

### **Recent & Ongoing Activities**

- Summer Area Meetings – discussion of advocacy priorities
  - Compiling advocacy priorities for BoD and DA consideration
- Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG)
  - The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously on Oct 3 for guidelines that cut bond issuances by \$40 million incrementally over a period of four years.
  - The move by the council is a step toward limiting growing debt-service payments the county is paying on current \$3.5 billion in bonds that fund capital projects such as school construction.
  - The county pays \$394 million in debt service as part of its \$5.4 billion annual operating budget.
  - Since 2016, the county's spending affordability guidelines have called for a maximum of \$340 million in new bonds issued per year. County Executive Ike Leggett claimed that continuing this rate would put the county's AAA bond rating would be at risk.
  - Therefore, the Council voted to reduce spending by 8% with cuts of \$10 million each year from fiscal year 2018 to fiscal 2022 and to maintain a \$300 million bond limit from fiscal 2022 to 2024.
  - This contradicts Board of Education (Durso)'s request to meet CIP needs with a 10% increase.
- Kirwan Commission – (State appointed) Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

### **Future Activities**

- Testifying before Kirwan Commission(?)
- League of Women Voters +MoCo Media to plan future BoE candidate and County Council forums
- Establishing Task Force to draft Questionnaire for BoE, CC, other candidates for political office
- Establishing planning group for Annapolis trips during session.

### **Contacts/Correspondence**

- The Area Meetings attended by Board of Education, County Council, and General Assembly members.
- Emails campaign to County Council to counter SAG recommendations
- Additionally, we are in frequent communication with MCPS CFO Diamond regarding operating budget and BoE staffer Swanson on Kirwan Commission activities / MoCo impacts

### **Important Dates**

- Oct 12- Kirwan Commission Public Hearing (Baltimore Polytechnic)
- Oct 25- Kirwan Commission Public Hearing (Largo High School, Upper Marlboro)
- Jan 10 to Apr 9- Maryland General Assembly Session