and
8  early childhood expansion.  Next slide please.
9    As all of you are familiar with, our
10  Blueprint for Maryland's Future was a bill that
11  took effect July 1st of 2020 and affects five
12  major policy areas as you have seen before and
13  are on this slide in front of you.  Forgive me,
14  I'll slow myself down here.  Next slide please.
15    And as always, we anchor everything to
16  our strategic plan and as you are familiar with,
17  there is a great deal of intersectionality
18  between the Blueprint for Maryland's Tomorrow and
19  the five policy areas with our strategic plan.
20  Next slide please.
21    To begin with, this evening I just want

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1  to highlight our CTE.  Beginning in the year
2  2023-24, school year, which is not next year but
3  the year after, all school systems in Maryland
4  will be required to provide all students who meet
5  college and career standards access to three
6  pathways to further success at no cost to the
7  student, and you can see on the screen in front
8  of you that there are really three pathways
9  related to that expectation.  I'm proud to say
10  that we in BCPS already have elements of that,
11  but one of the areas that we'll be expanding and
12  focusing on is the third column, specifically
13  related to credentialing.
14    But in order for us to do that, we will
15  of course be looking at all of our programs, and
16  that's where my colleague Mr. Dixit comes in, and
17  he will provide you an update on facilities
18  related to CTE programs, so next slide please.
19    MR. DIXIT:  As the Board will recall --
20  good evening, and congratulations to
21  Mr. McMillion on his appointment.

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1    As the Board will recall, under the
2  capital improvement program the Board had
3  approved study money for northwest CTE center.
4  The work is currently under progress to identify
5  CTE needs in the northwest area and site
6  evaluation of existing and potential sites to
7  provide those CTE programs.  The goal is to
8  completes the analysis by preparing
9  specifications for development of a structure or
10  facilities to provide access to students in the
11  northwest part of the county.  Next slide.
12    DR. MCCOMAS:  Yes, and then -- thank
13  you.  And then moving on, we're going to
14  highlight preschool and prekindergarten
15  expansion, so for the early childhood education
16  program portion of Blueprint, BCPS has
17  traditionally always held a meeting with an
18  expansion group, an internal expansion group to
19  always be discussing how do we expand seating
20  half day sessions at elementary schools where
21  there's high need and potential space.

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1    What we are doing this year is this
2  group is now looking at expansion for full day
3  sessions around BCPS based on need, and as
4  described in the Blueprint language you see in
5  front of you, fundamentally we are looking to
6  expand full day pre-K and for that we typically
7  mean a four-year-old pre-K program, focused on
8  making full day kindergarten sessions available
9  for all four-year-olds from low income families,
10  and we're essentially looking to convert half day
11  slots into full day slots, and creating new slots
12  as new schools and facilities come on line.
13    This will occur at the same time that we
14  are looking to expand full day prekindergarten
15  for three-year-olds in low income families.  We
16  often refer to our three-year-old program as
17  preschool, so that's how we delineate, but the
18  Blueprint language uses prekindergarten and
19  designates the years.  If you can go on to the
20  next slide please?
21    This year the expansion group met to

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1 explore full day sessions and has engaged in the

2 following collaborative analysis with our

3 partners in strategic planning. We analyzed

4 schools that were underutilized for space, we

5 investigate under enrolled prekindergarten

6 programs and matching special education programs

7 that were located in the same building. We

8 analyzed specific schools regarding the

9 educational specifications, we know our younger

10 learners have certain room requirements. And

11 additionally, our Office of Early Childhood

12 Programs has been researching and investigating a

13 potential new curriculum for prekindergarten

14 programs. Next slide please.

15       The current full-day sessions in BCPS

16 are 11, they currently are at Halstead,

17 Hawthorne, Maiden Choice, Sandy Plains and White

18 Oak, and as a result of our collaborative work

19 with strategic planning and facilities we are

20 recommending the addition of sessions for next

21 year at Berkshire, Lansdowne and the new

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1 northeast elementary school, as you can see on

2 the slide before you. With the expansion of

3 these full-day sessions that will bring us to 17

4 full-day sessions for next school year.

5       At this point my colleague will explain

6 some future facility plans that will include

7 full-day pre-K programs.

8       MR. DIXIT: So all of the new elementary

9 schools that are under design in our educational

10 specification and future planning, we are making

11 sure that it has the provisions to support

12 expanding full day prekindergarten sessions, and

13 we have looked at the northwest side of the

14 county where there are several schools coming.

15 All of them have prekindergarten facilities to

16 meet the requirement of the Blueprint, and even

17 those students who are in other facilities are

18 being transitioned into neighborhood schools,

19 with those facilities being updated.

20       DR. MCCOMAS: Thank you, next slide

21 please. And that's some of the schools that we

Page 288

1 were just referencing. Next slide.

2       What you see on the map before you is

3 the locations for the available prekindergarten

4 sessions moving forward at this point. The

5 Blueprint, you know, vision around expanding

6 early childhood is quite a sizable endeavor and

7 therefore it requires that this will be a

8 multiyear approach, and of course it engages

9 private and public options for families. The map

10 before you will show you three color coded dots.

11 The dots that are purple indicate where there are

12 private providers that BCPS families can access,

13 the black dots indicate where we have current

14 full day sessions this year, and the yellow dots

15 indicate the expansion schools for next year.

16 Next slide please.

17       Ultimately this sizable endeavor

18 requires a great deal of collaboration, and our

19 collaboration continues both internally and

20 externally with stakeholders in order to insure

21 that the implementation of this vision for the

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1 Blueprint is supportive to our students, families

2 and staff. An internal BCPS Blueprint workgroup

3 is a cross-divisional workgroup that collaborates

4 on implementation plans. Additionally, we have a

5 workgroup that includes school-based staff and

6 union representation in the form of the Blueprint

7 review team that has approved recommendations to

8 move forward that are in alignment with the

9 Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

10       Additionally, the Blueprint coordinator,

11 Dr. Millicent Whisted attends external LEA

12 sessions where Blueprint coordinators across the

13 state are able to collaborate on implementation

14 plans, and she meets with our Baltimore County

15 Government partners and holds discussions on

16 implementation of BCPS' plan and coordination of

17 resources.

18       Finally, the Maryland State Department

19 of Education meetings are also another forum for

20 LEAs to discuss the requirements for

21 implementation of the Blueprint. Next slide

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1 please.

2      Last but not least, we are excited to

3 debut our BCPS Blueprint web page. It's

4 dedicated to keeping our community appraised of

5 updates related to our Blueprint and the future

6 laws as they become implemented. Please look for

7 this resource or contact me or Dr. Whisted with

8 any questions related to the Blueprint in BCPS.

9 Thank you.

10      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.

11 Mr. Thomas?

12      MR. THOMAS: Thank you so much. That

13 was incredible, thank you, Dr. McComas, and thank

14 you, Mr. Dixit. On February 12th I actually

15 attended Blueprint Day 2022 with Strong Schools

16 Maryland in recognition of one year of the

17 Blueprint being passed, so I'm so excited about

18 this, but we also were praised for having the

19 website up and running, so I just wanted to share

20 that with you all.

21      My one question is about the private

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1 providers for pre-K. Are those currently being

2 used by our students, do we currently offer those

3 private provider owned facilities to our

4 students.

5      DR. MCCOMAS: That is -- I will have to

6 get back to you to be honest, Mr. Thomas. I do

7 not believe that we currently offer it this year,

8 but in moving forward, part of what the work is

9 happening this year is identifying where there

10 are private providers that have space and meet

11 the criteria as set forth by MSDE.

12      MR. THOMAS: Incredible. For those

13 private providers, are we, and in pre-K, are we

14 going to be implementing curriculum for those

15 type of providers and those sort of things, or is

16 it kind of up to the individualized private

17 provider to provide that.

18      DR. MCCOMAS: So it would be both. The

19 private providers can work with us around our

20 curriculum, but they also can use their

21 curriculum, but it has to meet the criteria as

Page 292

1 set forward by MSDE.

