

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2015, Legislative Day No. 2

Resolution No. 6-15

Introduced by Mr. Trumbauer, Mr. Pruski, and Mr. Grasso

By the County Council, January 20, 2015

1 RESOLUTION encouraging the Anne Arundel County Board of Education and the  
2 Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools to establish safe and healthy  
3 school hours for all students and to purchase bus routing software in fiscal year 2015  
4

5 WHEREAS, the State of Maryland established the Task Force to Study Safe and  
6 Healthy School Hours for Maryland Public Schools and that Task Force  
7 recommended that Maryland school districts conduct feasibility studies, including  
8 the implementation of school starting times of 8 A.M. or later; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, the County Council recognizes the important work of the Anne  
11 Arundel County School Start Times Task Force and their findings and  
12 recommendations on school start time options for Anne Arundel County Public  
13 Schools; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the Board of Education has recognized the importance of student  
16 health and wellness to academic achievement in their Education Policy 104; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Institutes of  
19 Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the National Sleep Foundation  
20 recommend that adolescents need between 8.5 - 10 hours of sleep per night for  
21 optimal performance, health, and brain development, and that teens' hormones  
22 and circadian rhythms make it difficult for most teens to fall asleep before 11  
23 P.M.; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, research shows that later high school start times result in adolescent  
26 students getting more sleep on school nights which results in many academic  
27 benefits, including enhanced learning and memory as well as decreases in  
28 discipline referrals, absenteeism, tardiness, and dropout rates; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County Public Schools currently have a high school  
31 start time of 7:17 A.M. and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends  
32 high school start times no earlier than 8:30 A.M.; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, early start times present an increased danger in the winter months,  
35 when students and staff must walk or drive in extreme cold temperatures and total  
36 darkness, and requires weather-related school delay and cancellation decisions to

1 be made by 5:00 A.M., often before knowing the full extent of a weather event,  
2 ~~now, therefore, be it ; and~~

3  
4 WHEREAS, the use of bus routing software as recommended by the State  
5 Legislative Auditor in 2007 and in 2014 would allow Anne Arundel County  
6 Public Schools to analyze bell times, design efficient routes, minimize ride times,  
7 and optimize ridership, now, therefore, be it

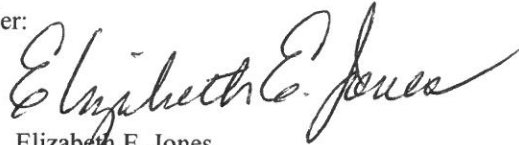
8  
9 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,* that it urges the  
10 Anne Arundel County Board of Education and the Superintendent of Anne Arundel  
11 County Public Schools to act on the recommendations of the Anne Arundel County  
12 School Start Times Task Force and the Maryland Task Force to Study Safe and Healthy  
13 School Hours for Maryland Public Schools, purchase bus routing software in fiscal year  
14 2015, and expeditiously take measures to establish safe and healthy high school hours for  
15 all students; and be it further

16  
17 *Resolved,* That a copy of this resolution be sent to Stacy L. Korbela, President, Anne  
18 Arundel County Board of Education, Dr. George Arlotto, Superintendent of Schools, and  
19 County Executive Steven R. Schuh.

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AMENDMENT ADOPTED: February 2, 2015

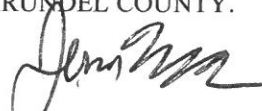
READ AND PASSED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2015

By Order:



Elizabeth E. Jones  
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 6-15 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY  
ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Jerry Walker  
Chairman