

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2020, Legislative Day No. 24

Resolution No. 27-20

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien

By the County Council, July 6, 2020

1 RESOLUTION encouraging the Board of Education for Anne Arundel County to better
2 support and fund the evolving mental health and transportation needs of all Anne Arundel
3 County Public School students

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5 WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic, there has become an
6 increased need for mental health support for students in Anne Arundel County
7 Public Schools (“AACPS”) as they grapple with extreme changes in daily routines
8 and family circumstances and with being separated from friends and extended
9 family; and

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11 WHEREAS, increased mental health supports for AACPS students are also needed
12 to help young people within our school communities navigate the complex social
13 issues surrounding the killing of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter
14 movement; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Board of Education for Anne Arundel County requested additional
17 mental health positions in its FY2021 budget to address the mental health needs of
18 AACPS students, the cost of which is approximately 0.06% of the total budget; and

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20 WHEREAS, significant transportation needs also exist for AACPS students in the
21 current educational environment that are equally as important to the success and
22 development of all students; and

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24 WHEREAS, new expertise in bus routing may be needed to address changing
25 student attendance models as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic; and

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27 WHEREAS, during a June 30, 2020 briefing before the Education, Health, and
28 Environmental Affairs Committee of Maryland General Assembly, Dr. Karen B.
29 Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, acknowledged that “transportation is one
30 of the most significant challenges we face” to reopening schools; and

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32 WHEREAS, in 2019, a State Financial Management Practices Audit Report found
33 that, although AACPS owns an automated bus routing software tool, it has not fully
34 used this tool and instead continues to manually make modifications to routes,
35 thereby failing to establish comprehensive bus routing procedures and maximize
36 efficiency of its bus routes and address bus routes with low ridership; and

1 WHEREAS, AACPS parents and students regularly report overcrowded buses with
2 not enough seating, buses that do not show up or that drive past students waiting at
3 their stops, and that sometimes result in students missing important instruction
4 time, school breakfasts, and even entire days of school; and
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6 WHEREAS, many AACPS families also report difficulties reaching the
7 Transportation Division to discuss solutions to the problems with bus services and
8 routes; and
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10 WHEREAS, the well-being, safety, and attendance of all AACPS students depends
11 on reliable, safe, and effective transportation to and from their schools; now,
12 therefore, be it
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14 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,* That it hereby
15 encourages and strongly recommends that the Board of Education for Anne Arundel
16 County fund the evolving mental health and transportation needs of Anne Arundel County
17 Public School students without compromising either; and be it further
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19 *Resolved,* That a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to County Executive Stuart
20 Pittman; and Michelle Corkadel, President, Board of Education of Anne Arundel County.