

**From:** [Jahantab Siddiqui](#)  
**To:** [Antonia Watts](#); [Jolene Mosley](#)  
**Cc:** [BoE Email](#); [Chiefs](#); [Michael Martirano](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ESSER II  
**Date:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 8:50:45 PM

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Ms. Watts,

To the extent possible, ESSER III funds will be used to support the digital education model that Dr. Martirano presented to the Board during the last Board meeting.

Jahantab

-----Original Message-----

From: Antonia Watts <[Antonia\\_Watts@hcpss.org](mailto:Antonia_Watts@hcpss.org)>  
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 1:39 PM  
To: Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>; Jolene Mosley <[Jolene\\_Mosley@hcpss.org](mailto:Jolene_Mosley@hcpss.org)>  
Cc: BoE Email <[boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)>; Chiefs <[Chiefs@hcpss.org](mailto:Chiefs@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>  
Subject: RE: ESSER II

Mr. Siddiqui,

Ms. Mosley asked about expanding the DEC to k-12 for next year. Can you clarify what you mean by "to support the virtual academy for the next school year"? Does this mean that the ESSR III funds will be used to expand the DEC to 7-12 as the board originally intended?

Thank you,  
Antonia

Antonia Watts (she/her)  
Howard County Board of Education  
District 2  
E: [antonia\\_watts@hcpss.org](mailto:antonia_watts@hcpss.org)  
M: 443-774-8626

-----Original Message-----

From: Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>  
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 1:40 PM  
To: Jolene Mosley <[Jolene\\_Mosley@hcpss.org](mailto:Jolene_Mosley@hcpss.org)>  
Cc: BoE Email <[boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)>; Chiefs <[Chiefs@hcpss.org](mailto:Chiefs@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>  
Subject: Re: ESSER II

Ms. Mosley,

We anticipate using ESSER III funds to support the virtual academy for the next school year. We just received that application and its due at the end of July. There was not any funding for the digital education center requested in the ESSER II application.

Jahantab

> On Jul 9, 2021, at 12:34 PM, Jolene Mosley <[Jolene\\_Mosley@hcpss.org](mailto:Jolene_Mosley@hcpss.org)> wrote:  
>

> Thank you for sending the link in the other email to the boarddocs file dated 3/25/21 ESSER Grant BR. Since the grant has been approved, will the virtual academy be expanded back to K-12 for Fall 21'?

>

> Jolene Mosley

> Howard County Board of Education

> District 3

>

>> On Jul 9, 2021, at 9:14 AM, Jolene Mosley <Jolene\_Mosley@hcpss.org> wrote:

>>

>> Hello Mr Siddiqui,

>> Now that the ESSER II funds application has been approved, where can I find the allocation expenditure plans related to the funds?

>>

>> Jolene Mosley

>> Howard County Board of Education

>> District 3

**From:** [Antonia Watts](#)  
**To:** [Jahantab Siddiqui](#)  
**Cc:** [Board & Student Member](#); [Karalee Turner-Little](#); [Michael Martirano](#); [Mark Blom](#); [Terrell Savage](#); [Lisa J. Davis](#); [William J. Barnes](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Position - Assistant General Counsel  
**Date:** Saturday, July 10, 2021 2:00:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Mr. Siddiqui,

Please provide the board with a copy of the draft ESSR 3 application BEFORE it is submitted at the end of July.

Thank you,  
Antonia

Antonia Watts (she/her)  
Howard County Board of Education  
District 2  
E: [antonia\\_watts@hcpss.org](mailto:antonia_watts@hcpss.org)  
M: 443-774-8626

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**From:** Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 8:31 AM  
**To:** Antonia Watts <[Antonia\\_Watts@hcpss.org](mailto:Antonia_Watts@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Board & Student Member <[fullboard@hcpss.org](mailto:fullboard@hcpss.org)>; Karalee Turner-Little <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; Mark Blom <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; Terrell Savage <[Terrell\\_Savage@hcpss.org](mailto:Terrell_Savage@hcpss.org)>; Lisa J. Davis <[Lisa\\_J\\_Davis@hcpss.org](mailto:Lisa_J_Davis@hcpss.org)>; William J. Barnes <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Position - Assistant General Counsel

Antonia,

This was a position requested in the ESSER II application and now that our ESSER II application has been approved, this position is being advertised. It is a grant funded position and there are no funds approved in the general fund budget for this which is why it was not discussed during the budget process. Whether the position is proposed to continue beyond the grant period, which spans multiple budget years, will be dependent on assessed need for the position, Board approval, and the final general fund funding situation at that time. The need for this support was articulated by Division of Academics staff in collaboration with our General Counsel.

