

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
ETHICS PANEL**

VIA ELECTRONIC, CERTIFIED & REGULAR MAIL

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

Subject: Ethics Panel Transition

Dear Dr. Miller,

After over a year of challenge, the Ethics Panel members have decided as a panel speaking with one voice to conclude its service to the PGCPs Board of Education. During our time on the panel, we have processed and acted on an unprecedented historic number of complaints and requests for Advisory Opinions. Thus, over the past year we were compelled to deal with the following:

- A Board seen by many, including the State BOE, as dysfunctional
- Uncooperative respondents, including School Board members who have ignored our requests for information
- False accusations of document leaking
- Attempts by School Board members to litigate Ethics Panel Findings in the press
- A lawsuit intended to block delivery of our proposed Findings to the Board as required by the Ethics Panel's governing document (Policy 0107)
- Objections to and limitations placed upon the use of Ethics Panel Counsel, a vital resource to the Panel
- An investigation by the State Inspector General for Education
- The inability of the Board to adopt Findings made by the Panel in a number of cases in which the Panel exposed serious ethical breaches by individual Board members
- Failure by Board members to take part in hearings prescribed by its own Policy 0107
- A sense that many Board members lacked respect for the work of the Panel

As uncompensated volunteers serving on this panel, we experienced an unanticipated, disruptive impact to our personal and professional lives. Now that we are finally in a quiet period, the Panel members collectively believe that it is the time to end our service to the PGCPs School Board. Over a most turbulent year, we believed that we stayed the course and did the right thing despite adverse treatment by some Board members and the press.

The Ethics Panel trusts that the County Executive's Task Force Initiative and the County's state legislators can successfully address this dysfunction.

The resignation of each of the panel members is effective April 15, 2022.

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ETHICS PANEL**

Sincerely yours,



Gregory Morton Sr.,
Chair, Prince George's County Board of Education
Ethics Panel

CC: Members, Ethics Panel
Leslie R. Stellman, Esq., Counsel to the Ethics Panel
Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer PGCPs
Tammy Turner, Esq., PGCPs Office of General Counsel
Hon. Sonya Williams, Vice Chair PGCPs Board of Education
Andrew W. Nussbaum, Esq., Counsel to PGCPs Board of Education

Attachments/enclosures

PGCPs School Board Counsel letter:

Re: Board of Education of Prince George's County Ethics Panel Legal Liability
Coverage