



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
Prince George's County School Board Member Thomas,

COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL BE ONLINE

Due to the COVID-19 precautions, the Council Meetings will be held online and is planned to be cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streamed to www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83014397014?pwd=Ymt0SVVMRjBpZ0lDaFcyMExobnU5QT09>
Passcode: 736144

Resident participation:

Join By phone: (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 830 1439 7014

Password (if needed): 736144

In advance the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email

banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

8:00 PM

Work Session Packet Agenda • Introductions • School Board Representative Update • Council Discussion • Other Items

Prince George's County School Board Member Thomas
Suggested Action:

Reference: WS181001

[WS181001.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: September 9, 2020

Submitted by: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Prince George's County School Board Member Thomas

Suggested Action:

Reference: WS181001

Attachments:

[WS181001.pdf](#)

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL Monday, October 1, 2018, with School Board Representative.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

Councilmembers present were Judith F. Davis, Colin A. Byrd, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

Staff members present were City Manager Nicole Ard, Co-Directors of Recreation Greg Varda and Joe McNeal and City Clerk Bonita Anderson.

Also present were Prince George's County School Board Member Lupi Grady, Chief Operating Officer Dr. W. Wesley Watts, Jr., and Nora Eckhart, Greenbelt News Review.

Ms. Grady provided an update of the Prince George's County Board of Education, which included the progress of the new interim CEO Dr. Monica Goldson. She also provided an update of the progress of bus transportation and the implementation of the new "Here Comes the Bus" app. Ms. Grady also noted the current shortage of bus drivers in the County. Mayor Jordan inquired about the number of schools in her district. She indicated that there were twenty schools in her district.

Ms. Mach inquired about federal funding. Ms. Grady stated that the Board of Education had applied for funding and was awaited a response.

Mr. Byrd inquired about the status of the Head Start program at Springhill Lake Elementary. Dr. Watts stated that the program was awarded to three companies in the Northern, Southern and Central areas of the County. He also will provide information on the schools that will be awarded funding for the program.

Ms. Davis expressed her gratitude for the extensive background check done with the bus drivers. Dr. Watts indicated that there were 150 vacancies for bus drivers and that they held two job fairs monthly.

Mr. Roberts inquired about the Greenbelt bus lot and recommended transitioning it to a recreation facility. Dr. Watts stated that the Greenbelt lot provides coverage for the maintenance of the buses. The County Council provided a significant amount of funds for improvement to the bus lots. Mayor Jordan inquired about the timeline for the proposed changes to the bus lot. Dr. Watts will notify the Council once he obtains additional information. In response to a question from Council, Dr. Watts stated that Prince George's County Public Schools had been unable to find available land that would support the needs required for the relocation of the Greenbelt Road bus lot.

Mr. Putens inquired about the number of buses that need routine maintenance. Dr. Watts indicated that there are about 1100 buses on the road daily. The fleet is maintained for 15 years. Mr. Roberts inquired about seat belts on the buses. Dr. Watts replied that there are no seat belts on the buses.

Dr. Watts provided additional information about the Capital Operating projects that have been

completed and/or will be done soon. He stated that new water coolers are being installed at Eleanor Roosevelt High School which will be completed by January 2018.

Ms. Davis inquired about the status of school resource officers. Dr. Watts noted that next year's budget will provide funding for school resource officers. It is currently a challenge to have a school resource officer in all schools.

Mr. McNeal indicated that the City is reviewing the Recreation Master Plan and that the City is looking into the field at the Dora Kennedy French Immersion School. The City is interested in the cost of maintenance for the field and that the City would like to begin these discussions again. Dr. Watts has the memorandum of understanding for partnership in maintaining the ball fields.

Ms. Pope reported that Springhill Lake Elementary School has plumbing issues throughout the building. She stated that the building is in poor condition with structural damage, and heating and air conditioning problems in many classrooms. Ms. Pope indicated that the Springhill Lake Elementary School functions well but is very overcrowded.

Mayor Jordan inquired about the status of Turning Point Academy's extension. Dr. Watts noted that there were certain mandates required for the extension. The teachers and Board members will be meeting to discuss the agreement which will end in June 2019. The School Board doesn't handle the lease for Turning Point Academy.

Mayor Jordan also inquired about the Board's perspective on the drilling that would be done underneath Eleanor Roosevelt High School for the proposed MAGLEV project. Ms. Grady indicated that she is opposed to the proposed project and hopes that her colleagues are as well.

Ms. Mach stated that it would be a bad idea to tunnel underneath the school when they have had issues with the building settling after it was built.

Mr. Byrd inquired about the water in the school system. Dr. Watts provided an update of the status of the drinking sources within the school system. Schools that have drinking water issues have been identified. They will continue to test the drinking water every three years.

Mayor Jordan inquired about the products distributed in the cafeteria and if the food is prepared in-house or provided by an outside vendor. Ms. Grady stated that the food is supplied by an outside vendor. Ms. Pope expressed her concerns about food waste during lunch. She recommends having students take food to a designated area for distribution to a facility that needs food.

Mayor Jordan inquired about the status of overcrowding of schools. Dr. Watts stated that the northern schools are overcrowded and that there is a big push to build new facilities. He also mentioned the public-private partnership (P3). They are seeking a vendor to build 5 to 10 schools over the next five years and that the County would make payments over a 20 to 30-year period.

Dr. Watts stated that there is a \$2B back log in funding and that there is \$166M in the capital budget this fiscal year. Mr. Roberts suggested that the school system use vacant office space. Dr. Watts mentioned that they are looking into office space for night school and alternative

building options. The state pays 70% of a building and the county pays 30%.

Ms. Davis suggested that during the P3 process that the board could consider input from the students. They have good ideas.

Ms. Mach inquired about Greenbelt children attending Greenbelt schools. She also explained the services that the City offers to Greenbelt schools, even to schools outside of Greenbelt.

Ms. Davis has concerns about the Greenbelt students attending schools outside of Greenbelt. Students who live in Lanham attending Eleanor Roosevelt High School should be attending DuVal High School. It was noted that a boundary change will take place in February 2019.

Mr. Byrd has concerns about the testing with the Science and Technology Program.

Ms. Mach stated that several years ago, Prince George's County Council had agreed that all Greenbelt students would always attend Greenbelt schools. She said the School Boundary Office was not aware of this agreement and had made a mistake when establishing school boundaries for Greenbelt Station. She stated that the mistake needs to be corrected.

Dr. Watts stated that the Science and Technology Program at Eleanor Roosevelt High School accommodates 1/3 of the County students and only a certain percentage of these students are residents of Greenbelt. He said one option that may be considered in the future is moving the Science and Technology Program out of Eleanor Roosevelt High School to DuVal High School to open up space for city students. Dr. Watts added that PGCPs is proposing to build a new High Point High School in the northern part of the County and the school boundaries will be modified.

Council expressed their opposition to moving the Science and Technology Program out of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Ms. Davis mentioned a large number of students attending Eleanor Roosevelt High School use an address in the City to attend the school but live in Washington D.C. and other areas outside the City. She added that a large number of students from Lanham are currently enrolled at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and they could be reassigned to Duval High School which has a below capacity enrollment. Mr. Putens inquired about the dates for the boundary change. Dr. Watts stated that they're working on that now for the northern, central and southern parts of the County.

Informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bonita Anderson
City Clerk*