2      MR. THOMAS: Incredible, and how would

3 our parents from those backgrounds know about

4 these private providers and access them?

5      DR. MCCOMAS: So that's a good segue to

6 our website, they can reach that, and then I can

7 have Dr. Whisted and our Office of Early

8 Childhood support families in finding the

9 appropriate resource for them.

10      MR. THOMAS: Thank you, and one last

11 question. Are these private providers fully

12 dedicated to BCPS students, or are there other

13 students in other areas as well?

14      DR. MCCOMAS: There are other students

15 in other areas, but they are providers located

16 within the Baltimore County geographic area or

17 jurisdiction if you will, and they may serve

18 students that are not of low income. This is

19 really right now focusing on providing that

20 support for students or children of low income.

21      MR. THOMAS: Incredible, thank you so

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1 much.

2      DR. MCCOMAS: Thank you.

3      CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Dr. Hager?

4      DR. HAGER: Several questions. First,

5 I'm very excited about it, but you kept referring

6 to them as sessions, 17 full day sessions; does

7 that mean a classroom, or what do you mean by

8 that?

9      DR. MCCOMAS: It's really a classroom,

10 and so essentially right now we use the

11 expression morning session, afternoon session.

12      DR. HAGER: Okay.

13      DR. MCCOMAS: So what we're saying is

14 there will be a full day session, and so it's

15 really a classroom. Right now we share space,

16 right, so we would take, have a class in there in

17 the morning and a different class of students in

18 the half day model. And so when we say full day

19 session, it's really one group of students in

20 that classroom all day.

21      DR. HAGER: Okay. And just as an aside,

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1 prioritizing sites that do have onsite aftercare
2 for those kids, so that their day doesn't end at
3 three o'clock for working families. For those
4 private sites where we're working with them, how
5 is this different than the current voucher
6 program that MSDE provides to low income
7 families?
8 　　　DR. MCCOMAS: I don't know enough about
9 the current voucher to be forthright with you,
10 Dr. Hager, and I will find out more. But I do
11 understand with the Blueprint, there will be more
12 of a sliding scale, I think that's one of the
13 significant differences, but I will confirm that
14 and get back to you in a weekly update.
15 　　　DR. HAGER: And then last question, a
16 concern that because we have such areas of
17 concentrated poverty, having enough space for all
18 the students who need it so they can be together
19 in their home schools, so I was just kind of, you
20 know, I know you have to deal with all these
21 things, but --

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1 　　　DR. MCCOMAS: No, we appreciate that,
2 and we do recognize that there is more need right
3 now than we have facility capacity, even
4 inclusive of private partnerships.
5 　　　DR. HAGER: And also, will the children
6 have busing for their pre-K?
7 　　　DR. MCCOMAS: Transportation is
8 provided.
9 　　　DR. HAGER: Thank you.
10 　　　DR. MCCOMAS: Thank you.
11 　　　CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Mr. Kuehn?
12 　　　MR. KUEHN: So, Mr. Thomas mentioned
13 curriculum and I'm curious, what does a
14 curriculum look like for a three-year-old?
15 　　　DR. MCCOMAS: Oh, it's -- so there is
16 literacy and mathematics. When we think about
17 mathematics at this age it's really about pattern
18 recognition, beginning number sets, beginning
19 counting skills, colors, shapes. When we get
20 into literacy, it's again, a lot of the very
21 basics around recognizing letter symbols,

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1 associating sounds with letter symbols.
2 　　　MR. KUEHN: Okay, thank you. I think
3 there's severe limits. I mean, I understand the
4 whole ready for kindergarten, right, that's where
5 we're trying to get folks, and we're in essence
6 providing state funded daycare for children, and
7 that's what I see this as. I'm not against it, I
8 think it's an opportunity that children should
9 have, I just want to make sure everybody
10 understands that we're not actually extending
11 school, school is still kindergarten through 12th
12 grade. This is just trying to prepare children
13 for school and not push school down into these
14 age groups, because I don't think it's actually
15 developmentally, you know, appropriate to try and
16 force a lot of rigor at this age.
17 　　　And that's why I brought up the whole
18 curriculum situation, because like you said, you
19 know, ABCs, numbers, shapes, colors, whatever, I
20 just want to make sure we're not going beyond
21 that.

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1 　　　DR. MCCOMAS: Sure. I will say that all
2 programs for students of this age are designed
3 with their developmental readiness, and there is
4 a lot of learning through play. There is a lot
5 of kinesthetic learning, it's not just sit at
6 your desk drilling, it would never work with
7 children of that age or a parent. And so the
8 curriculum and the programming of the entire day
9 is really taken into account because it needs to
10 work, right? You're not, it's not going to be
11 productive for our children or our faculty if we
12 design programs that aren't in respect to the
13 developmental age and appropriateness.
14 　　　MR. KUEHN: And just one last question.
15 Kids at this age need to get up and move around,
16 you know, and I wonder, are we having at least
17 one to two sessions of like going out and
18 playing, especially if they're in a full day, I
19 couldn't imagine.
20 　　　DR. MCCOMAS: There certainly will be
21 built in lots of activities, recess and special

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1 areas, right?  There will be opportunities for
2 them to have music and art and things that again,
3 are not just, when you think about traditional
4 school sitting and drilling.
5     MR. KUEHN:  Thank you.
6     DR. MCCOMAS:  My pleasure, good
7 questions.
8     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Mack?
9     MS. MACK:  To piggyback on what
10 Mr. Kuehn was talking about, my kids recently
11 shared with me a longitudinal study that took
12 place in Tennessee.  They had the, I guess the
13 luxury of looking at a cohort of students who
14 began a state funded pre-K in 2011, and the
15 students who enrolled underperformed their peers
16 in the control group who did not participate as
17 observed through statewide achievement tests and
18 disciplinary data.  I understand that the state
19 will be mandating a lot of this, but this article
20 that just came out on February 2nd was very very
21 eye opening, and I hope that when we do look at

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1 what we're expecting of children that it's more
2 play than anything, because this was a very well
3 designed study and it was a well designed
4 curriculum, but it shows that kids learn better
5 through play, and I was going to actually ask if
6 we could talk about it in the curriculum
7 committee meeting at some point, because it's
8 very very eye opening.
9     DR. MCCOMAS:  I'm happy to talk about
10 curriculum and instruction in the committee.
11     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Ms. Rowe?
12     MS. ROWE:  So my only concern about any
13 of this is that there's not enough, because I'm
14 looking at these dots on here and I know the
15 poverty rates in our school system and the number
16 of elementary students in our school system, and
17 what I'm wondering is, is there not enough
18 because we don't have facilities and providers,
19 or is there not enough because we don't have
20 enough funding?
21     DR. MCCOMAS:  So fundamentally right

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1 now, especially with Blueprint in these early
2 stages, the funding is coming as part of the
3 Blueprint, it's truly a facility capacity for us.
4 As you know, we're always working to improve our
5 facilities, and I certainly don't want to steal
6 Mr. Dixit's thunder on that.  So for us, you
7 know, we are a large school system that is at
8 capacity in a lot of ways, so that's part of our
9 problem.  Part of the challenge is the private
10 sector also has limited facilities, and there are
11 specifications that they have to meet in order to
12 be eligible to participate.
13     MS. ROWE:  Do we have the option to
14 lease facilities?
15     MR. DIXIT:  So the question you're
16 asking about, what are the issues, and yes,
17 facilities are a major issue.  And when you talk
18 about what can we do, it's a matter of competing
19 priorities within the needs for the facilities,
20 so what we are doing is cutting it into several
21 little bites and taking one piece at a time.

