

Sayers, Margery

From: China Williams <china_22@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 3:15 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS needs more than a 1.1% funding increase

Dear County council:

I am very upset to learn that County Executive Kittleman is planning on increasing funding for HCPSS by a measly 1.1% (\$10 million). This doesn't cover normal cost increases (inflation alone is 2.4%) and it does not address the costs of an expanding school population. The Superintendent's budget requested a 3.5% increase (\$30.2 million). For context Baltimore County's school system requested a budget increase of 8%.

The amount that the Superintendent has requested seems in line with costs of an expanding school population but the concern is that she is not transparent and that the money will be spent in the central office instead of the classroom. Kittleman has the power to direct funds to specific categories, which he says he will do. But he has not allocated enough to meet the need. HCPSS spends \$14k/pupil per year and the system is expected to take on 1000 additional children in 2018 - this would require at a minimum a \$14 million increase.

Please increase the school budget to the requested amount (an additional \$30.2 million) and direct it towards the classroom and the students.

Thank you, China Williams

3425 Huntsmans Run

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathryn Deutch <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 7:41 PM
To: pleml@mseanea.org; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Subject: PLEASE READ... Investing in kids = smart money

Allan Kittleman,

I write to you not only as a Howard County educator, but as a life long resident and product of our school system. Howard County thrives when our children have everything they need to become contributing citizens. I would not be the well-rounded person I am today without our school system's amazing staff. That's why I'm writing. We (educators, students, parents) need the resources to carry on Howard County's legacy. The legacy of being one of the best counties in America to learn and grow up in. It's clear that families move here specifically for our school system. We attract families that value education. Let's show them, and future residents, that we still have those values. That we aren't going to short change our county's future.

Investing in our children will pay dividends in our community for many years. The Board of Education's budget honors commitments made to employees, and restores support staff to help kids in our kindergarten classrooms and media centers.

Further, the Board has reined in central office expenditures and put money back in the classroom where it is needed most.

Our county is growing every year. So, too, should your commitment to students. Please fully fund the Board of Education's request.

Thank you for your service,

Kathryn Deutch
kdeutch@hotmail.com
6301 Bright Plume
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Diana Forbus <dsforbus@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 11:31 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS - Diversity Coordinator

Dear Howard County Council Members:

My name is Diana Forbus, and I live in Mary Kay Sigaty's district.

While I may not yet have children in Howard County Schools, I am a product of HCPSS (K through 12) and am writing to voice my support of expanding the budget for Howard County Schools in the hopes that it will provide adequate resources for students, buildings, teachers, and staff. I am concerned that a lack of funding will eliminate the much-needed Diversity Coordinator position.

Supporting our schools is an important step towards being the kind of community we aspire to be.

Thank you for your time.

Diana Forbus

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 8:01 AM
To: Lorena Hiep; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: RE: [BoE Email] - MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT ONLY!!

Dear Ms. Hiep:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education's Requested FY 2018 Operating Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing.

The public is able to submit written testimony until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at BOE@hcpss.org. The Board's budget schedule is as follows:

- April 20, 2017 7:30 p.m. Board of Education Public Hearing
- April 24, 2017 7 p.m. County Council Public Hearing
- April 27, 2017 7:30 p.m. Board of Education Work Session
- April 28, 2017 8:30 a.m. County Council Work Session with Board of Education
- May 25, 2017 9 a.m. Adoption of FY 2018 Operating & Capital Budgets and FY19-23 Capital Improvement Program Request

Once again, thank you for contacting the Board and providing valuable input.

Kind regards,

Kathy Hanks
Administrator
Board of Education of Howard County
Phone: 410-313-7194
Fax: 410-313-6833

From: Lorena Hiep [mailto:lorenahiep@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 5:39 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; akittleman@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [BoE Email] - MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT ONLY!!

Please stand up for the students and staff of HCPSS, and the taxpayers of Howard County!

