

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened at 4:29 p.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner  
Bobby Rucci, Vice President, County Commissioner  
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner  
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner  
Mark Belton, County Administrator  
Wesley Adams, County Attorney  
Danielle Mitchell, Former Acting County Attorney  
Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk to the Commissioners

*\*Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner, absent*

**Open Session**

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance

Commissioner Collins welcomed guests and explained that the purpose of this summit was to share thoughts and ideas about how to best collaborate and partner together to ensure all students have opportunities to learn, grow and work in Southern Maryland communities where they live.

**Higher Education Summit**

Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan, President, St. Mary's College of Maryland; Dr. Maureen Murphy, President, College of Southern Maryland; Dr. Kim Hill, Superintendent, Charles County Public Schools, and members of the Charles County Board of Education joined the Commissioners to discuss higher education. Dr. Jordan explained that St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) was designated in 1992 as Maryland's Public Honors College and is the only four (4) year degree granting institution in Southern Maryland. She discussed the efforts to enhance the student pipeline from high school to College of Southern Maryland (CSM) to SMCM. She also provided an overview of the sports and athletics programs, the community resources and spaces available, and the affordability of the college and the Learning through Experiential and Applied Discovery (LEAD) approach.

Dr. Murphy discussed the partnership that CSM has with Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) such as dual enrollment, transition courses, project graduation and curricular collaborations. In partnership with SMCM they have a dual admission agreement, guaranteed admission agreement, computer science articulation, and are consistently one of top 5 transfer partners. CSM sends between thirty-five (35) and sixty (60) students annually to SMCM. Dr. Murphy also explained that CSM is a direct provider of educated and trained workforce and that eighty (80%) of CSM graduates remain in Southern Maryland.

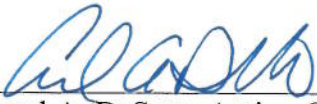
Dr. Hill provided an overview of the Charles County Public Schools which serve over twenty-seven thousand (27,000) students and has ninety-three-point four seven percent (93.47%) graduation rate which is the sixth highest graduation rate in the State of Maryland. She explained the Career and Technology Programs, and Career and Technology showcases. She explained that the partnership with CSM includes pre-apprenticeship and Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM) program. Students of the TAM program also attended programs at SMCM.

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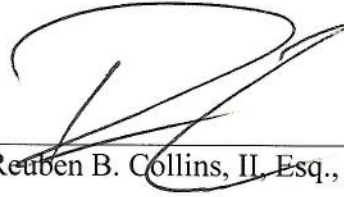
It was agreed that exploring continued agreements and partnerships with CCPS, CSM and SMCM is important. Developing feeder programs from K-12 to workforce, apprenticeship or post- secondary education needs to start early and continue to develop all residents.

At 5:49 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Coates, Bowling, Rucci, and Collins voting in favor to adjourn.

*\*Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*



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Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk



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Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President