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1     So for example, those schools that are
2 being designed, we are making sure that they
3 incorporate facilities for this program.  Then we
4 are identifying the schools that have extra
5 capacity and looking at ways of modifying those
6 spaces to meet the guidelines of the space that
7 is needed for that program.  And then finally,
8 looking at the private providers to see their
9 availability.  So this is still an evolutionary
10 stage for this program, but we are very
11 optimistic about it.
12     MS. ROWE:  Okay.  So how are we going to
13 determine when a bunch of students show up at
14 their home elementary school and say we want
15 preschool, how do we determine, assuming they're
16 all equally impoverished, which ones get to go
17 and which ones don't?
18     DR. MCCOMAS:  That's where the team will
19 be working to help families identify where there
20 are seats available.  If they're not enrolled at
21 their school and they meet the eligibility, then

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1 our team will be working with the families to
2 identify where there's slots and the private
3 providers.
4     MS. ROWE:  So like initially, a bunch of
5 people apply, is there a lottery, or is it -- how
6 do you -- I mean, sometimes people do apply for
7 preschool in the previous spring like you would
8 for kindergarten or whatever.  I guess what I'm
9 just wondering is somehow a decision has to be
10 made, and our parents are going to want to know
11 how the decision is made, because we're going to
12 have a lot more demand than supply, so how are we
13 going to make that decision?
14     DR. MCCOMAS:  It begins with the level
15 of poverty and so I can provide more details on
16 that in a weekly update.  Dr. Whisted would be
17 able to provide you a much more thorough answer
18 than I can tonight at this hour, but it is based
19 on a scale of poverty.
20     MS. ROWE:  Okay.  So it's basically a
21 needs based decision then.  What happens if we

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1 have too many of those?
2     DR. MCCOMAS:  Great question.
3     MS. ROWE:  You'd have to decide, right?
4     DR. MCCOMAS:  And that's part of why
5 this is urgent, right?  I mean, we're moving
6 towards implementation as early as next year and
7 this will be ongoing, this is not going to be a
8 single year action related to Blueprint.  And so
9 I think the question will be, we will have, the
10 reality is we will have needs that exceed our
11 capacity.
12     MS. ROWE:  So then maybe waiting lists
13 are an option?  All right.  Thank you.
14     DR. MCCOMAS:  You're welcome, thank you.
15     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mrs. Causey?
16     MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you so much for this
17 presentation and all the hard work from everyone
18 that's been here this evening.  Campfield Early
19 Learning Center, I don't see them on this list.
20 What will their status be?
21     MR. DIXIT:  So the program, part of the

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1 northwest program is Campfield.  The goal is to
2 move all the kids to their neighborhood schools,
3 so a plan is being developed right now to make
4 sure that the new schools that are being built,
5 they have the capacity to take care of their
6 students of their neighborhood and all of the
7 other surrounding schools in that area.  We are
8 looking at what kind of space do they need to
9 accommodate all the students that are currently
10 housed in Campfield.
11     MS. CAUSEY:  Okay.  And we know that
12 students and families do better when they're in
13 their home schools, they're connected, it's
14 convenient, so okay, and then so that facility
15 that the Board owns is being evaluated for future
16 use after these children are transitioned to
17 their home schools?
18     MR. DIXIT:  We don't know at this point.
19 The use of Campfield has not been decided at this
20 point, but it will be repurposed for whatever the
21 other use is for that building.

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1     MS. CAUSEY:  What is the timeframe for
2 the children to join their home schools?
3     MR. DIXIT:  So our goal is to complete
4 all of this plan by the time Bedford and Summit
5 Park are completed.
6     MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you.
7     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Ms. Mack, did you have
8 another comment?
9     MS. MACK:  I think Dr. Whisted is on the
10 line.
11     DR. MCCOMAS:  Oh, is she?  She's still
12 with us.  She will undoubtedly provide you with
13 more detailed answers, so thank you, Ms. Rowe,
14 and thank you, Dr. Whisted.
15     DR. WHISTED:  Hi, can you hear me?
16     DR. MCCOMAS:  I can.
17     DR. WHISTED:  Okay, great.  So I can
18 answer a few of the questions.  Ms. Rowe, to
19 answer your question about the priority process
20 as far as children that are economically
21 disadvantaged, so for now we still have half day

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1  sessions and so we are required to provide at
2  least a half day session for students who qualify
3  up to 185 percent poverty.  And so we will be
4  required if not in their home school, we would
5  provide a half day session potentially in another
6  school in BCPS.  So we have a lot of half day
7  sessions, so that's going to be our process right
8  now.  So if they qualify for full day and their
9  home school has full day and there are more kids
10 than seats in full day there, we can go with a
11 private provider that is also full day, or we can
12 go with a half day session at another site.  So
13 that's the process, if that helps answer that
14 question.
15     I will go on to, there was questions
16 about the private providers.  I also am not
17 familiar with the voucher system, but I can share
18 with you that what happens is that the private
19 providers apply through the Maryland State
20 Department of Education and that's how they
21 receive the funding, so that our families can go

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1  to those private providers.  But there is not, it
2  has not been communicated to us how many seats
3  that will be at each private provider, so
4  hopefully that answers that.
5     And Ms. Mack, I have also read that
6  article you were talking about so if you want to
7  talk about it again at curriculum committee, we
8  can certainly do that.
9     DR. MCCOMAS:  Thank you, Dr. Whisted.
10    MS. MACK:  I do.
11    DR. WHISTED:  Yes.  So I'm not sure if
12 there were other questions, I think I hit all of
13 them because I was taking notes.
14    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Thank you,
15 Dr. Whisted.
16    DR. WILLIAMS:  Thank you.
17    CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The next item on the
18 agenda is the report on academic achievement,
19 fiscal year 2022 first semester attendance.  For
20 that I call on Dr. McComas and Mr. Connelly.
21    DR. MCCOMAS:  I'll give my colleagues a

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1  moment to join me at the table.  So good evening,
2  I am joined this evening by Mr. Kevin Connelly,
3  our executive director of research accountability
4  an assessment, Ms. Kim Ferguson, our executive
5  director of social-emotional support, and
6  Mr. Howard Franklin, one of our proud pupil
7  personnel workers who is joining us this evening.
8     The focus of our presentation this
9  evening is to provide you an update on our first
10 semester attendance rates for our in-person and
11 VLP instruction by level and marking period.
12     Promoting high attendance rates for all
13 our students is an important part of their growth
14 and achievement over time, and is a critical
15 factor in having success academically and having
16 access to the Compass pathways for success for
17 college and career readiness.  Our Board of
18 Education, you all have identified specific
19 attendance goals as part of your focus on safe
20 and supportive learning environments.
21     It is important to note as we work

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1  through this presentation that COVID-19 surges
2  and the emergence of different variants over
3  periods of time over the last two years have
4  resulted in adjustments to our instructional
5  models.  As you are familiar, we have experienced
6  synchronous and asynchronous instruction, hybrid
7  instruction, full-time in-person instruction and
8  full-time virtual learning instruction.
9     So in marking period one of this school
10 year, BCPS students returned to 100 percent
11 in-person instruction for the first time since
12 March of 2020, and so as part of the transition
13 period, BCPS offered students the option to
14 enroll in virtual learning or the VLP.  You will
15 see the impact of these changing conditions
16 compared to the historical patterns related to
17 attendance.  Next slide please.
18     Oh, actually go back one, you were ahead
19 of me.  Thank you.  As you know, our Compass
20 provides a systemwide focus on raising the bar
21 and closing gaps, and preparing our students for

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1 their future.  Our dedication to insuring that

2 our students graduate college and career ready is

3 a thoughtful and research-based approach to

4 understanding key metrics of student progress

5 along the trajectory of their learning across

6 school levels.  Furthermore, the National Center

7 for Education Statistics said that students who

8 attend school regularly have been shown to

9 achieve at higher levels than students who do not

10 attend regularly.  Furthermore, the home-school

11 partnership is critical to supporting our

12 students in their attendance.  A focus on

13 attendance is one example of how our Compass

14 intentionally raises the bar for all students to

15 promote college and career readiness.  Next slide

16 please.

17       At this point I'm going to turn it over

18 to Mr. Connelly, who will walk us through our

19 data.

20       MR. CONNELLY:  Thank you, Dr. McComas.

21 The first semester attendance rates provide us

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1 with information on current levels of attendance

2 as we return to full-time in-person learning.