Do not give Foose money that she can spend at will. This Superintendent has proven over and over that she cannot be trusted, and is still not forthcoming with how she has spent money you have given in the past.

Please fund Maintenance of Effort only until this Superintendent provides answers to questions and listens to our elected Board about OUR priorities!

Thank you,

Lorena Hiep
6485 Empty Song Rd.
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Cathy Melvin <cathy.melvin21@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 9:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County Education Budget

Hello,

I am sorry that I could not attend the meeting tonight. I have already contacted Allen Kittleman and called his office. I would just like to tell you that, 2 years ago Dr. Foose eliminated my job as a Media Para Educator, a job that I had been doing for 19 years. There was never one day that I was not busy helping everyone in the entire school....staff, students, front office staff. Our Media Specialist is so overworked right now, between, testing, computers, teacher and student computer problems, printers...there is hardly any time to bring classes in for book check outs or book talks. It would be wonderful if the budget could put these jobs back in the Media Centers. The Kindergarten Para's were also eliminated but class sizes increased. They need those Para's back also.

I just want to make sure you knew about us when the budget is discussed.

Thank you

Cathy

--

Cathy Melvin

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Freeman <Cynthia_Freeman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 8:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Renovation of Talbott Springs Elementary School

Good evening,

My name is Cyndi Freeman and I am the Kindergarten Instructional Team Leader at Talbott Springs Elementary School. I have been teaching at Talbott Springs for 7 years now after teaching previously in Baltimore County and Harford County. I am writing to address my support for the renovation and expansion of Talbott Springs Elementary School.

Talbott Springs Elementary was constructed in 1972. It has not had a full renovation in its 45 years of existence. It has had a couple of additions in 1999/2000 and 2008 to bring it up to standards to provide educational programs. These have included adding the gym and all -day kindergarten space. Talbott Springs is currently well above capacity, with 501 students attending a school designed to hold 377. Kindergarten no longer has use of the previously designed kindergarten space as full-day PreKindergarten has taken over this area of the building. The four Kindergarten classes are in the much smaller previously first grade pod area. There is not enough room to adequately implement parts of our curriculum including learning centers where children explore through play and develop very important social and verbal skills, as well as movement breaks during learning activities. We also have a severe lack of storage in our current classrooms which has lead to the storage of many of our materials and furniture in an empty room we will lose soon do to overcrowding. Then we have no idea where we will store these materials so we can easily access them throughout the year.

The design of the open classrooms is a design that has been out of date for many years and rightly so. The pod area is very noisy and distracting to our young learners, many of whom are experiencing school for the first time. They don't have the skills needed to tune out what is happening in the other rooms that they can see and hear.

The lack of bathrooms is another issue at Talbott Springs for several reasons. First, the current kindergarten classrooms do not have bathrooms in them. This causes the students to have to leave the learning area and go down the hall unsupervised to use the bathrooms. At the beginning of the school year, this is very difficult as the students do not have the independence and self control needed to do this successfully. Also, with only one paraeducator for 4 classes, it is not feasible for her to assume the responsibility for taking the students to the bathroom as their needs arise. Thus we have 4 classes of kindergarten taking bathroom breaks as a class for at least the first few months of school

until routines and behaviors can be established. This takes time away from the important instruction throughout the day. Second, we only have 3 student bathrooms with 3 -4 stalls each for the whole school (3 boys and 3 girls rooms). There is often a line at the bathrooms which again takes away from precious instructional time.

It is my hope that the budget will allow for the renovation of Talbott Springs in the very near future. Our school is a place where our students enjoy coming and learning. Our staff want what is best for the students which includes a proper learning environment with adequate space for all students. I am proud to say I teach at Talbott Springs, as are most of our staff members, and our students and parents share our pride. Let's give them a school facility to be proud of as well.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Freeman

Talbott Springs Elementary

Kindergarten Instructional Team Leader

Sayers, Margery

From: Sigaty, Mary Kay
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 8:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: IMPORTANT Information From OMCA's Education Committee Chair

This came to me today.

