



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS AGENDA

**Prince George's County School Board Member Joshua Thomas
Council Chambers
25 Crescent Road
Monday, March 04, 2019
8:00 PM**

Work Session - Prince George's County School Board Member Thomas

Prince George's County School Board Member Thomas

[PGCS Board Member Thomas_WS190304.pdf](#)

[WS170531.pdf](#)

[WS160217.pdf](#)



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS AGENDA
Prince George's County School Board Member Joshua Thomas
Council Chambers
25 Crescent Road
Monday, March 04, 2019
8:00 PM

Introductions

- Update from School Board Member Thomas
- How Greenbelt Residents Support Their Schools:
 - Advisory Committee Education Awards
 - Advisory Committee Education Grants
 - Advisory Committee Education Clubs
 - School Resource Officer (need for continued funding from PGC)
 - Drug Abuse Resistance Education (**D.A.R.E.**) Program
- Physical Conditions of Greenbelt Schools/ Future Construction Needs
 - Declining Conditions of Springhill Lake Elementary
 - Repairs to Temporary Buildings (SHLES /ERHS)
 - Drainage issues in the rear of Greenbelt Elementary School
 - Overcrowding Issues / Need for new school for Franklin Park - Greenbelt West
- Policy Issues
 - Use of School Fields and Facilities
 - Attendance Policy and Enforcement for High Schools
 - School Boundary Update / Greenbelt Station Students
- Other Issues
 - Status of Turning Point Academy
 - Potential Community Meeting/Program about Prince George's County Schools with Dr. Thornton

Prince George's County School Board Member Thomas
[WS170531.pdf](#)
[WS160217.pdf](#)

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, May 31, 2017, with School Board Representative Lupi Grady.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Lupi Grady, Prince George's County School Board Representative; Ed Ryans, Elizabeth Chaisson, Shayla Taylor, David Hill, Jr. and Sameano Porchea, Prince George's County Public Schools; Melinda Brady, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education; Kathleen Gallagher, Greenbelt News Review; Reverend Ray Raysor, Anne Wallace, Jerome Dancis, Adeline Wilcox, Dave Grogan, Bill Orleans, David Talbird, Darlene Jean-Pierre, Lina Trullinger, Thurston Livingston, Jennifer Livingston and Robert Anthony.

Ms. Grady provided an update on the Prince George's County Board of Education (BoE), including the Equity Task Force, Workforce Diversity Task Force and Academic Achievement Committee. She said a 20 minute minimum/30 minute maximum recess will be implemented next school year. Ms. Grady spoke about health and nutrition programs in the schools. Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis mentioned the city's participation in the Let's Move Cities and Towns and Healthy Eating Active Living programs and suggested Ms. Grady contact Julie McHale, Recreation Director, for possible coordination of the initiatives with the schools. Ms. Pope said Ms. Kohout at Springhill Lake Elementary School was integrating healthy living programs and activities in the school and suggested Ms. Grady contact her also.

In response to a question from Mayor Jordan, Ms. Grady said the County Council approved its budget last Thursday and the BoE was expecting a recommendation from Dr. Maxwell and his budget team by next week. She said the BoE will then review the recommendations. Ms. Grady said she is aware that actions to engage parents and students earlier in the college preparation process is included as a budget recommendation. Mr. Ryans explained student based budgeting. Ms. Davis said she had read in County Council Member Glaros's budget message that some funding had been set aside for school improvements. Ms. Grady said she hopes her BoE colleagues will consider making improvements to school bus lots and facilities, many of which are in very poor condition.

Mayor Jordan thanked Ms. Grady for her advocacy regarding the city's opposition to the recent Milestone Communications proposal for a cell phone tower at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). Ms. Davis reported that Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) was another potential cell phone tower site. Ms. Grady said she would check. Mr. Roberts suggested all 71 potential school board sites for cell towers be reconsidered. Ms. Grady noted that Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has a contract in place with Milestone Communication and it had been renewed by CEO Maxwell.

Mayor Jordan said children residing in the new Greenbelt Station neighborhood are currently assigned to Berwyn Heights Elementary, Greenbelt Middle School and Parkdale High School. He expressed Council's concern about the situation and its belief that all children residing in the

city should attend city schools. Mayor Jordan mentioned the money the city invests in schools through the Advisory Committee on Education grants to educators program, awards for outstanding educators and students, funding of after-school Science and Reading clubs and funding a Student Resource Officer. He said the students attending non-city schools do not receive these benefits.

Ms. Mach said that 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 now be corrected.

