



Todd M. Turner  
Chair  
District 4

May 29, 2020

The Honorable Dr. Alvin Thornton, Chair  
Prince George's County Board of Education  
Sasscer Administration Building  
14201 School Lane  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Dear Dr. Alvin Thornton:

The Prince George's County Council herewith transmits an approved FY 2021 Board of Education Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,278,138,000 for the support of Prince George's County Public Schools. The County's contribution to the Board exceeds maintenance of effort by approximately \$200,000, and the overall approved budget is 4.3%, or \$95,015,100, more than the current fiscal year's approved operating budget. Attachment 1 to this memorandum provides a summary of the County Council's approved FY 2021 Operating Budget revenue, by source, along with expenditure allocations, by major category.

The County Executive recommended adjustments to the March 2020 Proposed FY 2021 Board of Education Operating Budget of \$2,285,864,500 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Resulting economic factors of the pandemic caused a downward adjustment of anticipated revenues resulting in a recommended budget adjustment in April 2020 which decreased the County Contribution to the Board of Education by \$7,726,500, establishing the budget level of \$2,278,138,000 as stated above, and which is approved by this letter. Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on future revenue flow to the County, and given the uncertainty and volatility of future revenues, the County Council is not able to provide additional revenue, as requested, to the Board of Education at this time.

Financial support for educational improvements in advancing the School System's competitiveness and outcomes remains as a priority budget item. Even during these extraordinarily challenging circumstances due to the pandemic, it is critical that our schools continue to operate at optimal levels to effectively prepare students for the college or career of their choice supporting their ability to meet the demands of society's technologically advanced workforce needs in a growing economy.

The County Council shares in the beliefs of the Prince George's County Public Schools Coherence Framework. We look forward to continued progress in achieving the vision set forth in the CEO's Focus Areas for Academic Excellence, High-Performing Workforce, Safe and Supportive Environments, Family and Community Engagement, and Organizational Effectiveness. Our commitment to ensuring funding support safeguards that our schools will meet optimal levels of performance. Thereby, the Council has allocated 61.3% of the County's approved FY 2021 General fund budget to the Board of Education. Consequently, the Council awaits the Board of Education's reconciliation of the approved budget amount that will reflect the Board of Education's priorities.

The months and years ahead will be incredibly challenging for our County in general, and specifically, for our students. The Council collectively thanks the Board of Education, the CEO, and the staff of the School System for all of the efforts to provide innovative solutions to address the immediate public health and safety needs of our students while maintaining a continuity of learning during the State of Emergency. We look forward to our ongoing cooperation with and commitment to the Board of Education even as we continue to evolve and adjust to the unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Turner  
Council Chair