



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

Work Session Packet - Prince George's County Public School Building Services and School Boundaries

This meeting will be held in-person and virtual.

**25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

OR

**Virtual Participation
Zoom Webinar Attendees:**

Please submit your request in writing via email to questions@greenbeltmd.gov

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87212974139?pwd=VEs3TzB5ZGxyVVNvQIM3dWJ0d0tIZz09>

Dial-in: 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 872 1297 4139

Passcode: 772139

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024
7:30 PM**

Work Session Packet

Work Session - Prince George's County Public School Building Services and School Boundaries

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion
 - Building Services
 - School Boundaries

- Truancy
 - Questions and Answers
 - Other Items
- [WS210922.pdf](#)

Meeting and Stakeholder List

[meetings.pdf](#)

[Stakeholder Schedule.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: January 10, 2024

Submitted by: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Work Session - Prince George's County Public School Building Services and School Boundaries

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
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 - School Boundaries
 - Truancy
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

Attachments:

[WS210922.pdf](#)

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, September 22, 2021, to discuss Proposed School Board Changes with the Prince George's County School Board Representative.

Mayor Byrd started the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens (8:08 pm), Rodney M. Roberts (8:02 pm), and Mayor Colin A. Byrd.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Assistant to the City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Joshua Thomas, Prince George's County School Board District 2 Representative; Ric Gordon; Matthew Inzeo; Kristen Weaver; Bill Orleans; and others.

Informational Items:

Ms. Davis provided a report on the Maryland Municipal Legislative Committee.

Mr. Joshua Thomas stated that he moved to Greenbelt a month ago and noted that the proposed school boundary would be coming up on the School Board agenda for the next few months. He provided an update on transportation, the pandemic, and the controversy among the Board of Education.

Mayor Byrd advised that the 2021 school year transportation rollout was unacceptable and asked if anything was being done beyond the recruitment to address the issue long term. Mr. Thomas answered that transportation is an ongoing issue, and it has gotten worse. He stated that the School Board Administration indicated a national bus driver shortage, valid for school districts across the region. Mr. Thomas explained that he had raised this issue with the School Board Administration. The bus drivers informed him that the drivers are not guaranteed eight-hour workdays. He told Council that he would be submitting a list of incentives to Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer of the Prince George's County Public Schools, which included offering a signing bonus, a small financial compensation to parents that carpool students, increased local advertisement, partnering with the regional transit system, and contracting a van service.

Based on a question asked by Mr. Jordan, Mr. Thomas suggested contacting his office if the school doesn't have a crossing guard so that the issues could be flagged for the Administration staff since the County provides crossing guards. He provided an update on the Board of Education's challenges, which include communication challenges and the idea of restructuring the Board of Education staff. He noted that the restructuring of the Board wasn't allowed to go on the agenda, and now the Board of Education is understaffed. Mr. Thomas explained that the County Executive hires the Chair of the Board of Education, and the other Board Members are elected to their position.

Ms. Davis stated that the Bus Driver Union Representative was on the news explaining that the drivers are hired for five hours, work for eight hours, and the bus drivers aren't paid for the three extra hours the drivers work. She asked Mr. Thomas to explain the three scenarios about school board boundaries and when the definitive changes occurred. Mr. Thomas reviewed the

scenario of boundary changes with the current utilization. Scenario 1) addresses the utilization extremes and minimizes rezoning. Scenario 2) optimizes utilization as widely as possible and requires the most rezoning. Finally, scenario 3) maximizes using updated facilities and removes the worst condition schools. He advised that the Board of Education hasn't voted on the proposed boundary changes. Ms. Davis stated that Council wants to keep Greenbelt students in Greenbelt schools, and Council is aware that all the Greenbelt schools are overcrowded. Based on a question asked by Ms. Davis, Mr. Thomas answered that he is not aware of any schools in Greenbelt that are losing students to another school, but he would ask the Administrative staff for a clear answer regarding which scenario would involve Greenbelt residents not districted to a Greenbelt school. Ms. Davis requested that Mr. Thomas also include Magnolia Elementary in his request because many Greenbelt East students attend Magnolia Elementary.

Based on a question asked by Mr. Roberts, Mr. Thomas expressed his concern regarding all the infighting between the elected members and the appointed chair. He stated that it is hindering the Board to serve effectively, which includes setting the agenda as well as items that are voted on not being honored by the appointed chair. Mr. Roberts commented that the school system shouldn't rely on school buses. He suggested that students stay in their neighborhood schools so that they wouldn't have to be bussed to other school districts. Mr. Roberts stated that there needs to be a significant restructuring in the school board system, and the State needs to step in. Mr. Thomas agreed with Mr. Roberts that the State needs to understand how the appointed chair operates and how negatively it is affecting how the elected board members govern. He advised that different schools offer different specialty programs, but it does create many transportation issues.