Mary Kay Sigaty
Howard County Council Member
District 4
410-313-2001

Begin forwarded message:

From: Oakland Mills Community Association <manager@oaklandmills.org>
Date: April 24, 2017 at 1:23:25 PM EDT
To: mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: IMPORTANT Information From OMCA's Education Committee Chair
Reply-To: manager@oaklandmills.org

Having trouble viewing this email? oaklandmills.org



Please Voice Your Support
For Funding for Renovations at
Talbott Springs ES and Oakland Mills MS



A Message From:

Jonathan Edelson

**Vice-Chair, Oakland Mills Board of Directors,
Chair Oakland Mills Education Committee**

jledelson.omca@gmail.com

PLEASE lend your support and your voice either in person or by writing to the Howard County Council members. Complete renovation and modernization to Talbott Springs Elementary School and Oakland Mills Middle School is much needed and long overdue.

Tonight I will be testifying on behalf of the Oakland Mills Board of Directors and the OMCA Education Committee at the Howard County Council's FY18 Capital Budget Hearing. The testimony is in support of funding in the County's FY18 Capital Budget for renovations at Talbott Springs Elementary School and Oakland Mills Middle School.

A copy of my testimony is attached. Click [HERE](#).

The first item is a funding request for the complete renovation and expansion of Talbott Springs Elementary School. Talbott Springs was constructed in 1972 and has not had a full renovation in its 45 years of existence. Despite a couple of additions (in 1999/2000 and 2008) the school is well above capacity with much needed educational and physical infrastructure renovations.

In addition, we support the full renovation of Oakland Mills Middle School, as indicated in the County Executive's capital budget. OMMS has only had one renovation in its 45 years, and the facility lags behind those middle schools built or renovated recently. Both Oakland Mills Middle School and Talbott Springs Elementary School face a number of programmatic, systemic, and physical upgrades.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.

ATTEND tonight's hearing which will be held at the County Office Complex, 3430 Court House Drive, George Howard Building, Ellicott City, 20144 in the Banneker Room at 7:00 p.m.

TESTIFY IN PERSON tonight using this [LINK](#).

TESTIFY IN WRITING to all Council members at:
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this please email me at

jledelson.omca@gmail.com

Oakland Mills Community Association, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045

[SafeUnsubscribe™ mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov)

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Sent by manager@oaklandmills.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

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Sayers, Margery

From: Kirsten Coombs <kcoombs1209@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 6:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Budget FY 18

Chairman Weinstein & Council Members,

My apologies for not appearing in person tonight, but I am limiting some of my activity due to a leg injury. Your chairs are comfortable, but not that comfortable.

My testimony is on behalf of myself as an individual.

At Battle of the Books Friday night, an elementary Media Specialist told me that she was told by her Principal that parents could handle her duties. While we have a broad volunteer base, HCPSS should not be relying on parents to act as staff. At Wilde Lake Middle, our Media Specialist supports almost 600 students and more than 75 staff. She does an amazing job, but in order for the Media Center to be open every period, parents have to volunteer. That is true in most of our middle and secondary schools. Where is the equity of access in schools that have fewer volunteers? Books, computers and other resources are restricted due to this decision. The change in media secretary and paraeducator staffing has never made sense to me, as these staff members add a lot to building success without adding a huge payroll burden. While other counties may not have as many support staff, I'd offer that it's a difference that has led to our success.

Which leads me to our need for a Diversity Coordinator. As a member of the Board, I am disappointed that HCPSS is so reactive to racial incidents. A Diversity Coordinator could develop proactive professional development, coordinate student voice circles and involve parents at the building level, just to name a few ideas. Developing a "cookbook" for incident & crisis response would also allow for transparent communications to occur so parents, staff & students have an understanding of standard protocol.

Thank you for your support of our schools.

