

# STRONG SCHOOLS WORCESTER COUNTY NEWS

January 11, 2023

## Introducing the SSWC News!

Since we have had such low turnout at recent zoom meetings and at this week's social gathering at Sterling Tavern, we thought we'd try a new way to keep everyone in the loop with news and also ways to keep involved! We know everyone has so much going on between family, work and other commitments, that it is hard to join zoom meetings on a specific day and time. This way, everyone can read what's going on at their own convenience and then send **REPLY ALL** responses with questions, comments, suggestions, and offers to get involved when they have time!

So, read on and let's make this work! We know you all are with us!

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Deborah Fisher-Reynolds (dfreyns@comcast.net)  
Gail Jankowski (janfam83@gmail.com)

## Blueprint Update

Strong Schools Maryland has announced several priorities for the 2023 MD General Assembly Session which begins today.

1. Fully Fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future
  - a. Allocations to the special fund
  - b. Update the pre K funding formula to include Tier 1-qualified children with developmental disabilities, those from non-English speaking households and students experiencing homelessness.
2. Align Blueprint Legislation with the Implementation Context
  - a. Fiscal mitigation measures to counteract low enrollment and account for student need in schools
  - b. Technical fixes to the law to address the availability of pre K slots
  - c. Codify best practices in the implementation of Community Schools

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**Tuesday, January 17, 12:30 pm**

School Board Meeting  
6720 Worcester Highway, Newark  
New members will be sworn in.

We want to have a presence there, wearing our red shirts! We will see how Katie Addis acts as the new District 6 member. Please join us if you can!

**Monday, February 13, Time TBD**

Strong Schools Lobby Day in Annapolis  
For more information, go to  
<https://www.strongschoolsmaryland.org/>

**Look for our Facebook page. We also have a Facebook Chat Group, if you'd like to join it, email Joan Roache. It's helpful for quick news.**

## Blueprint Update cont'd

3. Build Upon the Blueprint
  - a. Infrastructure building to support implementation: staffing and technological capacity of MSDE.

**Sen. Carozza** has testified before the Implementation Board she does not support educational funding, specifically paying teachers \$60,000. See article [here](#).

## Worcester County Board of Education Update

Joan and Gail are meeting with Dee Shorts, the WCPS Blueprint Coordinator later this week. Our next SSWC News will report back to you on this meeting!

At our last Zoom meeting, those attending agreed that we would "wait and see" whether Katie Addis brings issues to the Board meetings. We need to keep a presence at all Board meetings and watch local newspapers for news.

**PLEASE EMAIL JOAN ROACHE IF YOU HEAR OR SEE ANYTHING THAT CONCERNS YOU!** We can then schedule a zoom meeting, coordinate letter writing or plan any other any appropriate response.