Jahantab

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**From:** Antonia Watts <[Antonia\\_Watts@hcpss.org](mailto:Antonia_Watts@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:16 PM

**To:** Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Board & Student Member <[fullboard@hcpss.org](mailto:fullboard@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Position - Assistant General Counsel

Mr. Siddiqui,

How is it possible to use ESSR II funds for this position? I do not remember this position as part of the budget discussions. I am concerned that there was not enough money for academics and yet, there is money for this position.

Thank you,  
Antonia

Antonia Watts (she/her)  
Howard County Board of Education  
District 2  
E: [antonia\\_watts@hcpss.org](mailto:antonia_watts@hcpss.org)  
M: 443-774-8626

---

**From:** Carrie A. Slaysman <[Carrie\\_Slaysman@hcpss.org](mailto:Carrie_Slaysman@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Board Member's Email <[restrictedboard@hcpss.org](mailto:restrictedboard@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Anissa Dennis <[Anissa\\_Dennis@hcpss.org](mailto:Anissa_Dennis@hcpss.org)>; David K. Larner <[David\\_Larner@hcpss.org](mailto:David_Larner@hcpss.org)>; Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>; James R. LeMon <[James\\_LeMon@hcpss.org](mailto:James_LeMon@hcpss.org)>; Jason J. McCoy <[Jason\\_McCoy@hcpss.org](mailto:Jason_McCoy@hcpss.org)>; Jennifer R. Peduzzi <[Jennifer\\_Peduzzi@hcpss.org](mailto:Jennifer_Peduzzi@hcpss.org)>; Karalee Turner-Little <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; Kathleen V. Hanks <[Kathleen\\_Hanks@hcpss.org](mailto:Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org)>; Kendra Johnson <[Kendra\\_Johnson1@hcpss.org](mailto:Kendra_Johnson1@hcpss.org)>; Kevin Gilbert <[Kevin\\_Gilbert@hcpss.org](mailto:Kevin_Gilbert@hcpss.org)>; Mark Blom <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; Patrick J. Saunderson <[Patrick\\_Saunderson@hcpss.org](mailto:Patrick_Saunderson@hcpss.org)>; Ron K. Morris <[Ron\\_Morris@hcpss.org](mailto:Ron_Morris@hcpss.org)>; Scott Washington <[Scott\\_Washington@hcpss.org](mailto:Scott_Washington@hcpss.org)>; Thomas McNeal <[Thomas\\_McNeal@hcpss.org](mailto:Thomas_McNeal@hcpss.org)>; William J. Barnes <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** Position - Assistant General Counsel

Good afternoon,

The attached memorandum is submitted on behalf of Dr. Michael J. Martirano.

Thank you.

Carrie

Carrie A. Slaysman  
Executive Assistant



Howard County Public School System

10910 Clarksville Pike

Ellicott City, MD 21042

410-313-6814

[carrie\\_slaysman@hcpss.org](mailto:carrie_slaysman@hcpss.org)

**From:** [Jahantab Siddiqui](#)  
**To:** [Jolene Mosley](#)  
**Cc:** [Christina Delmont-Small](#); [Antonia Watts](#); [Board & Student Member](#); [Karalee Turner-Little](#); [Michael Martirano](#); [Mark Blom](#); [Terrell Savage](#); [Lisa J. Davis](#); [William J. Barnes](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Position - Assistant General Counsel  
**Date:** Friday, July 9, 2021 4:20:58 PM

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Board members,

Thank you for your engagement around this position and the grant. After discussing with Mr. Blom, we will be reaching out to interested Board members next week to set up time to discuss your questions to avoid any OMA concerns about continued email discussion. Mr. Blom and I will confer with Academics staff and we will follow up regarding possible times to meet.

Thank you and have a great weekend.

