

Testimony on: 4.4 - PGCPS Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) Ad Hoc Committee

Organization: Climate Parents of Prince George's

Date: January 11, 2024



Prince George's County Board of Education:

Thank you for considering the creation of the PGCPS Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) Ad Hoc Committee. Climate Parents is a campaign to reduce climate change-causing pollution in our schools, and our group is active in Prince George's County. In particular, we recently worked directly with PGCPS technical staff, elected officials, students, and other advocates to develop a Climate Action Plan for PGCPS as part of a Board of Education Focus Workgroup.

It has been just over a year since the Board of Education adopted the Climate Change Action Plan and we can see that PGCPS has been hard at work putting the CCAP into action. Having followed the progress in the mid-year and July reports produced last year it is clear that substantial progress is being made on implementing the CCAP and was especially heartening to see the hiring of Dorothy Morrison as the Sustainability Officer. However, we do think that now would be the ideal time to rekindle a public face to the project and the creation of the CCAP Ad Hoc Committee would do that.

While our group has followed the implementation of the CCAP through its twists and turns we do fear that the public at large may not be aware of the great work PGCPS staff has undertaken on implementation. Having regular public meetings where updates are given will provide additional insights for the community to be made aware of progress on buildings, buses, education, and food waste goals.

Additionally, so much has happened on the financing front in light of the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act as well as new state programs we feel it would be an opportune time to bring outside experts on the latest in financing to the table again to provide insights and recommendations. The same goes for changes in technology and finding resources to help with technical roadblocks.

The CCAP Ad Hoc Committee will also provide a great opportunity for a new cohort of student leaders to become involved in the initiative. During the creation of the CCAP the student leaders both provided valuable insights and a sense of purpose for the work. It also was an excellent opportunity for the students to expand their knowledge of climate action and make a pathway for a more sustainable future for themselves. A new group of students get this opportunity through the Ad Hoc Committee.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments, and if you have any questions, please message climateparentsPGMD@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Jakuta". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joseph Jakuta
Lead Volunteer