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BOARD OF EDUCATION

BALTIMORE COUNTY

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BROADCAST VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

SPECIAL MEETING - GOLDEN RING MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROGRAM CLOSURE

May 3, 2023

Transcribed by: CRC Salomon

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1 **BOARD MEMBERS:**  
 2 **Jane Lichter, Chair**  
 3 **Robin Harvey, Vice Chair**  
 4 **Tiara Booker-Dwyer**  
 5 **Tiffany Lashawn Frempong**  
 6 **Maggie Domanowski**  
 7 **Rodney R. McMillion**  
 8 **Christina Pumphrey**  
 9 **Emory Young**

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1 **PROCEEDINGS**  
 2 **MS. LICHTER:** Good evening. This is Board  
 3 Chair Jane Lichter, and I call to order the Baltimore  
 4 County Board of Education's public hearing on the  
 5 proposed Golden Ring Middle School program closure  
 6 recommendation.  
 7 The public sign-up sheet for speakers was  
 8 made available prior to the hearing. Each speaker  
 9 will be allotted three minutes to express his or her  
 10 views on the proposed closure. As your name is  
 11 called, kindly come to the front microphone to speak.  
 12 At my right, you will see the Board's  
 13 timekeeper. The timer lights will turn red to let you  
 14 know when you have one minute remaining, and then  
 15 sound when your time is up. If you wish to have your  
 16 written comments or other relevant information to be  
 17 considered by Board members, kindly give that  
 18 information to the Board's assistant, Ms. Gover, and  
 19 she will see that it is distributed.  
 20 I would like to call our first speaker, who  
 21 is Mr. Corey Johns, to come. And then our next

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1 **I N D E X**  
 2 **Call to Order . . . . . 4**  
 3 **General Public Comment . . . . . 4**  
 4 **Corey Johns . . . . . 6**  
 5 **Melissa Moore . . . . . 6**  
 6 **Jeanette Conrad . . . . . 8**  
 7 **Adjournment . . . . . 11**

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1 speaker will be Melissa Moore, if you want to be on  
 2 deck and ready when he's finished. So welcome, and  
 3 thank you for attending.  
 4 **MR. JOHNS:** How are you doing? Thank you.  
 5 So again, I'm Corey Johns. I live in Rosedale my  
 6 whole life. My brother went to Golden Ring. I hope  
 7 to have kids soon that will be going in the school in  
 8 the area.  
 9 I fully understand, you know, the concept  
 10 of retiring school buildings. My grandmother,  
 11 actually, told fond stories of going to Kenwood High  
 12 School at that facility in the '30s. So it's an out-  
 13 of-date building, but it is a tough decision to make  
 14 about closing a school. I understand that our  
 15 community members have concerns about process.  
 16 I'm actually here to speak as a member of  
 17 the Board of Rec and Parks, who happens to also be  
 18 chair of the Board of Rec and Parks. Proposed future  
 19 uses of that site, if you do decide to close the  
 20 facility, it's a tremendous need for rec space. You  
 21 have fields. You have a gymnasium, an auditorium.

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1 There have been rumors about other uses, but I just  
 2 hope you realize the benefit of having property  
 3 available inside the Beltway and how rare that is.  
 4       So it is a need for the community to have  
 5 something there. If it is decided that the school is  
 6 closed, I hope that is the definite considered use, to  
 7 continue that as rec space until another, you know,  
 8 more -- something else is built there, whatever the  
 9 case may be.  
 10       So I'm going to end there, and thank you.  
 11 So good luck.  
 12       MS. LICHTER: Thank you very much. Thanks.  
 13       Our next speaker is Melissa Moore.  
 14       Good evening, and thanks for coming.  
 15       MS. MOORE: Hi. I'm -- my kids are  
 16 currently students at Red House Run Elementary, and we  
 17 are going to be affected with the closure of Golden  
 18 Ring. Our plans were for them to attend there in the  
 19 future, and I am mostly concerned about the process in  
 20 which we've been told about the closure.  
 21       I had to find out through the boundary

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1 process study that this was going to happen. The only  
 2 option was for Golden Ring to have zero capacity. And  
 3 to find out officially, yet unofficially, through that  
 4 was -- it's not acceptable. And we -- I really feel  
 5 that what should've happened is that this whole  
 6 boundary process should've happened after the official  
 7 notification of Golden Ring's closure and this public  
 8 hearing, and an official word from BCPS saying, yes,  
 9 it is going to close. Because it could've affected --  
 10 how many people in the community were involved more so  
 11 in the boundary process? If they would've known that,  
 12 yes, this is going to affect us 100 percent, because I  
 13 know a lot of parents out there did not know.  
 14       And going forward, I would really like to  
 15 see some of the processes changed, the procedures.  
 16 Currently, when you guys first announced the closure,  
 17 only Golden Ring Middle School students were notified.  
 18 And the elementary schools should be notified, as  
 19 well, because, you know, this is going to be a future  
 20 thing that's taking place. And the elementary  
 21 schools, being feeder schools, really should be