Jahantab

On Jul 9, 2021, at 2:00 PM, Jolene Mosley <[Jolene\\_Mosley@hcpss.org](mailto:Jolene_Mosley@hcpss.org)> wrote:

Hello Mr Siddiqui,

Thank you for identifying the line of the accounting. Can you please send an expanded version of the report with all line items (where \$ is populated/accounted) expanded into these sorts of breakdowns? (It would also be helpful for this to be done in the other grants related to Pandemic response/impact).

For example, you listed for 206 prog 04:

1. Salary and wages:
  - a. Special Education Dept
    - i. <!--[endif]-->Special Education Attorney: 2 yrs @ ~\$X/yr
    - ii. <!--[endif]-->Technical Assistant: 2 yrs @ ~\$X/yr

If there is specific narrative for these breakdowns in the document please point to them as well so we can all have a more clear understanding of what is being allocated where.

Additionally, has there been incoming claims needing processing or behind processing due to the pandemic response for Special Education that are causing the need for a specific Attorney or is there some other identified reason? I am trying to understand all of the pieces.

Thank you,  
**Jolene Mosley**  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Phone: 443-430-5385

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**From:** Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 1:28 PM  
**To:** [Christina Delmont-Small](mailto:Christina_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org) <[Christina\\_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org](mailto:Christina_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** [Antonia Watts](mailto:Antonia_Watts@hcpss.org) <[Antonia\\_Watts@hcpss.org](mailto:Antonia_Watts@hcpss.org)>; [Board & Student Member](mailto:Board_Student_Member@hcpss.org) <[fullboard@hcpss.org](mailto:fullboard@hcpss.org)>; [Karalee Turner-Little](mailto:Karalee_Turner-Little@hcpss.org) <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; [Michael Martirano](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org) <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; [Mark Blom](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org) <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; [Terrell Savage](mailto:Terrell_Savage@hcpss.org) <[Terrell\\_Savage@hcpss.org](mailto:Terrell_Savage@hcpss.org)>; [Lisa J. Davis](mailto:Lisa_J_Davis@hcpss.org) <[Lisa\\_J\\_Davis@hcpss.org](mailto:Lisa_J_Davis@hcpss.org)>; [William J. Barnes](mailto:William_J_Barnes@hcpss.org) <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Position - Assistant General Counsel

Ms. Delmont-Small, I'm unclear of the question. However, if you're asking which line the funding is in, on the last page of the packet, under 206 Special Education, funding for the attorney is included in the \$500,000 included under 01 Salaries and Wages. This funds 2 years for a special education attorney and a technical assistant to support the Department of Special of Education.

On Jul 9, 2021, at 11:05 AM, Christina Delmont-Small <[Christina\\_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org](mailto:Christina_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org)> wrote:

Mr. Siddiqui,  
Please advise, on the page you've referenced, that the use of funds will be for an Assistant General Counsel.

Thank you,  
Christina

Christina Delmont-Small  
Member – District 1  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Cell: 667-786-3895  
Email: [christina\\_delmont-small@hcpss.org](mailto:christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org)

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**From:** Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 10:49 AM  
**To:** Christina Delmont-Small <[Christina\\_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org](mailto:Christina_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Antonia Watts <[Antonia\\_Watts@hcpss.org](mailto:Antonia_Watts@hcpss.org)>; Board & Student Member <[fullboard@hcpss.org](mailto:fullboard@hcpss.org)>; Karalee Turner-Little <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; Mark Blom <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; Terrell Savage <[Terrell\\_Savage@hcpss.org](mailto:Terrell_Savage@hcpss.org)>; Lisa J. Davis <[Lisa\\_J\\_Davis@hcpss.org](mailto:Lisa_J_Davis@hcpss.org)>; William J. Barnes <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Position - Assistant General Counsel

Ms. Delmont-Small and Ms. Mosley,

This is in response to both of your requests. Below is the link to the application. The last page of the report includes respective expenditure areas:

[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/B78Q5X66C814/\\$file/03%2025%202021%20ESSER%20Grant%20BR.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/B78Q5X66C814/$file/03%2025%202021%20ESSER%20Grant%20BR.pdf)

On Jul 9, 2021, at 10:35 AM, Christina Delmont-Small <[Christina\\_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org](mailto:Christina_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Siddiqui,  
Please forward to the Board the ESSER II application you reference in your email to Ms. Watts.

