



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1295
TITLE: Public School Construction – School District Energy Use – Policy and Study
DATE: 3/10/2020
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AN AMENDMENT
COMMITTEE: Appropriations
CONTACT: Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs
Danielle_M_Susskind@mcpsmd.org

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** HB1295 **with an amendment**.

House Bill 1295 would prohibit the Interagency Commission on School Construction from approving a public school construction project for a school district that has not adopted or updated a certain school district energy policy. HB 1295 also specifies the contents of a school district energy policy and encourages school districts to set certain targets in their school district energy policy and requires school systems to post their school district energy policy on the school district's website and updated every 2 years.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) supports efficient and effective energy use. Currently, MCPS posts quarterly individual school energy use on the SERT website using data from Utility Bill Management software. MCPS also reports yearly to the County total renewable energy credits purchased per year. Additionally, MCPS has the monthly kWh solar data for each solar school.

Every year, the EUI (Energy Use Index) (energy use/square foot) is calculated for the previous fiscal year; both a district average, as well as for each individual school. This data for individual schools goes back to 2014, and the average goes back to 1978. MCPS also participates in the County benchmarking program for school buildings. Finally, MCPS has published a Sustainability Plan every 2 years.

MCPS supports this initiative. However, the provision that the IAC has the ability to not approve school construction projects for the purposes of a district energy policy does not appear to be relevant to the overall intent. MCPS respectfully request an amendment to remove this provision

For these reasons, the Board **supports** this legislation **with an amendment** and urges a favorable report.