Kirsten Coombs

Sayers, Margery

From: Lorena Hiep <lorenahiep@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 5:39 PM
To: CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT ONLY!!

Please stand up for the students and staff of HCPSS, and the taxpayers of Howard County!

Do not give Foose money that she can spend at will. This Superintendent has proven over and over that she cannot be trusted, and is still not forthcoming with how she has spent money you have given in the past.

Please fund Maintenance of Effort only until this Superintendent provides answers to questions and listens to our elected Board about OUR priorities!

Thank you,
Lorena Hiep
6485 Empty Song Rd.
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Charles Scudder <cescudder@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 5:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: jledelson.omca@gmail.com; William.R.McCormack@verizon.net; Cgthomas65@verizon.net; kdwisni@yahoo.com; jledelson.omca@gmail.com; lynn.s.engelke@gmail.com; judyray16@yahoo.com; verchinski@yahoo.com
Subject: Talbott Springs and Oakland Mills Middle renovations

My name is Charles Scudder, and my family has lived at 9556 Wandering Way since 1988. Both of our children attended Talbott Springs Elementary and OM Middle Schools in the 1990's. I was TSES PTA president for a part of this period, and my wife, Laurie, was on the PTA exec committee at OMMS. We were both actively involved with the OMHS Booster Club. We are writing in support of two Howard County Public School projects within the County Executive's proposed Capital Budget, the complete renovation and expansion of Talbott Springs Elementary School and Oakland Mills Middle School.

We remember fighting in the 90's for remodeling and equity in the older schools, and TSES was often ignored, or so it seemed. At the time, our schools had the highest percentage of children from low-income families, and for a time at least, the only majority minority school in the county. We were always left behind when it came to fund-raising due to our demographics, and often lost battles over redistricting, as more students from low-income, transient, and section 8 housing were moved to our school with very little resistance from the local population, most of which were from the same background and had no real voice in the matter. From what we have read and witnessed, it appears this hasn't changed all that much in the last 20 years.

I recall testifying against redistricting at one point that the best thing TSES had going for it was our diversity – we wouldn't trade it for anything, but would love to share the benefits with the rest of the county.

In some ways it's surprising that we are still fighting for these equity battles, and in other ways it's not. In politics, it always seems as if it's the most needy who are unable to raise the voices required to get the services they deserve. It's time to turn this around, and see to it that the 'mature', 'classic', 'retro' schools, such as TSES and OMMS, which dominate the original Columbia neighborhoods are brought up to modern standards so that all of the county's children can start their educations with the same physical plant advantages that only seem to exist in the newer developments with the luxury-home-neighborhoods surrounding them.

Thank you.
Charles and Laurie Scudder

Sayers, Margery

From: Lindsay Cox <lindsay.m.cox@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 5:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for funding for renovations to Talbott Springs ES and Oakland Mills MS

Hello,

I am writing in support of the funding for renovations at Talbott Springs ES and Oakland Mills MS. I am a parent of two young girls in the Oakland Mills neighborhood.

Talbott Springs was constructed in 1972 and has not had a full renovation in its 45 years of existence. Despite a couple of additions (in 1999/2000 and 2008) the school is well above capacity with much needed educational and physical infrastructure renovations.

OMMS has only had one renovation in its 45 years, and the facility lags behind those middle schools built or renovated recently. My two girls will attend Oakland Mills Middle School in a few years and they should not have to attend a school that is so out-dated and in such great need of repairs and updating.

Please support the programmatic, systemic, and physical upgrades of these two schools in my neighborhood. Thank you so much.

~Lindsay Cox`
9546 Pamplona Rd.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Mahajan <jessica.mahajan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 4:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: I support renovations for Oakland Mills schools

Dear Howard County Council,

As a resident of Oakland Mills, I support the full funding of the complete renovation and expansion of Talbott Springs Elementary School because it is well above capacity and long overdue for a renovation.

I also support the full renovation of Oakland Mills Middle School which, because of its age, is quickly falling behind those middle schools built or renovated recently.