3 The impact of COVID-19 variants have created some

4 changes in attendance and chronic absenteeism

5 data for marking periods one and two.  The graph

6 displays the overall student attendance rates for

7 all students and by elementary, middle and high

8 school level.  A comparison of attendance rates

9 from marking period one displayed in blue and

10 marking period two displayed in orange shows that

11 the overall attendance rate decreased by

12 approximately four percent across the system, and

13 three to five percent across all school levels.

14 It is important to note that the omicron surge

15 took place during marking period two and

16 attendance rates were adversely impacted as

17 transmission rates increased.  Next slide please.

18       Similar to the attendance rate data

19 previously shown for in-person learning, the BCPS

20 virtual learning program or VLP data shows a

21 decrease in attendance rates from marking period

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1 one to marking period two across all levels.  In

2 comparison to the previously shown data, middle

3 school and high school students who participated

4 in the VLP had attendance rates which were

5 slightly greater in marking period one and

6 marking period two than all middle and high

7 school students.  Next slide please.

8       The trends in decreasing attendance

9 rates for marking period one to marking period

10 two are consistent with historical attendance

11 data trends.  Typically seasonal illnesses result

12 in decreased attendance during the second marking

13 period.  The pre-pandemic attendance rates from

14 2017 through 2020 showed approximately a three

15 percent decrease in student attendance rates.

16 The impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic has

17 resulted in a more significant decrease in

18 student attendance rates from marking period one

19 to marking period two for the last school year.

20       A closer look at this year's change from

21 marking period one to marking period two shows

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1 improvement when compared to last year.  This

2 year's decrease is 3.8 percent compared to last

3 year's decrease of 13.2 percent.  It is important

4 to note the positive relationship between

5 full-time in-person learning and enhanced

6 mitigation strategies for this school year in

7 spite of an increase in the COVID-19 transmission

8 rates related to the omicron surge.  Next slide

9 please.

10       As we take a closer look at comparing

11 the marking period one and marking period two

12 attendance data from last year and this year, it

13 is evident that marking period one attendance is

14 more consistent across levels compared to marking

15 period two.  This year's quarter two attendance

16 rate increased by 6.3 percent for all students

17 compared to last year, with the greatest

18 increases in attendance rates occurring at the

19 middle school and high school, which increased by

20 12.9 percent and 13.7 percent respectively.  Next

21 slide please.

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1    The ongoing reporting of attendance
2  rates by grade level and student groups provide
3  system and school leadership with opportunities
4  to monitor and report student attendance by level
5  and student group for each marking period for
6  students participating in in-person instruction
7  and the VLP, share attendance results with
8  parents, care providers, school attendance teams,
9  school nurses, school counselors, resource
10 teachers, PPWs and school administrators, provide
11 support to students who are chronically absent,
12 and utilize attendance as part of the early
13 warning indicators for high school dropout rates.
14    Additionally, we continue to adjust our
15 mitigation practices in response to COVID metrics
16 so that student health is protected, insuring
17 that they are available for learning.  Next,
18 Ms. Kim Ferguson, executive director of student
19 support services will share information about
20 student attendance.
21    MS. FERGUSON:  Thank you, Mr. Connelly.

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1  The Maryland Compulsory Attendance Law, COMAR
2  7-301, requires children between the ages of five
3  and 18 to attend school regularly.  Baltimore
4  County Public School Policy and Rule 5100 and
5  5120 address topics relating to attendance,
6  including procedures for recording, excusing and
7  monitoring student attendance.  The Maryland
8  State Department of Education and Baltimore
9  County Public Schools expect students to maintain
10 an attendance rate of at least 94 percent.
11 Policy and Rule 5120 reiterates the 94 percent
12 attendance standard and defines chronic
13 absenteeism as being absent ten percent or more
14 of the school days that have occurred, to include
15 excused and unexcused absences.  The rule also
16 describes what lawful and unlawful absences are
17 and what staff are to do to verify absences and
18 tardiness.  The rule briefly describes makeup
19 work, attendance recognition, as well as
20 disciplinary action and accountability.  Next
21 slide please.

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1    The Baltimore County Public School
2  attendance manual is a resource to provide
3  schools with a framework for creating a culture
4  of attendance.  The revised Baltimore County
5  Public School attendance manual includes
6  procedures, strategies and resources to assist
7  schools in developing a proactive school-wide
8  attendance plan.  In addition, the manual
9  outlines a multitiered system of support
10 structures and interventions to use in assisting
11 families in identifying and addressing barriers
12 to regular school attendance.  School attendance
13 committees are charged with monitoring and
14 analyzing attendance trends and implementing
15 school-wide plans aimed at creating a culture of
16 attendance, while addressing the needs of
17 individual students and families.
18    Mr. Howard Franklin, pupil personnel
19 worker assigned to schools in the west zone will
20 now expand upon the tiered approach to attendance
21 interventions.  Next slide.

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1    MR. FRANKLIN:  Thanks, Ms. Ferguson.
2  Good evening everyone.  School attendance
3  committees are comprised of key staff members,
4  typically they're administrators, a school
5  counselor, school nurse, school social worker, as
6  well as involvement from the school's pupil
7  personnel worker.  Other BCPS service providers
8  and outside community partners are also sometimes
9  included.  As Ms. Ferguson said, attendance
10 committees are charged with monitoring and
11 analyzing the school's attendance trends and they
12 are charged with implementing a school-wide plan
13 aimed at, as she so eloquently said, creating a
14 culture of attendance, as well as addressing
15 specific needs that individual families or
16 students may have.
17    We know that attendance is essential for
18 academic success.  There are students -- we also
19 know that there will be families and students who
20 require more intensive levels of support relating
21 to attendance.  BCPS implements a comprehensive

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1  multitiered system of support for students with
2  attendance.  It's the same type of multitiered
3  system of support similar to the MTSS model
4  that's used to improve achievement or student
5  behavior.
6          The current slide is an abbreviated
7  version of a resource from the newly revised BCPS
8  attendance manual, which is utilized by school
9  attendance committees to help guide their work
10  around attendance.  Tier one interventions are
11  universal, they're preventative school-wide
12  attendance strategies that are designed to
13  encourage good attendance for all students.
14  Typically these are, in tier one interventions
15  it's for students who have missed less than five
16  or seven days in a row, which in this case would
17  classify the student as having satisfactory or a
18  low absentee rate.  And to be perfectly honest,
19  we've shifted from focusing on average daily
20  attendance to decreasing the amount of students
21  who are chronically absent in schools.  That's

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1  the shift that came along with ESSA.
2          As well as, in tier one we do address
3  the students who have missed five to nine percent
4  because these are the kids that will be
5  considered at risk for becoming chronically
6  absent, and to be -- these are the students that
7  the school should be putting the most work into,
8  from having them cross over into what I call
9  chronic land, that's what we want to avoid.
10          Tier one interventions, as I said are,
11  they're preventative in nature.  Some examples
12  might be a summer mailing that a principal sends
13  out that has the school's attendance policy on
14  it, or the automated phone call that goes out to
15  all students when they miss a day of school.
16  Many schools have incentive programs that
17  recognize good or improved attendance, as well as
18  health interventions.  For example, schools that
19  host vaccination clinics or dental clinics,
20  because we know that kids miss school for going
21  to the dentist, typically the parents keep them

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1  out for a full day, so those sort of things.
2          As I mentioned, even though the tier one
3  interventions are proactive in nature, we also do
4  address barriers in that tier as well, for
5  example staff outreach.  In some of my schools if
6  a student is absent two days in a week, it's
7  known that the teacher is going to be making a
8  phone call home.  In another one of my schools
9  when a student misses three days in a week, the
10  school nurse reaches out.  In another one of my
11  schools, every time a student who has an IEP or
12  504 plan, if they're out the case manager makes a
13  phone call home.  Those are all tier one.
14          In tier two, those are early
15  interventions that are designed to support
16  families who have a moderate chronic absentee
17  rate.  These are students who have missed 10 to
18  19 percent of the days enrolled.  Once a student
19  hits 10 percent of the school year they're
20  considered chronically absent, so a student who
21  hits 18 in October is already chronically absent

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1  for the entire school year.  It's a moving target
2  because of the fact that, you know, when I do an
3  attendance meeting, the hope is the student will
4  drop off of it as the year goes on.
5          Tier two, during the tier two
6  interventions, the students and families need
7  more personalized attention and support to
8  address the barriers to attendance.  Some
9  examples might include school-based attendance
10  letters that are sent out, and the verbiage in
11  the letter comes from a problem solving kind of
12  helping place.  It might be staff outreach, if
13  there's an ESOL student that is missing school we
14  may ask the ESOL teacher to reach out to the
15  family to find out what's happening.  During tier
16  two also, administrators typically get involved
17  in the form of calls, letters, required parent
18  conferences.  Also in tier two we can refer a
19  student to SST or IEP, where a plan is developed,
20  monitored and then gone back to and seeing if
21  there's been a positive response to the

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1  interventions.

