

Board of Education of Baltimore County

6901 N. Charles Street

Jane E. Lichter, Chair

Towson, Maryland 21204-3711

RESOLUTION 2023-01

MENTAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, The safety and well-being of Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) students is a high priority of the Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) as demonstrated through and in Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, The Board prioritizes school safety as integral to school climate and student success and acknowledges that social emotional wellness is at the core of school safety and climate; and

WHEREAS, Quality mental health supports for BCPS students and staff are crucial in supporting young people within our school communities, many of whom navigate a plethora of complex social-emotional issues; and

WHEREAS, Mental health is a prevalent challenge for many young people, but is often misunderstood by educators and student peers; and research from the National Alliance on Mental Health shows that one in five youth experience mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, Rates of mental health issues, specifically depression, in youth aged 12 to 17 have drastically risen within the last ten years according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health; and

WHEREAS, School psychologists, social workers, counselors, and school personnel are critical to supporting the needs of students, and Baltimore County Public Schools continues to strive to meet recommended professional ratios in supporting the mental health needs of students; and

WHEREAS, BCPS students and staff have experienced a unique set of challenges since the COVID-19 pandemic. For some students and staff, this experience has had an impact on mental health and has increased the importance of providing education, care and the resources to support the ever-changing social-emotional needs of students and staff; now, therefore, be it

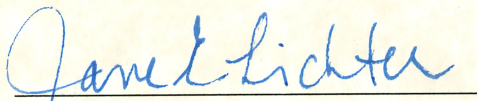
RESOLVED, That the Board of Education, herewith assembled in regular session on the twenty-eighth day of February, in the year two thousand and twenty-three, shall direct the Superintendent to establish a standing student seat on the BCPS Mental Health Advisory Council (MHAC) to elevate the presence of the student perspective, and that the student representative shall be selected by the Student Member of the Board; and be it further

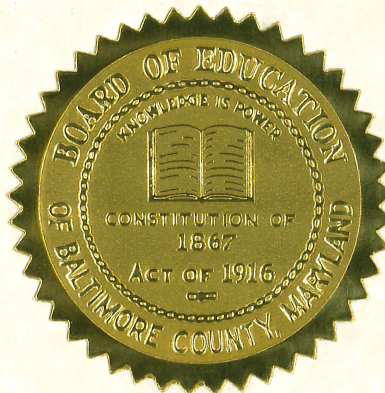
RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Student Member of the Board will be tasked with establishing the public facing webpage on the BCPS website communicating the work of the Mental Health Advisory Council to all stakeholders; and that such webpage shall be created in collaboration with the Superintendent or his designee and respective staff; and be it further

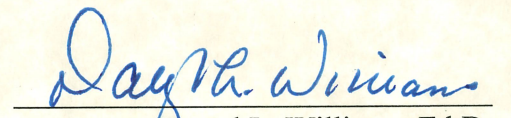
RESOLVED, That the Board, through the Superintendent of Schools will work with the Office of Student Support Services and partner organizations to develop long-term solutions to improve significantly mental health services in Baltimore County's K-12 public schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Board prioritizes and values equitable access to mental health resources for all individuals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board commits to the provision of wide-spread and accessible resources towards social and emotional wellness and mental health support for students and staff alike and will continue to seek opportunities to do so.


Jane E. Lichter
Chair




Darryl L. Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent

February 28, 2023

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