Ms. Chaisson explained that PGCPs is a county school system and not a municipal based school system. Dr. Porchea said she couldn't speak as to the history but could speak about the situation as of now. She said she had reviewed the student enrollment numbers for ERHS and in order to provide space for all Greenbelt high school students to attend the school, a programming change would have to be made. Dr. Porchea said the Science and Technology Program at ERHS accommodates 900 county students and only 70 of these students are residents of Greenbelt. She said one option that may be considered in the future is moving the Science and Technology Program out of ERHS (to DuVal high School) to open up space for city students. Dr. Porchea added that PGCPs is in the process of contracting for a study of all schools in the northern part of the county and the study will include a look at school boundaries.

Council expressed its opposition to moving the Science and Technology Program out of ERHS. Ms. Davis mentioned a large number of students attending ERHS use an address in the city to attend the school but actually 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 ERHS and they could be reassigned to Duval High School which has a below capacity enrollment.

Thurston Livingston, Nina Trellinger, David Talbird and other residents of Greenbelt Station noted their support for Greenbelt Station students attending city schools. They spoke about the importance of students attending schools in their community.

Ms. Grady said she would discuss the situation with staff and BoE members. Dr. Porchea said she would also relook and examine all possible options. Ms. Chaisson said a policy that all students residing in municipalities being assigned to schools in the municipalities would have to be a policy change implemented by the BoE. Ms. Mach emphasizes that the situation was caused by a mistake and the mistake needs to be corrected.

Ms. Pope reported that Springhill Lake Elementary School functioned well but was very overcrowded. She said the building is in very poor condition with structural damage and heating and air conditioning problems in many classrooms. Ms. Pope said the temporary classrooms are in similar condition with gutters falling off and roof leaks. She added that there is no personnel to clean the school. Ms. Chaisson said because of huge operational cuts years ago, only essential maintenance (band aiding) is being done in the schools. Ms. Taylor said the Capital Improvement Program calls for Springhill Lake Elementary to be replaced in FY 2020 but noted that the CIP often doesn't get completely funded each year. Mr. Hill said Springhill Lake Elementary was #10 out of 25 schools up for replacement. Mr. Ryans said he would meet with Facility Operations personnel tomorrow to discuss the problems.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Mr. Hill and Ms. Taylor said Facility Operations and Building Services personnel work very hard but they don't have adequate staff or funding.

Mr. Hill reviewed Capital Projects recently completed as well as planned projects for Greenbelt area schools. There was discussion regarding artificial turf fields and lights planned for Eleanor Roosevelt High School in summer 2018.

Ms. Davis said the Recreation Department has been trying for several years to get a memorandum of understanding in place with PGCPSS for use of the GMS fields for city sports teams but had not yet been successful. She also asked about the lights that had originally been proposed for the fields at GMS.

Ms. Davis mentioned concerns relayed to her by parents of Greenbelt Middle School students regarding teachers arriving late, fights in the hallways of the school and locked bathrooms for students after 2:30 p.m. Melinda Brady, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education, said she had heard similar stories from parents at GMS. However, she stated that she personally (as a parent of a 6th grade student in the TAG program) has been very satisfied with the school. Mr. Ryan said he had met with the GMS principal and they are working to address the problems mentioned.

There was discussion regarding the numbers of teachers on administrative leave. Mr. Ryans said PGCPSS takes all allegations received very seriously but acknowledged there was some over reporting. Ms. Pope commented on the disruption to students in the classroom when they lose their permanent classroom teacher for several months. Ms. Grady said there have been meetings with general counsel for PGCPSS to discuss ways to address these situations so student instruction is not impacted.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Hill said PGCPSS had been unable to find available land that would support the needs required for the relocation of the Greenbelt Road Bus Lot.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Mr. Hill said PGCPSS is approximately 50 bus drivers short at this time. He spoke about recent efforts taken to recruit, train and retain bus drivers. Mr. Hill said he expects to be fully staffed prior to the start of the new school year.

Ms. Davis said the city had asked for results of water testing performed in Greenbelt schools. Ms. Chaisson and Mr. Ryans said PGCPSS Building Services would have this information.

Mayor Jordan mentioned a problem with school busses speeding in the city. Mr. Hill asked that he be contacted with the bus number when incidents occur.

There was discussion of School Resource Officer funding. Ms. Grady will check and report back.

Informational Items

Mayor Jordan advised a Board of Library Trustees of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System has a meeting scheduled on July 20, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Library.

Ms. Davis suggested a work session with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System be scheduled in the future. Ms. Mach suggested the Friends of Greenbelt Library be invited to attend the work session.

The meeting ended at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, February 17, 2016, for the purpose of meeting with Prince George's County School Board Member Lupi Grady and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kevin Maxwell.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:01 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Lupi Grady, Prince George's County School Board Member; Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Prince George's County Schools Chief Executive Officer; Mary Moien, Greenbelt News Review; Genevieve Kelly, Bill Orleans, and others.