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1 notified because they're the ones that are really  
 2 going to face the change.  
 3       I think that's it.  
 4       MS. LICHTER: Okay. Thank you. We  
 5 appreciate your comments and feedback about the  
 6 process and the communication.  
 7       MS. MOORE: All right. Thank you.  
 8       MS. LICHTER: Thank you.  
 9       Our third speaker is Jeanette Conrad.  
 10       Good evening.  
 11       MS. CONRAD: Good evening. My name is  
 12 Jeanette Conrad. I'm coming to speak to you guys as a  
 13 community member. My niece and nephew are in Red  
 14 House Run Elementary currently, so they would have  
 15 went to Golden Ring Middle.  
 16       Watching this from a little bit of an  
 17 outside perspective, more than being a direct  
 18 relationship, I am also concerned about the amount of  
 19 communication, or the lack thereof, from Baltimore  
 20 County Public Schools.  
 21       When the boundary study did come out, yes,

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1 it was apparent, but not explicitly stated. When you  
 2 started talking about the community, they were, like,  
 3 oh, yeah, it's been years that they were talking about  
 4 closing down Golden Ring Middle. Is Baltimore County  
 5 going to allow rumors to dictate what's actually  
 6 happening? That should not be the case.  
 7       This, from what I understand, has started  
 8 in 2017 as the initial concept of Golden Ring Middle  
 9 closing, and we're just now hearing in 2023 where it's  
 10 officially being stated, despite many items are  
 11 relying on the closure of Golden Ring itself.  
 12       From my standpoint, it does sound like the  
 13 money for the new middle school is reliant on the  
 14 closure of the school. It is understood that Golden  
 15 Ring Middle does have a lot of facility issues. From  
 16 my standpoint, it sounds right to close it, as long as  
 17 you're providing all of the community that was going  
 18 to go to Golden Ring Middle the new spots in the new  
 19 middle school that is being built.  
 20       I believe that you need continuity within  
 21 the community, rather than trying to divide them,

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1 which was already being pre-assessed before you have  
 2 actually announced the closure of the school.  
 3 I'm hoping that, as was said by Melissa  
 4 Moore, that you are considering policy changes to  
 5 include the feeder pattern. Coming from a different  
 6 area, my feeder pattern is going into Deep Creek  
 7 Middle, and I am already finding that there are issues  
 8 knowing what's going on at Deep Creek Middle. I know  
 9 what's going on at the high school because I work  
 10 there, so just that continuity between that needs to  
 11 be addressed, much like you are seeing with this now.  
 12 It is disappointing that the elementary  
 13 parents are not really involved in this because they  
 14 have not been notified. If it's the breakdown from  
 15 the county and then the principal, or whoever it is,  
 16 at these elementary schools not saying, that has to be  
 17 addressed. Thank you for your time.  
 18 MS. LICHTER: Thank you.  
 19 Those are all the speakers that have signed  
 20 up to speak tonight, so I'd like to thank the three  
 21 speakers for their willingness to present their ideas

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1 and their concerns to us. And thank you to everybody  
 2 else who attended to hear our speakers' comments.  
 3 Let me just check. The Board of Education  
 4 is scheduled to vote on the proposed Golden Ring  
 5 Middle School program closure recommendation on  
 6 Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Again, if anyone else has  
 7 additional comments that you would like the Board of  
 8 Ed to consider, you can send them to us at  
 9 boe@bcps.org, or may contact the Board office so that  
 10 the information can be forwarded to the Board members.  
 11 I'd also like to thank the Board members  
 12 who have attended tonight to hear public comments, and  
 13 at this time, the public hearing is now adjourned.  
 14 Thank you.  
 15 (Meeting adjourned.)  
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1 TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE  
 2 I, Vivian Saxe, hereby certify that I transcribed  
 3 from audio file the proceedings to the best of my  
 4 ability in the foregoing-entitled matter; and I  
 5 further certify that the foregoing is a full, true and  
 6 correct transcript of the audio files produced.  
 7 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have subscribed my name on  
 8 May 10, 2023.  
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 12 Vivian Saxe  
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