Prince George's County House Delegation
MINUTES
March 7, 2014

Delegation Room
House Office Building Room 150
Annapolis, MD

Delegates present:

1. Delegate Jolene Ivey, Delegation Chair
2. Delegate Benjamin Barnes
3. Delegate Barbara Frush
4. Delegate Anne Healey
5. Delegate Marvin Holmes
6. Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard
7. Delegate Doyle Niemann
8. Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk
9. Delegate Darren Swain
10. Delegate Veronica Turner
11. Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
12. Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith
13. Delegate Michael Vaughn
14. Delegate Jay Walker
15. Delegate Alonzo Washington

NOTE: A simultaneous meeting of the House Appropriations Committee prevented many members from attending the March 7 meeting.

Staff:
Daniel Valentine, Legislative Director
Jodie Chilson, Delegation Counsel

Meeting convened approximately 10:05 a.m.

I- Speakers
The delegation welcomed two speakers for the County Board of Education:
- **Dr. Kevin Maxwell**, CEO / Superintendent, Prince George's County Public School System
- **Dr. Segun Eubanks**, Chair Prince George's County Board of Education

Both men thanks the delegates for their support, including for the 2013 decisiont o switch the make-up of the board. The change has allowed the county to hire Dr. Maxwell, as well as attract more new talent and increase confidence in the system at the state and among many parents.

PGPS, Eubanks, said, is a good school system that has made good gains.

Dr. Maxwell added that it can be so much better – he is assembling the right team and they are being deliberate in whom they hire at the top. Othert improvements included:
-Reducing the lottery / waits for children looking to enter TAG and other successful programs though increased Gifted/Talented stuident offerings, The international Baccalaureate and STEM instruction at two new elemnentary schools.

Increased hires planned include 15 additional art teachers, and 10 additional music and special education instructors.

The department is also opening an ombudsman office to handle complaints, and a latino liaision

Delegate Holmes asked about the efforts to explain Common Core changes to the public. They are not as robust as they need to be, Maxwell said.

Delegate Pena-0Melnyk thanked the men for efforts to improve gaps in performance and in the growing Latino student population, saying they've gone "the extra mile"

The schools are enhancing partnershiops with Latino organizations, expanding resources for English as a Soecond Language and making many HR hiring changes, Maxwell said.

Delegate Walker asked about why Pre-K efforts were not universal in the county. Maxwell said the opportunity for expansion is there, but it is very costly –the school system focuses PreK on more at-risk neighborhoods, including the Transforming Neighborhoods Inititaive areas.

Eubanks also agreed that universal Pre-K should be a goal, noting that while many childcare options are available for young children in the county, many are not "robust enough" in developmental training for pre-K services.

Delegate Swain mentioned continuing concerns about suspensions and other non-class punishments given to disruptive studentsand said they need to talk about making the treatment effective and efficient.

I. **Subcommittee Reports / Bills for Discussion:**
A. **Bi-County**
Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair
-
- [PGMC 106-14](#) - Public Utilities - System Development Charge **(HB 1075) (FWA)**

BiCounty Chair Pena-Melnyk reviewed the legislation, is done to codify existing practice in how WSSC charges for hook-ups of water to apartment buildings (namely, that the fee is for each unit, not for the building as a whole.) **Members voted 12-0 to recommend the legislation as Favorable with Amendments**

- **PGMC 112-14** – MNCPPC - MNCPPC - Regulations to Prohibit Smoking or Use of Electronic Cigarettes **(HB 1334) (FAV, AS AMENDED)**

Delegate Howard offered an amendment remove the regulation of e-cigarettes from the legislation, which the delegation adopted 12-1.

Meeting adjourned.

###