Ms. Mach stated that there was a proposal to add an addition to Eleanor Roosevelt High School, but in 2004 the then superintendent noted that the expansion should be at Duval High School. She advised that the expansion should be added to Eleanor Roosevelt High School or move the non-Greenbelt students to Duval High. Mr. Thomas explained the construction process and noted that other schools in the County are falling apart. He stated he would provide Council with the timeline on adding the addition to Eleanor Roosevelt High School within the school board construction timeframe. Mayor Byrd agreed that the request for the expansion at Eleanor Roosevelt High School should be fulfilled.

Ms. Pope inquired if the School Board would hire additional janitorial and maintenance staff to relieve the pressure on existing staff. Mr. Thomas answered he hadn't heard of any challenges within the custodial staff and asked Ms. Pope to email him summarizing the issues with custodial services. He advised that he has heard of challenges within the maintenance staff and would schedule a walk-through of Springhill Lake Elementary with the Director of Maintenance to assess any maintenance issues within the building. Ms. Pope inquired about an update on playground equipment at Springhill Lake Elementary because the current equipment isn't safe. She stated that five classrooms at Springhill Lake Elementary were closed down due to COVID-19 and asked about the next steps. Mr. Thomas answered that he and his colleagues raised similar issues and wanted to create mandatory testing requirements or random testing but wasn't permitted to vote on the request by the chair of the Board. He advised Ms. Pope to add her concerns in her email, and he will forward them to the Administration staff. Mayor Byrd asked that Council be invited to the walk-through at Springhill Lake Elementary.

Based on a question asked by Mr. Putens, Mr. Thomas answered he was in favor of an all-elected Board of Education body and had been advocating for a referendum, but unfortunately, it

doesn't look like that would happen. Mr. Putens stated that there are many issues regarding traffic at the schools. It is draining the City's resources when the City sends the City's officers to handle traffic when it should be the County Officers monitoring the traffic.

Ric Gordon, a Greenbelt resident, inquired about the timeline and process of hiring bus drivers. Mr. Thomas explained the process of hiring bus drivers, which includes a required drug and background check. The driver must have a CDL license. It is a 6-8-week process.

Matthew Inzeo, a Greenbelt resident, expressed his concern regarding the proposed boundary changes and asked when the vote will occur and what the steps are to appeal boundary change. Mr. Thomas answered that he doesn't see any of the scenarios on the proposed boundary change that Greenbelt East students would attend Duval High School. He stated that the proposed boundary changes would be passed within this academic school year and suggested that Mr. Inzeo speak at School Board meetings, provide public comments, and monitor the School Board's agenda to see when the topic is placed on the agenda.

Mayor Byrd requested a confirmation on which proposed boundary change scenario would impact residents of Greenbelt and asked if Mr. Thomas could give the Council a heads up when the item would be on the School Board's agenda. Mr. Thomas advised that he will follow up with the Administration staff on Mayor Byrd's question and provide Council with staff responses.

Mr. Jordan inquired if the School Board had any plans to get the students vaccinated. Mr. Thomas answered that would be raised at the School Board meeting tomorrow. Mr. Jordan asked if there were any plans to have the Greenbelt Middle School facilities open to the public to allow community churches to access the building. Mr. Thomas stated he would follow up with Administration and provide Council with a response. Ms. Davis advised that the Recreation Department was trying to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding between the School Board and the City, but the ball field is not being maintained and hasn't been brought up to good standing.

Mayor Byrd requested that other options than cash be accepted as payment for entry to sporting games at the gates at Prince George's County Public Schools. Mr. Thomas stated that was a good recommendation and would submit the suggestion to the Administration staff.

Kristen Weaver, a Greenbelt resident, advised an interactive link on the Prince George's County Public School website to see if an address is affected regarding the proposed boundary change.

Mr. Thomas stated that he looked forward to working with Council. He reviewed the following questions he will submit to the Administration staff: getting an understanding of which scenario would result in Greenbelt students being rezoned to non-Greenbelt schools; the status and timeline on the addition to Eleanor Roosevelt High School; playground equipment at Springhill Lake Elementary; vaccination plan for 5-11-year-old students; are community school facilities, such as Greenbelt Middle School, open for use for Greenbelt residents; and implementing electronic payments at entry into games and school events.

Bill Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, inquired if the Prince George's County Public Schools would reconsider Private-Public Partnerships (P3). Mr. Thomas answered no, and he, too, would like to revisit that matter.

Additional Information Items:

Mr. Jordan informed Ms. Ard that there were trees down on Hanover Parkway near Greenbriar Phase 1 and inquired about any reports of other damage throughout the City due to the recent storm. Ms. Ard answered that there hadn't been any reports of any trees or flood damage throughout the City.

Ms. Ard informed Council that she sent an email from the State regarding the upcoming mosquito spraying for West Nile Virus on Tuesday, September 28th, on Ridge Road and Eastway.