My children attend SFES and we know what a difference a renovated space has made for the staff and students there. Oakland Mills is a great village and our children and educators deserve a high quality school that meets the standards in education, indoor environmental quality, accessibility, and safety that are found throughout Howard County.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Jessica Mahajan
9471 Maera Ct
Columbia, MD 21045
865-765-2218

Sayers, Margery

From: Heather Urner <heather.urner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 10:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Official Testimony

Good Evening All,

My address is 10212 Hickory Ridge Rd Apt 203 Columbia MD 21044.

I'm a Hickory Ridge, Howard County, Running Brook parent. After attending the continuing APFO 101 for parents meeting, I feel so much. I feel like the removing contingencies for roll over allocations is a step, I feel like since 1992 for (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance) APFO's creation and only now a comprehensive review, that is nowhere near enough, we need more of proactive review, every two years. I feel that High Schools, Police, the Hospital, Fire House facilities need to be counted in the figures, take cues from Prince George's County, Montgomery County. Do not shelf the threshold, reduce the 115% this year, not in 2018, reduce it to 110%, charge true cost, only getting \$3,000-\$6,000 to fill a seat that cost \$22,000, is nowhere near enough, have impact fees, extend the pause, 4 years is not enough, as mentioned at the most recent planning board meeting where public testimony was provided, for the school system to catch up to growth of developers is unreasonable, counties have legal right of pauses 6-8 years, where it is in no way a "taking" or infringing on one side in doing so. Parents, children, families of Howard County desire to speak up on our connected

common thread, the children, and should be able to. Our local figures should be in contact with each other, each board's motions have impact if not at first glance seen or understood to each other and all the more reason to effectively show transparency, to each other and the public it is not a punishment but a way to strengthen the words and trust in Choose Civility. Our community, our county we are growing because of the good that we have done. I've seen how we want to maintain our AAA Bond rating. Putting our children first, giving them the programs to grow, the school facility space to move and grow, the teachers to give them the education to grow, the programs that might be required to give them properly created and accurate delivered individual program to grow, (expanding AP, strengthening ARL and non-college options, BSAP, and programs removing the educational gap, enhancing teachers support for behavioral understanding for students with and without IEPs). We all have a part, we all want to be the hero, and we can all be a part of the answer. I know that in a perfect world all the good stuff to maintain our schools and beyond would be available. I know that we are in 2017 and in that awareness I know that I want you to put our children, our future, on your mind with every regulations in your hands and seeing what is worth funding for staff in offices away from the children and what is taking away from the teachers themselves and the children's full scope. Our children deserve all, to receive a budget that clearly marks that we are funding the money to grow them, to grow their lives. They deserve that their parents speak for them. They deserve to know that their local government representatives

are there to want to know parents' concerns and to act on concerns recognizing they are valid, they are not empty words. Thank you.

Heather Urner

Sayers, Margery

From: Heather Urner <heather.urner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 23, 2017 7:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Official Testimony

Good Evening All,

I'm a Hickory Ridge, Howard County, Running Brook parent. After attending the continuing APFO 101 for parents meeting, I feel so much. I feel like the removing contingencies for roll over allocations is a step, I feel like since 1992 for (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance) APFO's creation and only now a comprehensive review, that is nowhere near enough, we need more of proactive review, every two years. I feel that High Schools, Police, the Hospital, Fire House facilities need to be counted in the figures, take cues from Prince George's County, Montgomery County. Do not shelf the threshold, reduce the 115% this year, not in 2018, reduce it to 110%, charge true cost, only getting \$3,000-\$6,000 to fill a seat that cost \$22,000, is nowhere near enough, have impact fees, extend the pause, 4 years is not enough, as mentioned at the most recent planning board meeting where public testimony was provided, for the school system to catch up to growth of developers is unreasonable, counties have legal right of pauses 6-8 years, where it is in no way a "taking" or infringing on one side in doing so. Parents, children, families of Howard County desire to speak up on our connected common thread, the children, and should be able to. Our local figures should be in contact with each other, each board's motions have impact if not at first glance seen or understood to each other and all the more reason to effectively show transparency, to each other and the public it is not

