



## Blueprint Schools Program Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2021

Start Time - 6:00 pm

### Attendance

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Dr. Monica Goldson	Chief Executive Officer	Jason Washington	Director, OAIPD
Calvin S. Hawkins II	County Council Chair	Erika Evans	Admin. Assistant, OAIPD
Erika Berry-Wilson	Chief of Staff for D.C.A.O. for Health Services and Education		

### Call to Order:

Called to order by Erika Evans: "Good evening everyone. Welcome to the 3rd quarter blueprint schools steering committee meeting, Dr. Goldson, would you please call the meeting to order?"

CEO, Dr. Monica Goldson calls the public meeting to order.

### Meeting Logistics:

- Spanish interpretation access
- ASL interpretation – occurs simultaneously.
- Q&A function – disabled
- Questions can be submitted on the program website: [www.pgcpsblueprintschools.com](http://www.pgcpsblueprintschools.com)
- Public comments - will be called on in the order in which you signed up

Roll call for all attendees takes place.

### Steering Committee moves to:

- Dr. Goldson moves to approve the 4/7/2021 steering committee meeting minutes. Chair Calvin Hawkins seconded. All Steering Committee members voted in favor with no opposition or abstention.
- Dr. Goldson moves to approve the 10/13/2021 steering committee meeting agenda. Erika Berry-Wilson seconded. All Steering Committee members voted in favor with no opposition or abstention.

### Director Report

[\\*See Attached\\*](#)





## Q&A:

Committee:

Dr. Goldson poses the question “Regarding the construction and labor shortage that exists in the region, are we experiencing any of those issues? If there is a shortage, do we anticipate that it will impact the delivery of schools timeline? ”

Mr. Ricketts responds that “There are labor and material shortages in the region. We have our finger at the pulse of that. As issues arrive, we are creating work-a-rounds. So far, we haven’t had any impacts on the delivery of the schools. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not behind us. It wasn’t a singular event and it is something that everyday we learn something new and are impacted in a different way and have to shift. It would be misleading to say that there is no potential for an adverse impact. I will say, so far, our labor impacts, we’ve been able to mitigate. We’re too early in the process to understand if we’re going to have any material impacts. On other projects in the region, there have been material impacts for steel, PVC piping, roofing material and roof insulation as well as wall insulation. We think we’re ahead of the curve on those items. Hopefully that answers your question.”

Dr. Goldson responds “it did and I appreciate your clarity around it. I just want to make sure that we keep it in the for-front. As we’re looking at our quarterly meetings just staying in front of it. If we foresee that we’re going to have a problem, we are well aware of it and ready to communicate that to our community. Thank you again.”

Mrs. Berry-Wilson asks “regarding MBE numbers, but first congratulations on some wonderful MBE procurement numbers, MBE and CBB , I congratulate both Mr. Washington and Mr. Ricketts and the Gilbaine team on obtaining those numbers. Do we have an idea of the MBE procurement dollars, what percent of that is county based MBE?”

Mr. Washington responds “As part of the monthly report that we have, it is part of that and built in. I can pull that and make sure that I send it. I would say that it is still fairly significant because I am almost certain [and Mr. Ricketts, correct me if I’m wrong] I believe most of the initial MBE participation that we’ve had have been from local MBE’s.”

Mrs. Berry-Wilson further adds, “That’s great. As far as keeping this pace, do you have any worries or concerns about that? Are there any trends that we should monitor? that we should be mindful of as we move forward through the construction process?”

Mr. Ricketts responds “I don’t think that we will keep this pace of MBE awards. I think that the goal of the 30% MBE was a good goal and it’s something that we felt we could achieve. I think the early numbers are gonna be higher because we really are pushing hard to make sure those awards happen. But as certain trains come on board like elevators, there’s no MBE or local MBE/CBB type of business for an elevator package. So we’re not gonna get the participation there. There’s gonna be some things like that, that as we go through the process the numbers will start to get more aligned with the goals.”





Chair Hawkins states, “Jason, I just want to express your work with the Fort Washington Tantalion community is to be admired and I would encourage you to continue to work with them as we work through their concerns and build a fantastic school in the Fort Washington community. I just wanted to make that statement and commend you for your efforts in that regard.”

Mr. Washington responds, “Thank you sir”

Dr. Goldson adds, “I want to echo Chair Hawkins as well and Mrs. Berry-Wilson. One, Chair Hawkins, for the continued communication with the Southern K8 community. While we know some of those residents are not pleased with the way that we have moved forward, I appreciate the openness and ability to have conversations to make sure there’s clarity and transparency about next steps. Second, to just say thank you for all the hard work around MBE and CBB, and Gilbaine and Fingates commitment to the community and minority businesses. That we have come out of the gate showing that that was a priority and will continue to remain a priority. Thank you for that.”

Dr. Goldson asks, (Being 10 months into this program) “What are some of the lessons learned thus far?”

Ms. Maxwell responds “I think more than anything, one of the biggest lessons learned (we just spoke upon it in regards to the Southern K-8) is the communication that unfortunately the community did not feel that they received. That is true. The lack of communication that was there or that was not there, that’s definitely a lesson learned for all of us. To be certain that we involve the community at the forefront of this project and to be sure to let the community know, have their time to share the information that they want to share or share their opinions in regards to what's going on and what's to come.”

