



Kent County Board of Education

Growing a Community of Leaders

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS HB 402/SB 402 Kent County Board of Education – Student Member

Dear Chair Atterbeary and members of the House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 402 and Senate Bill 402: Kent County Board of Education – Student Member with the submitted amendment.

I am in full agreement with bill's goal of creating a more formalized recognition of the student member of the Kent County Board of Education with the provisions outlined in the legislation. I think it is important to have the role of the student member clearly spelled out for both the student member and the elected Board of Education members.

In addition, the amendment regarding closed sessions is a very important aspect of this legislation and I am in full support of it. The Maryland Open Meetings Act outlines the exemptions allowed for a public body such as the Kent County Board of Education to close a meeting to the public. In reviewing those exemptions, I do not see any that involve deliberations appropriate for a student Board of Education member to participate in.

Thank you to Dels. Jay Jacobs, Steve Arentz and Jeff Ghrist and Sen. Stephen S. Hershey Jr. for sponsoring House Bill 402/Senate Bill 402 and its corresponding amendment in support of the Kent County Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Daniel Divilio
Public Relations and Communications Specialist
Kent County Public Schools

cc: The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.
The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz
The Honorable Jefferson L. Ghrist
The Kent County Board of Education