

Office of the President
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 2125

March 23, 2018

The Honorable Judge Kathleen G. Cox
The Circuit Court for Baltimore County
401 Boseley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

Dear Judge Cox,

This letter comes in support of Dr. Dallas Dance, whom I have known since he moved to the region to become superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools. I have been honored to serve as one of his mentors in his role as an academic leader, and we've had many substantive conversations about the education of children, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds. I have always been impressed by his commitment to children and the teachers who serve them. He brought creative approaches to closing the achievement gap, and the county has been successful because of his leadership. Black boys and other children of color are performing at higher levels, and teachers and children have become much more experienced in using technology to improve academic achievement.

I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Dance on the White House Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans, for which I served as chair. He was the only superintendent who served on that body, and he brought very helpful insights regarding the challenges within the K-12 system. In fact, those from higher education listened carefully to his perspective and reasoning for strengthening the relationship between universities and schools. He also was very involved with us in attracting major grants from the National Science Foundation to improve STEM instruction in Baltimore County. He was the person who set the tone for building collaborative relationships between universities and schools.

On a more personal level, I've had the chance be with him at Arbutus Middle School to work with teachers and children. I have observed him carefully as he worked with children, and I know that he cares deeply about those students and inspired them to work hard as they developed reading and computational skills. He and I have talked about ways of supporting teachers and families, emphasizing the important idea that every child can learn and excel.

I've had the opportunity to work with educators for more than 40 years, and I'd put Dr. Dance among the most effective academic leaders in helping to close the achievement gap. After many conversations and opportunities to observe him, I feel comfortable in saying I consider him be a fundamentally honest person. I am aware of his mistakes, and I have said that he had lapses in judgement. He has responded in a way that lets me know he sincerely regrets those mistakes. In fact, I feel comfortable saying that he has learned an important lesson from his remorse. I honestly believe he would never do the same thing again. Most important, America needs committed, experienced, effective leaders helping us strengthen the education of our children. Dr. Dance is certainly one of those people.

Sincerely,



Freeman A. Hrabowski, III
President