Thank you,  
Christina

Christina Delmont-Small  
Member – District 1  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Cell: 667-786-3895  
Email: [christina\\_delmont-small@hcpss.org](mailto:christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org)

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**From:** Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 8:31 AM  
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**Cc:** Board & Student Member <[fullboard@hcpss.org](mailto:fullboard@hcpss.org)>; Karalee Turner-Little <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; Mark Blom <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; Terrell Savage <[Terrell\\_Savage@hcpss.org](mailto:Terrell_Savage@hcpss.org)>; Lisa J. Davis <[Lisa\\_J\\_Davis@hcpss.org](mailto:Lisa_J_Davis@hcpss.org)>; William J. Barnes <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Position - Assistant General Counsel

Antonia,

This was a position requested in the ESSER II application and now that our ESSER II application has been approved, this position is being advertised. It is a grant funded position and there are no funds approved in the general fund budget for this which is why it was not discussed during the budget process. Whether the position is proposed to continue beyond the grant period, which spans multiple budget years, will be dependent on assessed need for the position, Board approval, and the final general fund funding situation at that time. The need for this support was articulated by Division of Academics staff in collaboration with our General Counsel.

Jahantab

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**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:16 PM  
**To:** Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Board & Student Member <[fullboard@hcpss.org](mailto:fullboard@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Position - Assistant General Counsel

Mr. Siddiqui,  
How is it possible to use ESSR II funds for this position? I do not remember this position as part of the budget discussions. I am concerned that there was not enough money for academics and yet, there is money for this position.

Thank you,  
Antonia

Antonia Watts (she/her)  
Howard County Board of Education  
District 2  
E: [antonia\\_watts@hcpss.org](mailto:antonia_watts@hcpss.org)  
M: 443-774-8626

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**From:** Carrie A. Slaysman <[Carrie\\_Slaysman@hcpss.org](mailto:Carrie_Slaysman@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Board Member's Email <[restrictedboard@hcpss.org](mailto:restrictedboard@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Anissa Dennis <[Anissa\\_Dennis@hcpss.org](mailto:Anissa_Dennis@hcpss.org)>; David K. Larner <[David\\_Larner@hcpss.org](mailto:David_Larner@hcpss.org)>; Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>; James R. LeMon <[James\\_LeMon@hcpss.org](mailto:James_LeMon@hcpss.org)>; Jason J. McCoy <[Jason\\_McCoy@hcpss.org](mailto:Jason_McCoy@hcpss.org)>; Jennifer R. Peduzzi <[Jennifer\\_Peduzzi@hcpss.org](mailto:Jennifer_Peduzzi@hcpss.org)>; Karalee Turner-Little <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; Kathleen V. Hanks <[Kathleen\\_Hanks@hcpss.org](mailto:Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org)>; Kendra Johnson <[Kendra\\_Johnson1@hcpss.org](mailto:Kendra_Johnson1@hcpss.org)>; Kevin Gilbert <[Kevin\\_Gilbert@hcpss.org](mailto:Kevin_Gilbert@hcpss.org)>; Mark Blom <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; Patrick J. Saunderson <[Patrick\\_Saunderson@hcpss.org](mailto:Patrick_Saunderson@hcpss.org)>; Ron K. Morris <[Ron\\_Morris@hcpss.org](mailto:Ron_Morris@hcpss.org)>; Scott Washington <[Scott\\_Washington@hcpss.org](mailto:Scott_Washington@hcpss.org)>; Thomas McNeal <[Thomas\\_McNeal@hcpss.org](mailto:Thomas_McNeal@hcpss.org)>; William J. Barnes <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** Position - Assistant General Counsel

Good afternoon,

The attached memorandum is submitted on behalf of Dr. Michael J. Martirano.

Thank you.