2      All that said, if the student attendance

3  rate is still trending in a negative direction,

4  at this point the school may make a decision to

5  refer it to the school's pupil personnel worker.

6      Tier three interventions are those

7  interventions that are designed to offer the most

8  intensive supports to families who have severe

9  chronic absentee rates.  These are kids who have

10  already missed 20 percent of the days they've

11  been enrolled.  During a tier three intervention,

12  that's when the work of a pupil personnel worker

13  comes into gear at the most highest level.  Also

14  during tier three, it also includes assistance

15  and coordination with outside agencies.  And

16  because pupil personnel workers are responsible

17  for enforcing the Maryland Compulsory Attendance

18  Law, during tier three there may be legal

19  intervention that's used as an intervention.

20      Examples of tier three interventions

21  might be like I said, for PPW to get involved, it

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1  could be a call, a letter.  They often do home

2  visits.  We have a partnership with the

3  Department of Juvenile Services called Project

4  Attend where a family goes before a hearing

5  officer, and it takes place in the courtroom but

6  it's more to create the visual of if things don't

7  straighten out this is where you could be, and a

8  plan is put into place.  We also make referrals

9  to the state's attorney where there's outreach in

10  the form of a warning letter that's sent home

11  from the state's attorney.  And finally, there

12  are rare cases where charges do have to be filed

13  in court.

14      So I was hoping to give you a brief

15  overview of the work that the schools put in and

16  pupil personnel workers put in to create a

17  culture of attendance and it's all aimed at, like

18  I said, we're moving barriers to ultimately

19  decrease the amount of students who cross over

20  into being a chronically absent student.  So

21  thank you for your time.

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1      DR. MCCOMAS:  Thank you, Mr. Franklin,

2  for helping us to understand what that looks like

3  and feels like in real time in schools.

4      I think, was there another slide, did we

5  take a slide down?  Thank you.  So not to

6  prolong, but just to highlight on the slide

7  before you, you see this evening's presentation

8  is one more of our ongoing efforts to provide

9  consistent academic achievement reports for our

10  board members and for our community.  Thank you.

11  Next slide.  On this you will just see our

12  schedule that runs throughout the summer.  Next

13  slide.

14      And this really concludes our first

15  semester attendance presentation, so thank you.

16      (Applause.)

17      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Dr. Hager

18  and then Mr. McMillion.

19      DR. HAGER:  Very quickly, thank you for

20  the presentation, thank you for providing the

21  historical data, I know we talked about that with

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1  another data presentation and how helpful that is

2  to really be able to compare that.

3      Did COVID quarantine absences count

4  towards absences over the past year?  Those were

5  counted as regular absences, right?

6      MR. CONNELLY:  We had a different coding

7  for those, but yes, that is correct.

8      DR. HAGER:  I'm just thinking of what

9  may be contributing, because I'm sure it's very

10  many different factors.  Just another thing, I'd

11  like to see the standard deviation bars on the

12  histograms so we can see how the data spreads out

13  over time given that there was a dip down, and do

14  you think that really the dip down was due to a

15  greater number of chronic absences, or those kids

16  who had to quarantine for a few days here and

17  there, or probably both is the answer?

18      MR. CONNELLY:  No, we had an unexcused

19  absence rate that increased by 42 percent from

20  the first quarter to the second quarter.  We also

21  had a COVID related absence coding that increased

by 600 percent, but the outcomes were very
different. The COVID count was about 3.5 percent
of the total absence rate and then there was more
unexcused, which is more of an unknown than the
actual COVID coding.

DR. HAGER: Okay, great, thank you. It
was great to hear all the work that you guys are
doing. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.
Mr. McMillion?

VICE CHAIR MCMILLION: Mr. Connelly,
please help me understand the VLP data. If those
kids don't have to turn on their cameras, how do
you know that you have an accurate attendance?

MR. CONNELLY: So I don't supervise
directly the VLP program. My understanding is
that teachers actually do know who logs in and
student participation is a part of that. I don't
think Dr. Elemendorf is here at the moment to
answer that. I don't know if you know.

DR. MCCOMAS: Yeah, so what I -- he

isn't with us at this point in the evening but I
will say, Mr. McMillion, the attendance for VLP
is something that our team has been very
persistent around because again to your point, it
is our fundamental access to students, right? If
they're not logging in and participating in the
lesson, we don't have any access to them, so it
is something that our team has been very
persistent in when we have students that are not
engaging and not attending. The outreach to
those parents around, you've selected for your
student a VLP, these are the expectations we
need, and so students do participate and
demonstrate their engagement. It can be beyond
just having your camera on, things like active
participation in the submission of a assignments,
in the chats, in the small group or breakout
sessions.

VICE CHAIR MCMILLION: Thank you.

DR. MCCOMAS: You're welcome.

CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Ms. Mack?

MS. MACK: Yes. Thank you very much.
One of my questions was what triggers tier one,
tier two and tier three interventions, so you
answered that. But I do have to say I'm
concerned that students can miss nine to 16 days
before a tier two intervention even takes place,
and then they can miss up to 35 days before a PPW
even gets involved.

MR. FRANKLIN: So keep in mind, this is
fluid. Each school is charged with having an
attendance committee and depending on the school
and the way the administration wants the
attendance committees to go, some PPWs meet and
they have attendance committees and meet with
their schools once a month, some have them every
other week, there's no steadfast rule. The game
changer was when ESSA came around, because the
focus became more on chronic and less on the
average daily attendance rate, both of which are
important, but the question you just asked in
terms of when it kicks in is up to the team. For

example, if they're going to come to, if there
was a family that was on our attendance, it's not
like a step by step. On the slide that I shared
with you, it was an abbreviated version of
several, so it's basically a menu of choices.

So for example at my schools at the end
of the year, I send out a letter to all students
who were chronically absent. The following year
when we do our first attendance meeting, if
they're showing up on the radar very early we
don't necessarily stick with tier one, we jump
right over to tier two, so it depends on the
family. People might, it's a menu of choices, to
kind of give schools just a launching point if
you will.

MS. MACK: And I appreciate that, thank
you. That helps a lot, and I appreciate
Dr. McComas saying that of course we're
interested in attendance because there's a direct
impact on academic achievement, and I track a lot
of data. And when I look at a school that has

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1 low attendance or high absence, or chronic

2 absenteeism, you can see it in their academic

3 achievement. And again, I just have to

4 reiterate, allowing a student to miss 18 to 35

5 days before we -- and I know you say for some

6 students --

7     MR. FRANKLIN: Keep in mind it's a

8 moving target. For example if a kid misses the

9 first ten days of school, they're already

10 chronically absent within ten days, because it's

11 the 180 days in the school year, it's a constant

12 moving target. So in the ideal world when you

13 have you first attendance meeting there's

14 interventions that have already taken place,

15 hopefully they're not going to continue to grow

16 as the days grow in the school year. A kid may

17 be on a school's attendance watch list so to

18 speak, but by the next meeting they've fallen off

19 because they've dropped below. So it's a

20 constant moving target with the 180 days and

21 missing 10 percent.

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1     MS. MACK: Okay. Given the hour, I'll

2 hold my questions.

