

## Board of Education



### OUR MISSION

*To provide a great education that empowers all students and contributes to thriving communities.*



### OUR VISION

*PGCPS will be a GREAT school system recognized for providing education services which ensure that every student in our diverse school district graduates ready for college and careers in a global society.*



### OUR CORE VALUES

- *Students are our priority and all students can achieve at high academic levels.*
- *Families, students, and educators share the responsibility for student success.*
- *High expectations inspire high performance.*
- *All staff share the responsibility for a safe and supportive school environment contributing to excellence in education.*
- *The support of everyone in our community is essential to the success of our schools and students, and this success enriches our community.*
- *Continuous improvement in teaching, leadership, and accountability is the key to our destiny.*

## 2019-2020 Board of Education

Dr. Alvin Thornton, Chair  
alvin.thornton@pgcps.org

Edward Burroughs III, Vice Chair, District 8  
edward3.burroughs@pgcps.org

David Murray, District 1  
david.murray@pgcps.org

Joshua M. Thomas, District 2  
joshua.thomas@pgcps.org

Pamela Boozer-Strother, District 3  
pamela.boozerstrother@pgcps.org

Patricia Eubanks, District 4  
patricia.eubanks@pgcps.org

Raaheela Ahmed, District 5  
raaheela.ahmed@pgcps.org

Belinda Queen, District 6  
belinda.queen@pgcps.org

K. Alexander Wallace, District 7  
kalexander.wallace@pgcps.org

Sonya Williams, District 9  
sonya3.williams@pgcps.org

D. Paul Monteiro Jr., At-Large  
paul.monteiro@pgcps.org

Sandra D. Shephard, At-Large  
sandra.shephard@pgcps.org

Curtis Valentine, MPP, At-Large  
curtis.valentine@pgcps.org

Joshua Omolola, Student Member  
joshua.omolola@pgcps.org

## BOARD OF EDUCATION 101:

# All About the Prince George's County Board of Education



[www.pgcps.org/board](http://www.pgcps.org/board)

## WHO WE ARE

The Prince George's County Board of Education is the official educational policy-making body. The purpose of the Board is to raise student academic achievement and increase parent, student, and community engagement in education. There are 14 Board members: nine elected by their districts to four-year terms, three appointed by the County Executive, one appointed by the County Council and one student member. The County Executive appoints the Board Chair and Vice Chair.

## BOARD ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board's primary responsibilities are aligned with the school system's strategic plan:

- Developing policies;
- Adopting operating and capital budgets;
- Appointing personnel;
- Establishing school boundaries;
- Communicating with residents, staff, and students;
- Acting in a quasi-judicial capacity to decide student and employee appeals; and
- Appraising educational and administrative management.

## BOARD MEETINGS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Board usually conducts two meetings per month. Work Sessions, usually on the first or second Thursday of the month, allow the Board to focus on specific topics of interest. Evening business meetings are usually on the third or fourth Thursday. Meetings are held in the Board Room of the Sasscer Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. Agendas and meeting materials are posted on the Board's website at [www.boarddocs.com/mabe/pgcps/Board.nsf/Public](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/pgcps/Board.nsf/Public).

Board Policy 8345 allows 45 minutes for public comment during public board meetings and hearings. Speakers have up to three minutes to share their remarks and cannot yield their time to another speaker. Speakers must register at least 2.5 hours prior to the scheduled meeting start time by using the online registration form at [www.pgcps.org/board](http://www.pgcps.org/board) or by calling 301-952-6115. For public hearings (i.e. budget, boundaries), speakers can register in advance or on site the day of the hearing.

Those unable to attend may send comments to [testimony@pgcps.org](mailto:testimony@pgcps.org).



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Does the Board of Education appoint the Superintendent/CEO?

No. In 2013, Maryland House Bill 1107 moved responsibility for hiring a new Superintendent to the County Executive. A search committee nominates three candidates and the County Executive selects one to appoint. The Superintendent is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prince George's County Public Schools.

### What is the role of the Board in PGCPs?

The Board is the democratic body representing citizens in local education decisions. The Board provides important administrative oversight over educational policies and programs; plays a central role in establishing systems and processes to ensure the school system's fiscal, programmatic and outcome accountability; and makes decisions regarding the school system's top-level leadership and key staff.

The Board provides leadership for the school system, adopting a unifying vision and mission, soliciting and balancing participation and input of community members and advocating on behalf of students' educational needs.

### How is the Board's role different from that of the CEO?

In carrying out their separate responsibilities cooperatively, the Board and CEO aid each other in the effective management of the school system.

- The Board sets policies for the CEO to interpret and implement.
- The CEO recommends capital and operating budgets, and the Board makes the final determination on budgets submitted to the County Council and County Executive.
- Upon appeal by a parent, student or employee, the Board reviews decisions made by the CEO.
- The Board appoints personnel. The CEO assigns personnel and provides for their professional development.
- The Board holds legal title to property and enters into contracts for services. The CEO monitors the provision of goods and services required under the contract.

## What is the role of the Superintendent/CEO?

The CEO is responsible for administering the policies adopted by the school board, running the school system, managing staff and keeping the community informed. Responsibilities are divided into three areas: advisor to the Board of Education; CEO of the school system; and the top educational leader in the community.

The CEO acts as advisor to the Board, briefs the Board on school system concerns or issues, and may be consulted for background information, alternatives, suggestions, and recommendations before decisions are made. He/she keeps the Board current on district operations, presents matters that require Board discussion, and arranges for staff to provide reports on specialized topics.

As CEO, he/she is responsible for administering Board policy and running the school system, and accountable to the Board and County Executive.

As the top education professional, the CEO continually evaluates and assesses how policies are being implemented, and stays aware of policies that are working well, those that need changing, or areas that need new policy.