Ms. Grady provided an update from the Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) Board. She reported that financial literacy training for students began this school year for eighth grade students and mentioned this was the first program of its type in the State. Ms. Grady also reported on the "Terrapin Teacher" project that involved students from the University of Maryland assisting school students in science and other activities and the upcoming Youth Summit Day on Leadership involving approximately 60 ninth and tenth grade students from Eleanor Roosevelt, Northwestern and Parkdale High Schools. She said she will have another listening session scheduled soon.

Dr. Maxwell said he had been in his position as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for PGCPS for over two years (on a four year contract) and plans to seek a four year contract renewal. He spoke about his good working relationship with the School Board. Dr. Maxwell said the current funding levels for PGCPS are not adequate to achieve all that he would like to accomplish, but added that lack of adequate funding is the same in all school districts.

Dr. Maxwell reported that the graduation rate rose 2.47% in his first year as CEO and another 2.16% in his second year. He said PGCPS graduation rate is now at 78% compared to the national rate of 82%.

Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis mentioned Senator Rosapepe's session in Laurel regarding the success of the Monarch School which is a private public partnership serving students in Anne Arundel County. Dr. Maxwell said the Monarch School was a great school and a very good model of a private public partnership. He reported that schools such as Monarch, that receive private funding, are not held to the same construction standards as public schools.

Dr. Maxwell mentioned the need to find viable options to lower class sizes, especially in pre-kindergarten programs. He said Delegate Washington is working on a legislative bill to provide additional resources in this effort. Mayor Jordan suggested Dr. Maxwell notify Council if he would like City support of any legislative bills. Dr. Maxwell said he would provide contact information about the PGCPS legislative agenda.

Dr. Maxwell reported the proposed PGCPs FY 2017 Budget is available on the PGCPs website. He said the proposed budget includes an increase of \$182 million (9.9% over the FY 2016 budget).

Dr. Maxwell said PGCPs is continuing to look for a new site to relocate the Greenbelt bus lot. He said an alternative site they had been working on acquiring last year did not work out during contract negotiations.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Dr. Maxwell said PGCPs is still leasing out school property for placement of cell phone towers. He said he wasn't aware of any schools in the Greenbelt area under consideration for cell phone tower placement at this time.

Mr. Roberts said he thought all student suspensions should be eliminated and more efforts should be taken to address whatever problems students may have. Dr. Maxwell said a task force dealing with student conduct and behavior, recovery programs to keep students on task, etc. has been established and there is a statewide effort looking into alternative educational programs. He said it would be great not to have to suspend or discipline any students, but there are situations, such as weapon or drug matters, that warrant a student's removal in order to keep schools safe. Mr. Roberts requested Dr. Maxwell provide Council information regarding student suspensions and their graduation rates.

Ms. Mach, Ms. Pope and Ms. Davis stressed the need to have all Greenbelt children attend their neighborhood schools. Ms. Mach reported that children living in Greenbelt Station are currently assigned to Berwyn Heights Elementary, Greenbelt Middle School and Parkdale High School. She acknowledged that the schools in Greenbelt are overcrowded but noted that both Berwyn Heights Elementary and Parkdale High School are overcrowded also. Ms. Davis said there is still time to work this boundary problem out since there are no school age children residing in Greenbelt Station at this point.

Dr. Maxwell explained the PGCPs operates as a county district and it is not possible to place children in each municipality in schools within its municipality. He offered to arrange a meeting with Council and representatives from the office of PGCPs Boundaries and Zoning to explain how boundaries are established.

Ms. Davis stated that the City and its Advisory Committee on Education does a great deal to support Greenbelt schools, including offering grants for teachers, awarding outstanding educators and students, funding after-school Science and Reading clubs and funding a Student Resource Officer. Ms. Mach said taxpayer money is used to fund these programs, and it is not fair that not all Greenbelt children benefit from them.

Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis mentioned the City was having difficulty in reaching an agreement with PGCPs for the joint use of the athletic fields at Greenbelt Middle School. Dr. Maxwell said he would check into the matter.

Ms. Grady and Dr. Maxwell left the meeting at 9:08 p.m. to attend another meeting.

Ms. Kelly, member of the Prince George's County Advocates for Better Schools, spoke about their meeting on February 4th. She said School Board Member Grady and John Pfister, Director

of Budget and Management Services for PGCPs, were in attendance and reviewed the proposed budget. Council requested Ms. Kelly provide them with meeting dates of the organization. Mr. Putens suggested Ms. Kelly reach out to the City's Advisory Committee on Education, as well as the College Park Education Advisory Board.

Informational Items

Ms. Davis provided an update from the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee meeting.

Several other informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*