a punishment but a way to strengthen the words and trust in Choose Civility. Our community, our county we are growing because of the good that we have done. I've seen how we want to maintain our AAA Bond rating. Putting our children first, giving them the programs to grow, the school facility space to move and grow, the teachers to give them the education to grow, the programs that might be required to give them properly created and accurate delivered individual program to grow, (expanding AP, strengthening ARL and non-college options, BSAP, and programs removing the educational gap, enhancing teachers support for behavioral understanding for students with and without IEPs). We all have a part, we all want to be the hero, and we can all be a part of the answer. I know that in a perfect world all the good stuff to maintain our schools and beyond would be available. I know that we are in 2017 and in that awareness I know that I want you to put our children, our future, on your mind with every regulations in your hands and seeing what is worth funding for staff in offices away from the children and what is taking away from the teachers themselves and the children's full scope. Our children deserve all, to receive a budget that clearly marks that we are funding the money to grow them, to grow their lives. They deserve that their parents speak for them. They deserve to know that their local government representatives are there to want to know parents' concerns and to act on concerns recognizing they are valid, they are not empty words. Thank you.

Heather Urner

I would love to ask you for greater funding for our schools, but I can't because no tax payer or Board of Ed member knows how our money is being spent.

I looked at this year's proposed budget document and found the following FTE staff to secretary numbers in Central Office:

Office of the Superintendent - 3, executive assistants - 3
Staff Relations - 3.3, secretaries - 2
Temporary Services - 1 (mgr), secretaries - 2
Human Resources - 13, secretaries - 9
Central Office Instruction - 57, secretaries - 27

In the Central Office, it seems secretaries have secretaries. Let's not forget about all the contractors we have running around central office and former employees with retirement benefits now on contract.

The Teachers for Tomorrow program was used as a success in the evaluation to renew the Superintendent's contract. However, we don't have the money to pay for the program 2 years after signing the MOA with McDaniel college.

- The MOA was signed in secret in 2015 by the Board Chair with the administration claiming that it was "an initiative that did not require Board of Education adoption."
- After asking for months, this Board was finally told that there is a little over \$100,000 for a current class of 11 freshmen that will cost over \$500,000 to fund for all 4 years. How could we possibly add 12 more students for another cohort when we don't have the money for the current class?
- Our Superintendent, who holds an MBA, was asked if she had a plan to fund this program and her response was to ask Board members what they were doing to fundraise for it. Even if they were fully informed about this program, how could they possibly raise hundreds of thousands of dollars? This is a budget award winning administration. Why is there no plan for a program that is contracted to cost millions of dollars or was it just for a resume?

The current Board also expressed concern over the professional photographer on staff when money was being cut in the classroom. The Superintendent responded that it was her job to determine how the budget is allocated and requested that the Board simply give her a percentage to cut in the communications department. When they did, her response was to cut school websites and livestreaming for graduation – things important to the community.

This leads me to question what other programs exist and where money is allocated for which the Board and the public have no knowledge or input. Until there is transparency and accountability in this administration, we cannot trust that our money is being spent the way our elected Board of Education members and community want. I would love to advocate for increased funding for money that goes directly to the classroom, for special education, for the diversity coordinator, for English Language learners, and for closing the achievement gap. However, I have no confidence that it will go to places where the Board, educators, parents, and tax payers believe it should go.



Board of Education Approves FY2018 Operating and Capital Budget, and FY2019-2023 Capital Improvement Program Requests

Posted: **February 24th, 2017**

The Howard County Board of Education last night approved an Operating Budget Request for the 2017–2018 school year (Fiscal Year 2018) totaling \$872.4 million. The amount requested represents a net increase of \$3.5 million over the Superintendent’s budget request and \$64.0 million over the amount funded for the FY 2017 school year.