Carrie

Carrie A. Slaysman  
Executive Assistant  
<[image001.png](#)>  
Howard County Public School System  
10910 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
410-313-6814  
[carrie\\_slaysman@hcpss.org](mailto:carrie_slaysman@hcpss.org)



**From:** [Christina Delmont-Small](#)  
**To:** [Jahantab Siddiqui](#)  
**Cc:** [Antonia Watts](#); [Board & Student Member](#); [Karalee Turner-Little](#); [Michael Martirano](#); [Mark Blom](#); [Terrell Savage](#); [Lisa J. Davis](#); [William J. Barnes](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Position - Assistant General Counsel  
**Date:** Friday, July 9, 2021 2:00:52 PM

---

Dear Mr. Siddiqui,  
Thank you for the information.

Where in the narrative section of the grant application is the attorney and the technical assistant?

Please provide the position description for both positions.

Thank you,  
Christina

Christina Delmont-Small  
Member – District 1  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Cell: 667-786-3895  
Email: [christina\\_delmont-small@hcpss.org](mailto:christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org)

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Ms. Delmont-Small, I'm unclear of the question. However, if you're asking which line the funding is in, on the last page of the packet, under 206 Special Education, funding for the attorney is included in the \$500,000 included under O1 Salaries and Wages. This funds 2 years for a special education attorney and a technical assistant to support the Department of Special of Education.

On Jul 9, 2021, at 11:05 AM, Christina Delmont-Small <[Christina\\_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org](mailto:Christina_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org)> wrote:

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Christina Delmont-Small  
Member – District 1  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Cell: 667-786-3895  
Email: [christina\\_delmont-small@hcpss.org](mailto:christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org)

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**Cc:** Antonia Watts <[Antonia\\_Watts@hcpss.org](mailto:Antonia_Watts@hcpss.org)>; Board & Student Member <[fullboard@hcpss.org](mailto:fullboard@hcpss.org)>; Karalee Turner-Little <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; Mark Blom <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; Terrell Savage <[Terrell\\_Savage@hcpss.org](mailto:Terrell_Savage@hcpss.org)>; Lisa J. Davis <[Lisa\\_J\\_Davis@hcpss.org](mailto:Lisa_J_Davis@hcpss.org)>; William J. Barnes <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Position - Assistant General Counsel

Ms. Delmont-Small and Ms. Mosley,

This is in response to both of your requests. Below is the link to the application. The last page of the report includes respective expenditure areas:

[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/BZ8Q5X66C814/\\$file/03%2025%202021%20ESSER%20Grant%20BR.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/BZ8Q5X66C814/$file/03%2025%202021%20ESSER%20Grant%20BR.pdf)

On Jul 9, 2021, at 10:35 AM, Christina Delmont-Small <[Christina\\_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org](mailto:Christina_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Siddiqui,  
Please forward to the Board the ESSER II application you reference in your email to Ms. Watts.

Thank you,  
Christina

Christina Delmont-Small  
Member – District 1  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Cell: 667-786-3895  
Email: [christina\\_delmont-small@hcpss.org](mailto:christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org)

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**From:** Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 8:31 AM  
**To:** Antonia Watts <[Antonia\\_Watts@hcpss.org](mailto:Antonia_Watts@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Board & Student Member <[fullboard@hcpss.org](mailto:fullboard@hcpss.org)>; Karalee Turner-Little <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; Mark Blom <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; Terrell Savage <[Terrell\\_Savage@hcpss.org](mailto:Terrell_Savage@hcpss.org)>; Lisa J. Davis <[Lisa\\_J\\_Davis@hcpss.org](mailto:Lisa_J_Davis@hcpss.org)>; William J. Barnes <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Position - Assistant General Counsel

Antonia,

This was a position requested in the ESSER II application and now that our ESSER II application has been approved, this position is being advertised. It is a grant funded position and there are no funds approved in the general fund budget for this which is why it was not discussed during the budget process. Whether the position is proposed to continue beyond the grant period, which spans multiple budget years, will be dependent on assessed need for the position, Board approval, and the final general fund funding situation at that time. The need for this support was articulated by Division of Academics staff in collaboration with our General Counsel.

Jahantab

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**From:** Antonia Watts <[Antonia\\_Watts@hcpss.org](mailto:Antonia_Watts@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:16 PM  
**To:** Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Board & Student Member <[fullboard@hcpss.org](mailto:fullboard@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Position - Assistant General Counsel

Mr. Siddiqui,  
How is it possible to use ESSR II funds for this position? I do not remember this position as part of the budget discussions. I am concerned that there was not enough money for academics and yet, there is money for this position.