Based on a question asked by Mr. Jordan, Ms. Ard answered that she sent an email from Ms. Nicole DeWald, Arts Supervisor, last week regarding the Mother and Child Statue base repair that has been postponed. The repairs are anticipated to start back up in October, weather permitting, and the State needs to provide authorization to move forward.

The meeting ended at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Assistant to the City Clerk*

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: January 10, 2024

Submitted by: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: MEETINGS

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

Meeting and Stakeholder List

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[meetings.pdf](#)

[Stakeholder Schedule.pdf](#)

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1891



1/9/2024 1:15 PM

City Council Meetings & Work Sessions January – February

No Meeting – Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Mon.	01/15	
Work Session – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Tribesy Audit Update	Wed.	01/17	7:30 pm
Regular Meeting	Mon.	01/22	7:30 pm
Special Meeting – Council Candidate Interviews	Tues.	01/23	7:00 pm
Special Meeting – Deliberation and Selection	Wed.	01/24	7:00 pm
Four Cities Meeting (City of College Park)	Thurs.	01/25	7:00 pm
Council Retreat	Sat.	01/27	9am-2pm
Work Session – City Manager's Update/ FY 2025 Pre-Budget Discussion	Mon.	01/29	7:30 pm
Special Meeting/Closed Session – Personnel and Pending Legal Matters	Mon.	01/29	Following WS
Work Session – Buddy Attick Park Draft Master Plan	Wed.	01/31	7:30 pm
Work Session – Municipal Building Architect Study Update/Greenbelt Access TV (Tentative)	Mon.	02/05	7:30 pm
Work Session – TBD	Wed.	02/07	7:30 pm
Regular Meeting	Mon.	02/12	7:30 pm
Work Session – TBD	Wed.	02/14	7:30 pm
No Meeting – Presidents' Day	Mon.	02/19	
Work Session – Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station	Wed.	02/21	7:30 pm
Regular Meeting	Mon.	02/26	7:30 pm
Work Session – TBD	Wed.	02/28	7:30 pm

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation, call 301-474-8000. Regular and Special meetings and Work Sessions are open to the public. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 or 301-474-3870 no later than 10 a.m. on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 or e-mail banderson@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building (MB) at 25 Crescent Road and virtually by Zoom. Zoom meeting information for public participation is posted on the City's website at www.greenbeltmd.gov on the meeting calendar.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

(301) 474-8000

fax (301) 441-8248
www.greenbeltmd.gov

MD RELAY 711

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1891



1/9/2024 1:15 PM

Ready to be scheduled:

Townhall Meeting: Virtual Meetings Accessibility
for Blind and Visually Impaired
City Contracting Policy
Walk-way fixture
Verde Apartments
Greenbelt Road Corridor
Prince George's County Council (*Provided
December dates*)
WSSC (*March/April*)
Bureau of Engraving and Printing

For later scheduling:

Zoning Enforcement
Parkway Apartment Owners/GHI (*parking*)
Northway Fields Master Plan
City Manager Updates (Jan, Pre-budget; July &
Sept/Oct)
Meeting with County on Transportation Plan
Museum Plan
Bernard Penney (*Memorial Donation in honor of
Leonie Penney*)
Potential Bond Referendum/Capital Financing
Cemetery Plans
MARC Train Service/ MDOT
Arts & Entertainment District
EV Chargers Five Year Plan
Fleet Vehicles Ten Year Plan
GHI/Prince George's County (Stormwater issues)

Annual														
Advisory Group Chairs	7/22	7/23												
Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station Mgmt.	12/21	12/22												
Greenbelt Center HOAs	3/23													
Greenbelt East HOAs and COAs/Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition	4/22	6/23												
Greenbelt Homes, Inc.	8/22	8/23												
Greenbelt Station HOA/Verde Apts.	8/22	8/23												
School Board Member	9/21	2/23	8/23											
State Highway Administration	11/20	11/22	12/23											
Biennial														
Beltsville Ag. Research Center	8/18	11/22	11/23											
Beltway Plaza	9/22													
NASA/GSFC	3/22	4/23												
Greenbelt Business Alliance	10/22													
Greenbelt Park NPS	1/22	3/23												
Greenway Shopping Center	12/20	2/23												
Religious/Spiritual Organizations	6/22													
Twice a Year														
County Council Person and At Large Members	5/23													
Meetings as Needed														
Apartments	4/21													
Comcast/Verizon	3/21													
Greenbelt Office Parks														
Greenbelt Watershed Groups	10/19													
Hotels	8/23													
PEPCO	2/22	9/23												
WSSC	2/22	6/23	10/23											
Washington Gas	8/23													
Prince George's Economic Development Corp.	11/21													
Prince George's Planning Board	10/19													
Roosevelt Center Owner	8/20													
University of Maryland	4/15													
WMATA/PGDPW&T (Semi-Annual)	5/22													
Newly Elected/Appointed Officials (Presentation of a Council Regular Meeting)														
County Executive														
School Board CEO														
State's Attorney	1/23													