The Board added a total of \$4.17 million to its request including the costs to add 93.5 new positions to the budget. New positions added to the budget included 52.0 para-educator positions, 20.0 media para-educator positions, 15 high school media secretary positions, 2.0 behavior specialist positions, a 1.0 reading specialist position, a 0.5 Robinson Nature Center teacher position, a 1.0 Diversity Coordinator, a 1.0 attorney for the Board, and a 1.0 budget analyst/auditor for the Board. Funding was also added to support summer school and intramural programs.

To offset these additions, the Board cut approximately \$662,000 from the proposed budget. The impact of the Board’s cuts included a reduction in funding for school system legal fees; and the elimination of funding for school websites, live video streaming of commencement ceremonies, student music performances and other events (with the exception of Board meetings), an annual staff retirement celebration and service milestone recognitions. Additional reductions were made in contracted services and supplies in communications, human resources, and accountability and continuous

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improvement programs including cuts to suspend the Gallup student strength and staff engagement initiatives.

The Board also approved an FY 2018 Capital Budget Request totaling \$93.7 million, a 2019–2023 Capital Improvement Program Request totaling \$484.6 million, and a 2018–2027 Long Range Master Plan of \$963.9 million.

The Capital Budget request includes funding for a renovation at Patuxent Valley Middle School, scheduled for completion in August 2017; additions at Swansfield and Waverly elementary schools, scheduled for completion in August 2018; renovations at Oakland Mills Middle and Talbott Springs Elementary schools, scheduled for completion in August 2020; and construction of New Elementary School #42, scheduled to open in August 2018. Additional funding is allocated for relocatable classrooms and upgrades to technology and playground equipment.

The Board will submit its budget requests to Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman by mid-March.

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[Waters](#)

[EPA Report](#)
[and IEC](#)

[Board Meeting](#)

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Howard County Public School System

10910 Clarksville Pike

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Main Phone: (410) 313-6600

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Howard County Public School System
Teachers for Tomorrow (T4T)
Five Year Program Modeling For Two Cohorts

School Year	Fundraising Needs	Projected Expenses* (12 student cohort)	Projected Capital Reserve Balance
2016	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 276,225
2017	\$ -	\$ (169,400)	\$ 106,825
2018	\$ 300,000	\$ (338,800)	\$ 68,025
2019	\$ 300,000	\$ (322,000)	\$ 46,025
2020	\$ 300,000	\$ (322,000)	\$ 24,025
2021	\$ 175,000	\$ (168,000)	\$ 31,025
Total Funds Required	\$ <u>1,075,000</u>		

The above schedule provides a modeling scenario for two cohorts to complete the program and join HCPSS as a full time employee:

- * The first 11 student cohort began in school year 2017, the second would begin in school year 2018 for a total of 23 students attending McDaniel College.
- * Annual per student cost of \$14,000 covers tuition, books, transportation, and other costs including one time costs
- * Projected expenses through 2021 reflect the tuition rate established in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with McDaniel College.
- * The 2016 balance reflects the seed funding set aside for T4T initially as well as additional funds donated through February 2017. Any future funds donated would offset the funds required to complete the commitment to the first two cohorts of students.

Teachers For Tomorrow

Accounting for Teachers for Tomorrow (T4T)

The Teachers for Tomorrow initiative is accounted for as a special project in the Board's Restricted Fund, similarly to the way grants, special projects and designated donations are currently handled. Donations made to Teachers for Tomorrow are designated for that purpose and made payable to the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Funds received for Teachers for Tomorrow are held and only used for this purpose. The HCPSS is a non-profit governmental unit with a federal tax identification number of 52-6000968.