3     MR. FRANKLIN: No, I'll tell you what.

4 When I have my next school attendance meeting,

5 I'm going to send you an invite, you're welcome

6 to come.

7     MS. MACK: I will absolutely come,

8 because I have very serious concerns about this,

9 so thank you.

10     MR. FRANKLIN: All right.

11     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Okay, thank you.

12 Mrs. Causey?

13     MS. CAUSEY: Thank you. Quick question.

14 Back to page three, slide three, comparing

15 marking periods, and it says all BCPS, so does

16 that include VLP?

17     MR. CONNELLY: Yes, it does. The VLP is

18 approximately 3,000 students out of our 111,000

19 students.

20     MS. CAUSEY: So is there any chart here

21 that is just the in-person?

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1     MR. CONNELLY: So we didn't include just

2 the in-person, just in the sense of 3,000 versus

3 111,000 is a small number and it wouldn't

4 dramatically change the all, but we can see the

5 difference more discretely when you look at the

6 VLP in comparison, because that's just VLP.

7     MS. CAUSEY: I still think it would be

8 helpful to see in-person distinct and separate.

9     MR. CONNELLY: We can certainly do that

10 for you.

11     MS. CAUSEY: In a nice histogram that

12 our epidemiologist is requesting, with color

13 coded bars or whatever. Okay, that's all, but I

14 also too appreciate the several years worth of

15 history. And then is there a breakout that can

16 be provided to the Board of the quarantine

17 absentees, you know, how much of that was related

18 to that special code?

19     MR. CONNELLY: So in the report there is

20 very detailed information related to first

21 semesters attendance data in relationship to that

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1 code, so it's in there.

2     MS. CAUSEY: Okay, great. And then the

3 attendance manual looks awesome. Can the Board

4 see, have a copy?

5     DR. WILLIAMS: We will follow up with

6 the Board based on that request. Thank you.

7     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you very much,

8 outstanding presentation, appreciate it.

9     DR. MCCOMAS: Good evening.

10     (Applause.)

11     CHAIRWOMAN HENN: The next item on the

12 agenda is information items, which include the

13 financial report for December 2021, quarter two

14 audit report, report on the special education

15 staffing plan for 22-23, the student count 2021

16 report, and update on key school legislation.

17     Next on the agenda is a postponed item

18 from February 8th, 2022, legislative and

19 governmental relations committee update. During

20 the last board meeting Ms. Pasteur as chair of

21 the committee discussed the committee's position

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1 on several legislative bills.  Postponed was
2 House Bill 476, Baltimore County Board of
3 Education member appointment and terms and
4 election of officers.  Also postponed was Senate
5 Bill 1245, House Bill 150, grant programs to
6 reduce and compost school waste.  If we now
7 desire, we can allow discussion and vote on the
8 Board's position.  I would also entertain a
9 motion to postpone this item given the lateness
10 of the hour.  We need to vote on this given the
11 timing.
12        Mr. Thomas, would you like to speak to
13 this, or Mrs. Causey?
14        MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you, Madam Chair, and
15 thank you for appointing me chair of the
16 legislative and government relations.
17 Ms. Pasteur has shoes to fill and a voice to fill
18 and a persona to fill, which I will vaguely
19 attempt to do.
20        I spoke with our vice chair, Mr. Thomas
21 earlier, and he is going to provide the report

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1 since he was vice chair at the time under
2 Ms. Pasteur and was running that meeting, so I'll
3 turn it over to Mr. Thomas.
4        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
5        MR. THOMAS:  Thank you, Ms. Causey,
6 thank you, Ms. Henn.  So the first bill we have
7 today is House Bill 476, or this evening,
8 Baltimore County Board of Election member
9 appointment and terms and election of officers.
10 This bill would alter the process for appointing
11 certain members to the BCPS Board of Education by
12 requiring that one, the governor must appoint
13 four members to the county board on a date after
14 the gubernatorial inauguration which is typically
15 in mid January, and before February 1st of that
16 same year.  And it would alter the term -- I'm
17 sorry -- yes, that's basically what the bill does
18 in the form that was provided to us.
19        The committee has requested that the
20 Board support this bill.  And there is an
21 amendment that I have in collaboration with our,

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1 with Mr. Bazemore about that that I would like to
2 present, but first, this has the support of the
3 committee and the committee's recommendation is
4 to support this bill, so thank you.
5        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Is there a
6 motion you'd like to make at this time?
7        MR. THOMAS:  Is there a motion to -- can
8 I make a motion?
9        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  So is there a motion
10 to support House Bill 476?
11        MS. ROWE:  I believe it was to support
12 it with amendments but Mr. Thomas didn't state
13 the amendments.
14        MR. THOMAS:  Yes, there wasn't an
15 amendment discussed in the meeting minutes for
16 the legislative committee, it just said that we
17 would support this.  Now we did want to support
18 this with amendments, so I believe that first we
19 have to process the committee's recommendation or
20 not process it.
21        MS. ROWE:  No, I think we have to hear

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1 the amendment, because the committee's
2 recommendation was to wait for specific
3 information that we needed for the amendment
4 which you are now in possession of, so if you
5 could state it with the amendment, because we did
6 discuss that in committee.
7        MR. THOMAS:  Okay, I can discuss the
8 amendments that I've shared, so the amendment
9 that I think we should as a board, we should say
10 that we support this with amendments is to
11 support with amendments that are made to create a
12 staggered two-year schedule of introducing new
13 members to avoid a possible full turnover of the
14 Board on a four-year cycle, which was suggested
15 in our 2022 legislative priorities, to be
16 accomplished by making board appointments in 2022
17 to be only two years instead of four, and insure
18 that the suggested bill regarding member
19 appointments after the gubernatorial inauguration
20 have an impact for only the 2022 election year.
21 And I'm going to put that in the chat right now

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1  for our board members to see.
2         That is from the conversation and our
3  committee conversations with Delegate Bazemore or
4  -- sorry -- conversations with Delegate Ebersole
5  and conversations with Mr. Bazemore, the
6  consensus as to what this would look like, and
7  the Board would move forward with amendments for
8  this piece of legislation.  Thank you.
9         MS. ROWE:  So I move to support --
10 sorry, I shouldn't move yet?
11        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  I have a question for
12 Mr. Thomas and I'll come back to you.  So it was
13 my understanding that these amendments were
14 already included in the bill, but is that --
15        MR. THOMAS:  In the current bill's form
16 it does not include those amendments, not in the
17 current writing available on MyMGA.
18        MS. ROWE:  So what is the motion?
19        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes, Dr. Hager?
20        DR. HAGER:  Would it be possible to, I
21 don't love this idea, but to have a brief

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1  administrative proceeding or brief meeting next
2  week to just discuss these two bills if we are
3  able to get a quorum, is that a possibility?
4         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  We would have to call
5  an open meeting to discuss it if we are going to
6  take a position.
7         DR. HAGER:  Yeah, I'm just worried that
8  this may be a big discussion.
9         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  I would be opposed to
10 calling a special meeting just for this purpose.
11        DR. HAGER:  When are they going to be
12 discussed?
13        MR. THOMAS:  I'm not sure if
14 Mr. Bazemore wants to speak to this.  This has
15 also been presented at a hearing before the
16 Baltimore County house delegation I believe, so
17 the vote will be coming up soon, I would imagine
18 this Friday then, if the hearing was last week.
19        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Bazemore?
20        DR. HAGER:  And a lot of this has
21 already been stated in our legislative

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1  priorities.
2         MR. THOMAS:  Well, if I can, Ms. Henn?
3         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Sure, or I would like
4  to hear from Mr. Bazemore since we called him.
5  Hello.
6         MR. BAZEMORE:  Madam Chair,
7  superintendent who is not here right now, and
8  board members, this is a fix it bill, House
9  Bill 476.  It's addressing the situation where
10 nobody really anticipated this when the
11 legislation was first put forth, that a two-term
12 governor who's not running for election again,
13 can appoint the at large members.  So this bill
14 attempts to fix that by staggering the terms and
15 also having the current board members that are
16 appointed extend their term for another month.
17        What Mr. Christian Thomas is talking
18 about is that the bill in its current form
19 doesn't address that.  The amendment that will be
20 coming forth by Delegate Ebersole will address,
21 you know, in its entirety the situation that