Thank you,  
Antonia

Antonia Watts (she/her)  
Howard County Board of Education  
District 2  
E: [antonia\\_watts@hcpss.org](mailto:antonia_watts@hcpss.org)  
M: 443-774-8626

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**From:** Carrie A. Slaysman <[Carrie\\_Slaysman@hcpss.org](mailto:Carrie_Slaysman@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Board Member's Email <[restrictedboard@hcpss.org](mailto:restrictedboard@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Anissa Dennis <[Anissa\\_Dennis@hcpss.org](mailto:Anissa_Dennis@hcpss.org)>; David K. Larner <[David\\_Larner@hcpss.org](mailto:David_Larner@hcpss.org)>; Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>; James R. LeMon <[James\\_LeMon@hcpss.org](mailto:James_LeMon@hcpss.org)>; Jason J. McCoy <[Jason\\_McCoy@hcpss.org](mailto:Jason_McCoy@hcpss.org)>; Jennifer R. Peduzzi <[Jennifer\\_Peduzzi@hcpss.org](mailto:Jennifer_Peduzzi@hcpss.org)>; Karalee Turner-Little <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; Kathleen V. Hanks <[Kathleen\\_Hanks@hcpss.org](mailto:Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org)>; Kendra Johnson <[Kendra\\_Johnson1@hcpss.org](mailto:Kendra_Johnson1@hcpss.org)>; Kevin Gilbert <[Kevin\\_Gilbert@hcpss.org](mailto:Kevin_Gilbert@hcpss.org)>; Mark Blom <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; Patrick J. Saunderson <[Patrick\\_Saunderson@hcpss.org](mailto:Patrick_Saunderson@hcpss.org)>; Ron K. Morris <[Ron\\_Morris@hcpss.org](mailto:Ron_Morris@hcpss.org)>; Scott Washington <[Scott\\_Washington@hcpss.org](mailto:Scott_Washington@hcpss.org)>; Thomas McNeal <[Thomas\\_McNeal@hcpss.org](mailto:Thomas_McNeal@hcpss.org)>; William J. Barnes <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** Position - Assistant General Counsel

Good afternoon,

The attached memorandum is submitted on behalf of Dr. Michael J. Martirano.

Thank you.

Carrie

Carrie A. Slaysman  
Executive Assistant  
<[image001.png](#)>  
Howard County Public School System  
10910 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
410-313-6814  
[carrie\\_slaysman@hcpss.org](mailto:carrie_slaysman@hcpss.org)

**From:** [Christina Delmont-Small](#)  
**To:** [Chao Wu](#)  
**Cc:** [Vicky Cutroneo](#); [Yun Lu](#); [Jennifer Mallo](#); [Jolene Mosley](#); [Antonia Watts](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Position - Assistant General Counsel  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 12:30:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [Board Memo - Assistant General Counsel 7.20211.bb.pdf](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Dear Dr. Wu,

During the recent FY22 operating budget discussions, the elimination of the Board attorney position was proffered up by the Superintendent as a cost savings and his recommendation was implemented.

If there is funding in the budget for an Assistant General Counsel, which I do not remember being part of the FY22 budget discussion, the Board should discuss if the funds would be better allocated to an in-house counsel for the Board. There are times that the Board needs legal advice from its own counsel, and there are other responsibilities, such as Board parliamentarian, that could be assigned to a Board attorney.

Since we are unable to discuss this on email, I request that the Superintendent be directed to delay advertising for this position until the Board has had an opportunity to meet and discuss this matter.

