



**Howard County | Maryland**

health, safety and equity in education

## BOE Election Candidate School Hours Questionnaire

Please return to: [sslhoco@gmail.com](mailto:sslhoco@gmail.com)

Candidate Name: Jolene Mosley District: 3



**1. Will you sign Start School Later's 2013 petition at <https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/changing-howard-county>? If you won't sign it, please explain why.**

I have not signed the petition but I did participate in the CAC meeting, as Vice Chair, that brought in Dr. Brian Robertson who discussed School Start Time and Teen Sleep. It was a very informative presentation and discussion on the natural reasons teens need more appropriate sleep schedules aligned with their development. I generally don't sign online petitions but I do support moving to a later start time and will be writing testimony to the Board of Education when there is a call for public testimony on the topic.

**2. Based on the research that later middle and high school start times increase graduation rates and decrease absenteeism, with disadvantaged students benefiting the most from age-**

**appropriate school hours, do you feel the current school hours affects the County's ability to be a leader in K-12 education for all students?**

Chronic Absenteeism is a huge contributing factor to not being successful in school. There are many forces that may impact a child to be absent from school and one of those can be directly attributed as a consequence to not enough sleep or a not ideal sleep schedule. These include but are not limited to; sleepiness, learning and attention deficits, mood instability, and other health concerns. There are many other school system bell schedules that take the AAP recommendations into mind and place their opening times closer to the suggested 8:30 am start time.

**3. What hours would you define as healthy, safe, and age appropriate? The current school hours are: Elementary 8:15-9:25 a.m. start times, Middle School 7:40-8:25 a.m. start times, and High School 7:25 a.m. start time.**

Elementary School: Much of the documentation I have read suggests 8:30 a.m. start times for MS and HS students; there isn't much discussion on the younger set of children on start times. It seemed appropriate to have the ES start as close to the MS and HS times as possible. I would like the prioritization to start with getting MS and HS as close to an 8:30 a.m. start time as possible. Then depending on what that works out to be and the bus availability (as well as other details like schedules and staffing), I would prefer ES to be as close to that as possible. I think if the schedules are all as close to 8:30 a.m. then the transition from school level to school level will not be as difficult. For example, my kids had 8:52 a.m. bus pick up for ES, 7:32 a.m. for MS and 6:45 a.m. for HS. Those are big jumps, but if they are clustered more closely, this is a benefit to parents with children at different levels of school.

Middle School: The AAP suggests as close to 8:30 a.m. as possible, I am in agreement that it is ideal for MS and HS.

High School: The AAP suggests as close to 8:30 a.m. as possible, I am in agreement that it is ideal for MS and HS.

**4. On December 19, 2017, Staff proposed four models for bell times that could be implemented. All four models had Elementary starting between at 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. and Middle between 8:00 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. Model 1: High school at 8 a.m. Model 2: High School at 8:15 a.m. Model 3: High School at 8:30 a.m. Model 4: High School at 8:45 a.m. What do you think about these four proposed models?**

Currently our Elementary Schools start between 8:15 a.m. and 9:25 a.m., our Middle Schools start between 7:40 a.m. and 8:25 a.m. and our High Schools start at 7:25 a.m. The models suggested push ES times later, MS times later and HS times at least 35 min later. All of these movements towards the ideal start time of 8:30 a.m. are the way we should be moving.

**5. With the Board of Education purchasing a new bus routing system for the Department of Transportation, what would be your timeline of implementation of healthy school hours?**

The school system has purchased new bus routing system software and it is my understanding that the implementation of this software is on a timeline that includes running parallel with the

current routing software for a set time period. Once the software is working and staff is trained on how to use the software, I would encourage implementation of optimizing routes that also include getting as many school start times closer to ideal as possible. I believe both of these goals can be accomplished at the same time.

**6. Currently, HCPSS services 5 parochial schools with 21 bus routes dedicated to those schools at a price tag of \$800,000 annually to HCPSS. The HCPSS Transportation department uses their manpower to design and maintain those routes. The BOE's Legal Counsel stated that the school system is not legally required to supply bus service if a student does not reside on a public school bus route. What are your thoughts about HCPSS providing this extra service to these parochial schools?**

The service of the 5 parochial schools with bus routes is a county regulation of service and to change it would have to be at the county level. Currently the County uses HCPSS as a pass through for this service because HCPSS has the contracts and the expertise to provide this service. If the school system no longer wants to support this service then I, as a taxpayer, would be interested to learn how much this expenditure would be outside the scope of the school system expertise and contracts. I do not believe the school system would be keeping the \$800K if they were not providing the service.

**7. In your prior experience and positions, what have you done to ensure all Howard County Public School students (K-12) have healthy, safe, and age appropriate school hours?**

As mentioned in the first questions response, as CAC Vice Chair, I supported and attended a presentation of Late School Start times. Also, as an advocate for students, I carefully followed and was disappointed, the 2017 BoE discussions, where the BOE voted for approval and then walked back that approval of modeling a later school start time.

**8. In your elected position, what will you do to ensure healthy and safe school hours for all of Howard County Public School Students? Please be specific: Resolutions, recommendations, funding requests, educational outreach, implementation efforts, etc.**

In my elected position, I would make recommendations for bringing up the discussion once again for starting school at a more ideal time when bus routing is being optimized. This recommendation would include budget analysis for the change in time which would include transportation, staffing and building usage. At the same time, more educational outreach would be beneficial to help have more productive discussions and decisions and to not have as much conflicting information and opposition like we saw in 2017. The presentation CAC hosted is a great example of how other organizations can support this educational outreach.

**9. Is there anything else you would like your constituents and future voters to know about your position on safe, healthy, and age-appropriate school hours?**

I believe all policies and decisions need to keep a child safe and healthy and should always be age-appropriate. There is a solid body of scientific evidence showing that our MS and HS start too early and we should be listening to the AAP and work on getting the school start times closer to the ideal 8:30 a.m. start time.