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1  we're in.  So what you have before you now is not
2  the full bill, there will be an amendment coming
3  forth by Delegate Ebersole.
4         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
5         MR. BAZEMORE:  So he's anticipating
6  that, he's spoken with Delegate Ebersole, so what
7  you're doing is just getting out in front of what
8  he's going to be introducing.
9         CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay, and this is
10 Delegate Forbes' bill, is that correct?
11        MR. BAZEMORE:  Yes, Delegate Forbes and
12 Ebersole.
13        CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  I just wanted to make
14 sure we're talking about the same one, because
15 she told me that it did include those, unless I'm
16 mistaken.
17        MR. THOMAS:  As I'm reading that is the
18 intent of the legislation, I believe, but the way
19 it's written it just say this is added language,
20 the governor shall appoint four members to the
21 county board on a date that is after the date of

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1  the gubernatorial inauguration and before
2  February 1st of the same year.  A member
3  appointed under this subparagraph shall begin
4  their term on the date of the governor's
5  appointment.
6      And it doesn't explicitly state that, so
7  this amendment would state, one, with our
8  legislative priorities, that next year's
9  appointed members would serve a two-year term so
10  that would be kind of alternating, that's the
11  suggested language, but what we're asking is that
12  we stagger the elections for appointed and
13  elected members, and two, to insure that the lame
14  duck governor of this term would not appoint the
15  next board members, it would be the governor
16  that's incoming after the governor election.  And
17  so that means that, that's another intent of this
18  bill originally.
19      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  So, Mrs. Causey?
20      MS. CAUSEY:  Thank you, Madam Chair, and
21  thank you Mr. Thomas.  So, I would not support

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1  the process of having the governor appoint after
2  inauguration.  That is what happened with
3  Governor Hogan, and when a new governor comes in,
4  they have appointments all up and down the state
5  at every level of state and local government, and
6  I think boards would be lucky to get their
7  appointed members by May.  So I would not support
8  that at all and I think, I understand that that
9  is a concern, but I think they're trying to
10  combine two concerns and this Board voted on the
11  one concern.  And I would really not like to see
12  the Board be disjointed in its entry, so we're
13  going to have elected members that are elected in
14  November and that right now come in in December
15  with other elected county officials, you were not
16  three, you won't recall, but as you recall, there
17  was a ceremony with all the other elected
18  officials from Baltimore County, inauguration,
19  all sworn in for those who chose to do it that
20  way.
21      So now you're going to have people

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1  elected coming in at one point and then the
2  appointed members coming in at an unknown date,
3  and then trying to work on whatever it is that's
4  hitting them at that time.
5      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  So Mrs. Causey, I can
6  speak to that, but just on principle, one, I
7  can't support something that I haven't seen and
8  on hearsay.  I have been told that there will be
9  a deadline included in these amendments that
10  again, we haven't seen, of February 1st for the
11  appointments, which sounds great and it addresses
12  your concern.  But again, until the Board has
13  seen it, I don't feel comfortable, you know,
14  lending my support to something that I haven't
15  seen, so that's where I am on this.
16      And unfortunately, the timing is such
17  that I'm with Dr. Hager, if we needed to call a
18  special meeting we could, but given tonight and
19  that we haven't seen it, I would not support it.
20      MR. THOMAS:  Ms. Henn, if I can respond
21  to your --

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1      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Dr. Hager, and then
2  I'll come back to you.
3      DR. HAGER:  I agree with everything
4  Ms. Causey said, and the two-year proposal that
5  we had that went in really does address this over
6  the long run, I know it doesn't address it this
7  year, but I think that, I envisioned it status
8  quo this year and then every two years after that
9  would be when the governor is stepping out and
10  appointing new members.  So -- and we already
11  said that we supported the two-year appointment
12  this year, so do we need to vote again, does it
13  matter if we vote again, since we already said
14  that we support that?  And it's 12:35 a.m.
15      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Kuehn?
16      MR. KUEHN:  I do not support this bill
17  and I will not be sitting here after November of
18  this year, so you will be down one member and I
19  just have a lot of -- anyway, that's it.  If we
20  vote now, I'm voting against it.
21      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Mr. Thomas?

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MR. THOMAS: Thank you. This bill in its current form actually addresses both your concern, Ms. Henn, and your concern, Ms. Causey. Ms. Henn, it says the governor shall appoint four members to the county board on a day that is after the date of the gubernatorial inauguration and before February 1st that same year, so it already does address that. And Ms. Causey, for your concern about members being elected in December but then this unknown date in the future, it would have to be before February 1st. It also says a member elected to the county board shall begin their term on the date that the members are appointed in accordance with this paragraph.

So that means that the governor, the date when he determined to appoint the members will be the same date that the elected members would be starting their term. So that would mean to Mr. Kuehn's point in December, the current elected members and appointed members would have

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a continued term until that appointment were to occur.

DR. HAGER: We vote for a new chair in December. It doesn't make any sense.

MR. THOMAS: It also says in this bill, in a gubernatorial election year the county board shall elect a chair and vice chair from among the members at the first meeting of the county board after the new term of members have begun, so it also does address that in the bill.

CHAIRWOMAN HENN: So that would shorten the elected terms, that doesn't make sense. Ms. Rowe?

MS. ROWE: Okay. So putting all the elected members in and waiting for their elected term to start until sometime before February? So what's today's date and what did we vote on today? And can someone start their term in February and meet the budget approval process? We cannot have a board of education where none of the new members, or everyone else -- like I'm not

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going to be here December 3rd, right, so I won't have run, so then what happens? They have to decide, put in the elected. This is not well thought through, because we cannot begin a budget cycle with a brand spanking new board the beginning of February. You just can't.

So they're going to have to swear in the elected officials first and then if they want to do this, then the appointed members -- I think they need to rethink some of these details.

MR. THOMAS: Okay. So I think any of these concerns would have come up in the transition year when we're trying to get to that staggered election with all that information. This would only affect this year in particular, this one year would really have a huge effect on the election and the appointment structure, because prior, with the amendments that were suggested tonight, what we would support with amendments of, it said only for the 2022 election year. Now that means with the staggered

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elections in the future, this quandary that we're in would not still be in effect, because every two years with the appointment, we would not be in another gubernatorial election year when the governor is coming in.

CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Mr. Thomas, given the lateness of the hour, we need to move forward, we have a few more items.

MR. THOMAS: Was there a motion?

CHAIRWOMAN HENN: There was no motion.

MR. THOMAS: Okay, so there will be no motion on this matter.

CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Is there a motion on this bill?

MS. CAUSEY: I move to reject it. No.

CHAIRWOMAN HENN: We don't need it, okay. Hearing none, the next item?

MR. THOMAS: All right. The next item on the legislative priorities, there's one more, sorry, let me just pull this up, apologies. Okay.