Sincerely,  
Christina

Christina Delmont-Small  
Member – District 1  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Cell: 667-786-3895  
Email: [christina\\_delmont-small@hcpss.org](mailto:christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org)

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**From:** Carrie A. Slaysman <[Carrie\\_Slaysman@hcpss.org](mailto:Carrie_Slaysman@hcpss.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Board Member's Email <[restrictedboard@hcpss.org](mailto:restrictedboard@hcpss.org)>  
**Cc:** Anissa Dennis <[Anissa\\_Dennis@hcpss.org](mailto:Anissa_Dennis@hcpss.org)>; David K. Larner <[David\\_Larner@hcpss.org](mailto:David_Larner@hcpss.org)>; Jahantab Siddiqui <[Jahantab\\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org](mailto:Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org)>; James R. LeMon <[James\\_LeMon@hcpss.org](mailto:James_LeMon@hcpss.org)>; Jason J. McCoy <[Jason\\_McCoy@hcpss.org](mailto:Jason_McCoy@hcpss.org)>; Jennifer R. Peduzzi <[Jennifer\\_Peduzzi@hcpss.org](mailto:Jennifer_Peduzzi@hcpss.org)>; Karalee Turner-Little <[Karalee\\_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org](mailto:Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org)>; Kathleen V. Hanks <[Kathleen\\_Hanks@hcpss.org](mailto:Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org)>; Kendra Johnson <[Kendra\\_Johnson1@hcpss.org](mailto:Kendra_Johnson1@hcpss.org)>; Kevin Gilbert <[Kevin\\_Gilbert@hcpss.org](mailto:Kevin_Gilbert@hcpss.org)>; Mark Blom <[Mark\\_Blom@hcpss.org](mailto:Mark_Blom@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>; Patrick J. Saunderson <[Patrick\\_Saunderson@hcpss.org](mailto:Patrick_Saunderson@hcpss.org)>; Ron K. Morris <[Ron\\_Morris@hcpss.org](mailto:Ron_Morris@hcpss.org)>; Scott Washington <[Scott\\_Washington@hcpss.org](mailto:Scott_Washington@hcpss.org)>; Thomas McNeal <[Thomas\\_McNeal@hcpss.org](mailto:Thomas_McNeal@hcpss.org)>; William J. Barnes <[William\\_Barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:William_Barnes@hcpss.org)>  
**Subject:** Position - Assistant General Counsel

Good afternoon,

The attached memorandum is submitted on behalf of Dr. Michael J. Martirano.

Thank you.

Carrie

Carrie A. Slaysman  
Executive Assistant



Howard County Public School System  
10910 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
410-313-6814  
[carrie\\_slaysman@hcpss.org](mailto:carrie_slaysman@hcpss.org)



July 1, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Members of the Board of Education

**From:** Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.

**Subject:** Position - Assistant General Counsel

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Board of HCPSS' intent to advertise for an Assistant General Counsel. This position would report to HCPSS General Counsel and work closely with leadership staff within the Division of Academics (DOA). It will be a grant-funded (ESSER II) position to assist HCPSS in maintaining the highest level of responsiveness to our stakeholders. The position will shift to the operating budget, with necessary adjustments to existing funds made to accommodate the addition, once the grant funding expires.

Under my direction, it is expected that the Assistant General Counsel will uphold our system's vision, mission, and values as they engage in their work. They would serve as advisor to designated Department of Special Education (DSE) and Program Innovation and Student Well-being (PISWB) leadership staff as assigned by General Counsel.

In keeping with current structures and expectations, the Assistant General Counsel would serve as an essential member of two specific DOA teams –Special Education and Program Innovation and Student Well-being. Counsel would work closely with each Executive Director and designated staff in fulfilling daily responsibilities. Duties would include assisting with research, interpretation, and compliance with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAA), and related Federal and State regulations.

Additionally, it is expected that the Assistant General Counsel be directly involved with training initiatives for staff and parents, communication with external stakeholders (e.g., MSDE), and the coordination of collaborative efforts for dispute resolution as it pertains to serving students with disabilities. The Assistant General Counsel will also assist with addressing questions, issues, and other needs parents and staff may have related to the impact of the COVID-19 school closure. All responsibilities will be detailed in the job description.

It is important to note that DSE leadership staff have engaged community partners throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to seek input for and provide updates on plans to support requests for compensatory services. This engagement included discussion about the Assistant General Counsel position in an effort to allay concerns related to various legal processes.

Should you have questions, please contact Mr. Mark Blom, General Counsel, Dr. Caroline Walker, Executive Director of Program Innovation and Student Well-being, and/or Dr. Terri Savage, Executive Director of Special Education.

Copy to: Executive Staff  
Board of Education Office