Mr. Washington adds “Another big lesson learned for us, us being PGCPs, is recognizing the capacity, the need and the commitment that is required of us. The Gilbaine, Fingate and Stantek team, they have mobilized around our intention of delivering these schools quickly. And I think we had a little whiplash at first of Oh!... this is really quickly... and the need to match that. We’ve gotten there but it definitely took some growing pains earlier in the process but that’s the biggest lesson learned for us, is to make sure that we continue to match the intensity and the drive that we have seen from the development team to this point and we continue that. I also tip my hat to Shawn Matlock and his team because they have come in and supported us and provided staff and time to help get this process off the ground and this program moving. So that's the biggest lesson, is making sure that we are equipped to move aggressively and to push through and to deliver. That’s been the wake up call for all of us, specifically on the school side as it relates to reviewing and capacity, etc.

Mr. Ricketts further adds “The partnership, truly everybody has approached this with the common goal and the importance of the mission and we truly are working together as a partner. There are no secrets between Jason’s team and Brandi’s team and our team and the design team. Everybody is collaborative. We’re talking. We’re working and full communication. I think a lesson learned for ongoing projects is to make sure you have that partnership in place. All of us will remain a partner throughout this operation. Otherwise we won’t succeed.”

Ms. Maxwell also adds “Not just in regards to our teams as far as partnership is concerned, but also too... just from Prince George’s County overall. While the school’s team has been incredible as far as the partnership is concerned, we’ve also had other agencies that have been involved in this process including DPIE. The work of





DPIE, and even the work of DPWT as they start to prepare for the work that is to take place down in the southern K-8 community, the involvement of those particular agencies has been so very helpful throughout this whole entire process and we hope that they continue to remain involved.”

Mr. Ricketts responds “Thank you for bringing that up. When I talk about that partnership, they are a key player and they have met every one of our deadlines so far. I don’t know if you talk to other partners in the county government but they need an applause for how well they’ve been working on the team.”

Chair Hawkins adds, in regards to communication “I would encourage you Jason, to continue what you’re doing in the Southern, Tantallion, Fort Washington area. Keep an open dialogue and consistent, regular communication. Even though we are past one phase - the groundbreaking - and the accompanying unrest up there, it’s been addressed because of your constant communications. And you need to continue to do that , and it needs to be individuals like you who are aware and sympathetic to their concerns and continue to work with the county as we move through there. But again, you’ve been phenomenal with your execution and response to this.”

Mrs. Berry-Wilson asks “As you can imagine, the County Executive has applauded and is excited about what we’re doing under the Alternative Construction program. Particularly around not just new schools but the impact that it will have on the county overall. Whether it’s economic development or community development as well. But one of the things that has been briefly mentioned but we’d like more information about, is the community asset program. What does that look like? What does that entail? What is the duration? Is it only during the construction phase? Is it something that’s gonna happen post-construction? Can you give us a little more details around that?”

Mr. Washington responds “The community asset program, we basically stole it from Fingate’s proposal. This is what they proposed as part of the plan of building partnerships and it fit with what we wanted to do. It’s a few priorities... one, it was the contribution to the scholarship fund for the Prince George’s County Public Schools students of \$1M dollars. The second piece of it was the development of the mentor protege program. It’s eight weeks. It will be offered multiple times and that’s led by Gilbaine but has been developed by Eben Smith, Yvette Stephens who is Director (I believe) of Equity and Inclusion for Gilbaine and Mr. Michael Burke. They schooled us very early on, in how these types of programs can have an impact and the impact is that there is the opportunity to bid on work. We’re not calling folks and telling them what they should do and then good luck. It’s that we are preparing and helping them to see the opportunities and the potential for not just the P3 but also for PGCPs and the procurement. The other piece of this has been internships and externships that started this summer. There were interns at Gilabine and at Stantek and I believe at a few of other subs. That was part of one of the community newsletters of those students. One of the things that PGCPs is trying to do through our CTE program is allow for students to participate as early as 16 and 17 in the trades. To see that this is a path forward . One of the complications, quite honestly, is insurance. A lot of the construction companies, their insurance will not allow students under 18 to participate. So once we figure out that process, that may be another route that’s possible for some of our older students. And then, one of the other pieces of the Community Asset Program that we are just now starting to roll out is, at each of the project planning





committees. Each school has an initial budget of \$10K to begin creating a community asset. For instance, some schools have mentioned getting mobile lights to put on the fields because none of the middle school fields have lights. Some of the other schools have talked about greenhouses or using it to support programming that happens in the community. It's really around making sure each school has the character of those communities. Not the character that Jason, Brandi and Mike Ricketts thinks that it should have. It should incorporate those communities. One thing that that Community Asset Program won't have is something we're gonna do and mimicking off of the County Executive and the county is a mural program. Each of the schools have places within the schools for murals and we're going to, probably in early Spring, issue an RFP for professional artists to provide a mural for each of the schools. So it's a uniformed process, each school will have one reflective of their communities and it's a process that we think will also go a long way in individualizing the school. So when we talk about the Community Asset Program, while it will probably be most visible during the construction, we expect residual impact throughout the program. One of the keys to this is a lot of the businesses that are in the mentor protege program now, can participate in the maintenance of these buildings. A few of them are cleaning companies or lock companies or things of that sort that may be in the position to procure with Honeywell for long term maintenance and opportunities on these six schools. When we talk about the program, that is the bundle of which all of that is contained."

Chair Hawkins asks "Where does the \$10K come from?"

Mr. Washington responds "It came from the proposal and we have made it clear to each of the schools that that is the initial budget but we want to see what they come back with. But it started as part of the package and the pricing of the program."

**Public Comments:**

There are no public comments at this time.

**Non-Agenda Items:**

There are no non-agenda items at this time.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

Wednesday 12/8/2021

**Meeting Adjourns:**

Dr. Goldson motions to adjourn the meeting. Chair Hawkins seconded. Meeting adjourned



