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**Testimony in  
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

**House Bill 151  
Charles County Board of Education - Vacancy Procedures - Timing and Video  
Streaming and Archiving**

On behalf of Charles County Public Schools, I urge this Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 151, with amendments.

House Bill 151 would establish a time limit for filling vacancies on the Board of Education of Charles County and would require videos of interviews with potential Board candidates to be livestreamed and archived.

Charles County Public Schools agrees with both provisions, with amendments. Specifically, the bill would require the Board to fill the vacancy within 60 days. Unfortunately, based on the current statutory process already mandated, this would be a difficult deadline to meet. Current law requires the Board to advertise the vacancy, obtain applications from interested community members, review and vet the applicants to ensure they meet statutory eligibility standards, schedule and advertise public interviews of the candidates, and then determine which candidate best meets the community's needs. A 90-day schedule would more align with these requirements, and therefore **I urge this Committee to amend the bill to provide for 90 days rather than 60 days to fill the vacancy.**

In addition, because the process takes time and community input, **I urge this Committee to apply this process only in non-election years for the open seat.** Vacancies in election years may prove harder to fill since the remaining length of the term is so short and filling the vacancy immediately prior to the election may impact the public's voting for the open seat.

House Bill 151 would also require that complete and unedited videos of the interviews for the open seat be livestreamed and archived on the school system's website. Currently, the videos are edited, but only to remove breaks in the meetings. **This should be reflected in the statutory language by removing the word "unedited" from the bill.** In addition, since there is already a statutory mandate in the Maryland Open Meetings Act for such videos to be retained for five years, **a cross-filed reference to that provision should be added to House Bill 151 to reflect this minimum standard.**

I urge this Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 151, with the amendments explained above. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools