



Dr. Juanita Miller
Chair, Prince George's County Board of Education
14201 School Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Re: Support of Adoption of a Resolution Committing to Implementation of a Climate Change Action Plan Focus Workgroup

Dear Dr. Miller,

Greenbelt Climate Action Network is a community organization focused on local, political, and systemic issues affecting the earth's climate. We are made up of volunteers who educate residents and advocate for climate action.

GCAN is writing in support of adoption by the Prince George's County Board of Education of a clear timeline to power our schools with 100% clean energy, including the energy used for electricity, heating, cooling, cooking, and transportation, and to adapt them to threats such as flooding. We are also writing in support of initiation of a Focus Workgroup to develop a School Climate Change Action Plan that will outline how to implement these goals in a timely, cost-effective, and equitable manner.

We believe that taking climate action in our schools, which shape thousands of young lives and comprise a major part of economic activity and daily life for all residents, is critical not only because of the dire need of climate action in general, but because this action is within the power of the PGC Board of Education. Actions like those in this resolution are achievable and will yield positive impacts for years to come; not only will this action result in a reduced carbon footprint, but PGC Schools will set a concrete example for other organizations and residents on how meaningful climate action can be accomplished.

Once the resolution is adopted and action plan is implemented it will:

- Reduce the carbon footprint of our county school system, which is of vital given the size and importance of the institution;
- Limit exposure of children to air pollution from the burning of fossil fuels in the buildings and on buses;
- Allow for improved heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems that will improve indoor air quality in the learning environment;
- Save money from reduced maintenance and fuel costs over time;
- Create buildings that are more resilient to flooding and storms;

- Create an opportunity for STEM, vocational, and other students to learn, hands on, about the technologies of the future;
- Set up a more equitable learning environment for all students, including by allowing saved funds to improve other neglected aspects of school buildings.

These are all goals that GCAN support and would like to see implemented in our community. We believe that the Prince George's County Board of Education should adopt a resolution setting a date for 100% Clean Energy Schools and implement a Focus Workgroup to implement the goals.

Sincerely,

Josh Poland, GCAN Volunteer

CC: Sonya Williams, Vice Chair, District 9
David Murray, District 1
Joshua M. Thomas, District 2
Pamela Boozer-Strother, District 3
Shayla Adams-Stafford, District 4
Raaheela Ahmed, District 5
Belinda Queen, District 6
Kenneth Harris II, District 7
Edward Burroughs III, District 8
Paul Monteiro, Appointed
Sandra D. Shephard, Appointed
Curtis Valentine, M.P.P., Appointed
Ninah Jackson, Student Member of the Board