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1  This one, the second bill is Senate Bill
2  1245 and House Bill 150, public schools grant to
3  reduce and compost waste.  This will establish a
4  grant program to reduce and compost school waste
5  requiring the Maryland Association of
6  Environmental and Outdoor Education to review
7  grant applications for recipients to be awarded
8  grants.  This bill was brought forth as
9  information; however, Ms. Pasteur submitted an
10 information email on February 2nd of 2022 to all
11 board members, and it is being brought forward
12 for information.
13     DR. HAGER:  I would move to support that
14 one.
15     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Is there a second?
16     MR. THOMAS:  Second, Thomas.
17     DR. HAGER:  I would just say briefly
18 that Baltimore City Schools has done a wonderful
19 job composting, and by creating a composting
20 program in a very large school system you can
21 really change things for the better for the whole

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1  state.
2      CHAIRMAN HENN:  So there's a motion and
3  a second.  Is there any discussion?  Mr. Kuehn?
4      MR. KUEHN:  So I would, I'm just going
5  to share some quick information, because I do
6  support composting, but there are limits to
7  residential composting, so I'm just hopeful that
8  it is outlined that schools don't have to abide
9  by the compost limitations associated with
10 different areas, because if there are rats in the
11 areas and you can't compost, therefore,
12 significant portions of the county will not be
13 available to do this.
14     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.
15 Mr. Thomas?
16     MR. THOMAS:  Thank you.  I just wanted
17 to add that this bill in response to Ms. Pasteur
18 when she reached out to our delegate, our Senator
19 Hettleman, it was determined that this bill would
20 not require the counties to provide any funding
21 per se, but it does offer an incentive through

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1  state funding to support school level efforts.
2  This was a concern that was brought at the
3  legislative committee meeting but it has been
4  addressed.  Thank you.
5      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Dr. Hager?
6      DR. HAGER:  And just to add, the idea is
7  that when a large school system is going to move
8  forward with this that the infrastructure ends up
9  getting built, so that's part of the reason that
10 City Schools made such a move to go in that
11 direction.
12     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  Any other
13 comments?  Ms. Causey?
14     MS. CAUSEY:  I just want to say we did
15 discuss it in committee and I do support it, it's
16 good for the environment, it's good for the
17 children to understand how everything works, and
18 it's grant based so there will not be a fiscal
19 impact on the schools.
20     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Okay.  May we have a
21 rollcall vote please, Ms. Gover?

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1      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Rowe?
2      MS. ROWE:  Yes.
3      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Causey?
4      MS. CAUSEY:  Yes.
5      MS. GOVER:  Ms. Mack?
6      MS. MACK:  Yes.
7      MS. GOVER:  Mr. McMillion?
8      VICE CHAIR MCMILLION:  Yes.
9      MS. GOVER:  Mr. Thomas?
10     MR. THOMAS:  Yes.
11     MS. GOVER:  Dr. Hager?
12     DR. HAGER:  Yes.
13     MS. GOVER:  Mr. Kuehn?
14     MR. KUEHN:  Yes.
15     MS. GOVER:  Ms. Henn?
16     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Yes.
17     MS. GOVER:  Thank you.
18     CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  The motion carries,
19 thank you.
20     MR. THOMAS:  And that is all for
21 legislative committee updates, thank you.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you, Mr. Thomas.
2 The next item on the agenda is board committee
3 updates, board member comments and agenda
4 setting. First is committee updates, we'll start
5 with the audit committee, Mr. McMillion?
6 VICE CHAIR MCMILLION: Our next meeting
7 is March 15th at 4:30. We've added a new member,
8 Ms. Henn is going to take Ms. Pasteur's place.
9 My comments are, I already miss
10 Ms. Pasteur's educational expertise and the
11 support that she has given me over the last
12 couple years. I have no agenda items other than
13 what I've mentioned before. Thank you.
14 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Budget
15 committee, Mr. Kuehn?
16 MR. KUEHN: Budget committee has a
17 meeting in March. Please refer to the website
18 for the date and time.
19 At the last committee meeting we
20 discussed Title I funding and we talked a lot
21 about poverty and how it's determined and ranked

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1 throughout the system, very eye opening and
2 disturbing, and that's it. Thank you.
3 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. I want to
4 thank the -- I was chair of the budget committee
5 and I just want to thank the staff for the
6 support of that committee's work this year as
7 we've gone through the budget process, Mr. Sarris
8 and Mr. Tantleff have just been amazing. So to
9 add on to Mr. Kuehn's update, I want to thank
10 them for their support.
11 Building and contracts, Ms. Jose is not
12 on. Who's the vice chair, Mr. McMillion, are you
13 the vice chair?
14 VICE CHAIR MCMILLION: I am the vice
15 chair; however, I have nothing to report.
16 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you, sir.
17 Curriculum, Ms. Mack?
18 MS. MACK: Yes. We had a very good
19 meeting, we talked about a number of contracts
20 that will be coming to the full Board. And we
21 also talked about BCPS' use of Fountas & Pinnell

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1 and the message that is being delivered to our
2 educators around that. Thank you, and our next
3 meeting I believe is the 17th.
4 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Equity
5 committee, Ms. Scott? Do we have anyone from the
6 equity committee that wants to give an update?
7 Dr. Hager, are you vice chair of equity?
8 MR. THOMAS: Okay. So at the last
9 equity committee meeting we had an incredible
10 presentation on nondiscrimination practices for
11 LGBQT+ students, and we also had an incredible
12 presentation on CTE programs and distribution of
13 those. As well as, there was one more
14 presentation presented by Ms. Shay, that was also
15 incredible, I can't remember the exact topic
16 right now.
17 But our next meeting will be in March at
18 sometime, and you can go to the website to figure
19 out exactly when that is.
20 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.
21 Legislative, Ms. Causey?

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1 MS. CAUSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 Our last meeting was February 3rd and Mr. Thomas
3 ran the meeting, and we had lively discussion,
4 there are a lot of bills related to education.
5 There is attached to BoardDocs a comprehensive
6 document with the most recent update on the
7 legislative issues, so it's available to the
8 public as well as board and staff. Our next
9 legislative and government relations committee
10 meeting is Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 at
11 four o'clock, and the committee meetings are
12 currently meeting virtually and so the public is
13 still invited to attend virtually, and they can
14 go to BoardDocs to participate, or not
15 participate, but to listen in on the meetings.
16 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you. Policy,
17 Ms. Rowe?
18 MS. ROWE: Yes. Our last policy review
19 committee meeting was February 14th and our next
20 one is March 14th.
21 CHAIRWOMAN HENN: Thank you.

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1    Next, agenda items for future board
2  meetings.  Does anyone have any agenda items to
3  share?  Ms. Causey?
4       MS. CAUSEY:  I would like the Board, and
5  I don't know if this needs to start in a closed
6  session or administrative function, to discuss
7  the Public Works recommendations that involve the
8  Board, because there are a number of them and I
9  think that they could be very helpful in
10 improving our governance, oversight, transparency
11 to the community and engaging with the
12 superintendent and staff.
13      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  Thank you.  The last
14 item on the agenda is announcements.  The --
15 Mr. Thomas?
16      MR. THOMAS:  Yes, sorry.  I thought we
17 were doing board member comments and then agenda
18 items.
19      CHAIRWOMAN HENN:  I'm sorry, Mr. Thomas,
20 yes, any board member comments?
21      MR. THOMAS:  Yes, I just want to

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1  comment.  I wanted to discuss the virtual
2  learning days for snow days.  I've been in
3  conversation with Dr. Williams, our deputy
4  superintendent, our chief of staff, and I am
5  disappointed in kind of the overall engagement of
6  students in determining this position.  I feel
7  like there aren't enough students in discussing
8  this unprecedented kind of a way to conduct snow
9  days and virtual learning for student.  I have
10 concerns for elementary school students during
11 the virtual snow days, including my kindergarten
12 sister and my brother who's in fifth grade who
13 has autism, and I just think that in future
14 discussions about the virtual learning for snow
15 days, we really need to be more engaging of our
16 students in those topics.
17      So I appreciate the presentation to the
18 Board, but I wish that we could have had a
19 discussion on that matter as well.  Thank you.
20      CHAIRMAN HENN:  Thank you.  The last
21 item on the agenda is announcements.  The Board's

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1  next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8th,
2  2022 at 6:30 p.m.
3       Thank you for joining us tonight, thank
4  you to the staff for sticking with us.
5       The meeting is now adjourned.
6       (Meeting adjourned.)

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1  STATE OF MARYLAND
2  BALTIMORE COUNTY: SS
3
4    I, Paul A. Gasparotti, a Notary Public in and
5  for the State of Maryland, Baltimore County, do
6  hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
7  accurate transcription of the recording to the
8  best of my ability.
9    I further certify that I am not of counsel to
10 any of the parties nor in any way interested in
11 the outcome of these proceedings.
12    As witness, my hand and notarial seal this
13 28th day of February, 2022.
14
15 _____
16   Paul A. Gasparotti
17
18
19
20
21

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