

=====Board Action Summary=====

**An Outline of the Board of Education Member District 3 & Student Member of the Board’s Recommendations to the Board of Education**

**New Program: Yes X No**

**Modified Program: Yes No X**

**Subject: *Prince George’s County Board of Education, Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) Focus Work Group Proposal***

**Prince George’s County Board of Education Climate Change Action Plan Focus Work Group Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC Report) of 2018, the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), climate scientists from around the world, and across the country, have all declared a climate crisis requiring a 60% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels by 2030, and net zero carbon by 2045, in order to mitigate the most catastrophic consequences of global warming and climate change;

**WHEREAS**, in Prince George’s County, Maryland, under current projections by 2100, the number of 90°F or greater temperature days is expected to double, flooding is expected to occur in communities adjacent to the Potomac River, rainfall levels are expected to rise and become more damaging;

**WHEREAS**, Prince George’s County has committed that “We Are Still In” the Paris Agreement and acknowledges its goals of pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to well below 2.0 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

**WHEREAS**, Prince George’s County Public Schools is committed to principles of equity, justice, and inclusion; transitioning to 100% clean energy can help advance these goals by saving money that can be invested into under-resourced schools and helping to address climate change, which disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color;

**WHEREAS**, public schools in the United States have an important role to play in reducing carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, given that they are major energy consumers, using as much energy as forty three percent of all office space nationwide;

**WHEREAS**, Prince George’s County continues to violate the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone pollution, and in 2018 had eight unhealthy air quality days;

**WHEREAS**, the State of Maryland committed, through the 2019 Clean Energy Jobs Act, to taking steps towards having a net-100% renewable electricity portfolio by 2040;

**WHEREAS**, heating, cooling, and ventilation systems are frequent sources of harmful substances that are inhaled, and that replacing these systems with newer and cleaner ones would decrease the amount of carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, air borne diseases, and other contaminants to which students and staff are exposed and contribute to spread of Covid and other illnesses, asthma, fatigue, and impaired concentration in students and staff;

**WHEREAS**, school buildings, which are the primary source of emergency shelter during disasters, can be equipped with solar and battery storage to ensure displaced community members have access to heat and light when grid power fails;

**WHEREAS**, diesel buses directly emit fine particulate matter, which directly impacts the health of students and staff and is linked directly with premature mortality, decreased lung function, and reduced academic performance and emit oxides of nitrogen, a precursor of ozone, which is directly linked to asthma incidence in children;

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, energy-related expenses fall second only to personnel as the largest expenditures in school district budgets, and resources that can be saved on energy can be redirected into students and classrooms;

**WHEREAS**, methane is a potent short-lived climate warming greenhouse gas produced partially by the decomposition of food waste and is the largest non energy related cause of greenhouse gas emissions from school systems;

**WHEREAS**, the negative impacts from increased levels of flooding can be reduced through existing technologies and through natural mechanisms, which can also provide co-benefits regarding energy use; and

**WHEREAS**, Prince George's County Public Schools has the potential to be dedicated to supporting programs and strategies to make schools climate safe and, energy-efficient living laboratories to teach children to understand STEM concepts through clean energy applications;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of Prince George's County Public Schools hereby commits to the goals of achieving:

- 100% Clean Sourced Electricity by 2030;
- 100% Clean Energy in all energy sectors, including heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), and cooking, by 2040;
- 100% Clean Transportation, by 2040;
- 100% Zero Food Waste by 2030; and
- 100% Zero Landfill Waste by 2040;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of Prince George's County Public Schools is hereby initiating a Focus Workgroup, as specified in the Climate Change Action Plan Focus Workgroup

Proposal to develop a Climate Change Action Plan, which will outline an implementation plan to meet these goals;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Focus Workgroup shall include Prince George’s County Public Schools personnel, students, parents, representatives of environmental groups, labor partners, elected officials, energy providers, and subject matter experts;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Climate Change Action Plan shall also include measures that enhance equity;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Climate Change Action Plan shall also include educational opportunities at all grade levels based on the initiatives designed in the plan, with a particular focus on STEM and vocational learning;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Climate Change Action Plan shall specifically include recommendations on the following areas:

1. Building Construction, Maintenance, and Operations;
2. Electricity;
3. Transportation;
4. Food/Food Waste;
5. Materials and Waste Cycles;
6. Storm Water and Land Management; and
7. Education and Awareness;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Climate Change Action Plan Focus Workgroup will report to the Board with updates on the development of the implementation plan at the mid-point (3 months) before the completed implementation plan is presented to the Board for adoption no later than October 1, 2021; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of Prince George’s County Public Schools calls on city, state, and federal officials and agencies to work alongside the District in taking swift, effective action on climate change to protect current and future students, their families, and the communities in which they live.

**Budget Implications:** None

**Staffing Implications:** Board of Education Administrative and Policy Support Staff

**School(s) Affected:** All Prince George’s County Public Schools

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Preparation Date: January 8, 2021

Person Preparing: Pamela Boozer-Strother, Board Member and Ninah Jackson, Student Member of the Board

Board Agenda Introduction Date: January 14, 2021

Board Action Date:

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of the Board)