Governmental units are covered under the Internal Revenue Code Section 170 (c) which makes it clear that "charitable contribution" includes a contribution or gift to a state, possession of the United States or political subdivision of any of the foregoing, or the United States, or the District of Columbia, but only if the contribution or gift is made exclusively for public purposes. Therefore, donations to the HCPSS for Teachers for Tomorrow, (like all other donation to HCPSS) qualify as a charitable contribution for the donor.

The HCPSS is ***not*** considered a 501 (C) (3) corporation as defined in the Internal Revenue Code. IRS Code 501(C) (3) corporations are primarily charitable organizations as well as non-profit. Nonetheless, as outlined above, donations made will qualify as a charitable contribution for tax reporting purposes. The HCPSS issue letters of acknowledgement to donors that meet IRS requirements for tax reporting.

Health Insurance Coverage Available to T4T Students

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with McDaniel College for the T4T program, T4T Students are eligible to enroll in the lowest cost HCPSS HMO plan. The current average claims cost for 18-22 year olds in this plan is \$248 per year with annual administrative fees totaling \$674 per enrolled student. The first cohort had 6 students enroll in the plan. The total administrative and claims costs incurred to cover these students for the first year are \$1,839. These costs are currently accounted for in the HCPSS Health and Dental Fund. Cohort 1 projections assume 6 students continue in the plan for all four years. Cohort 2 projections assume all 12 students enroll in the plan for all four years.

T4T Student Summer Internships

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with McDaniel College for the T4T program, HCPSS employment or paid internship opportunities will be offered to T4T students after completion of their freshman year. Eight students in the cohort have verbally agreed to work for HCPSS this upcoming summer. Since nothing is finalized, there is no further information to be shared at this time.

Howard County Public School System
 Teachers for Tomorrow
 Total Expenditures by Fund

Fund	Fiscal Year	Expense	Amount
T4T Project - Restricted Fund	2016	Student Fingerprints/Background Checks	580
T4T Project - Restricted Fund	2017	Student Supplies	360
T4T Project - Restricted Fund	2017	Student Transportation	1,910
T4T Project - Restricted Fund	2017	Meeting Costs	172
T4T Project - Restricted Fund	2017	Textbooks	9,722
T4T Project - Restricted Fund	2017	Workshop Wages - Staff Working on T4T	603
T4T Project - Restricted Fund	2017	McDaniel Enrollment Fee	1,100
T4T Project - Restricted Fund	2017	McDaniel Fall Semester Fee	66,000
T4T Project - Restricted Fund	2017	McDaniel Spring Semester Fee	66,000
			\$ 146,446
Technology Fund	2017	Laptops	\$ 13,640
Health and Dental	2017	Health Insurance	\$ 5,546

Note:

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with McDaniel College for the T4T Program, HCPSS will provide each T4T student with a laptop at the beginning of their freshman year at McDaniel College. The students in Cohort 1 each received an Apple Air laptop from the HCPSS Technology Office. These costs are currently accounted for in the HCPSS Technology Fund. This is a one time cost that has been included in the projected costs for T4T.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with McDaniel College for the T4T Program, the T4T students are eligible to enroll in the lowest cost HCPSS HMO plan. The current average claims cost for 18-22 year olds in this plan is \$248 per year with annual administrative fees totaling \$674 per enrolled student. The first cohort had 6 students enroll in the plan. The total administrative and claims costs incurred to cover these students for the first year are \$1,839. These costs are currently accounted for in the HCPSS Health and Dental Fund. This is a recurring cost that has been included in the projected costs for T4T.

Howard County Public School System
 Teachers for Tomorrow
 Estimated Annual Expenditures

Expense	Cohort 1 Actual Year One Total	Cohort 1 Projected Annual Per Student Amount	Cohort 2 Projected Annual Per Student Amount
Student Supplies	\$ 420	\$ 35	\$ 35
Health Insurance	5,550	463	922
Student Transportation	1,910	160	160
Meeting Costs	172	15	15
Textbooks	10,800	900	900
Workshop Wages - Staff Working on T4T	600	50	50
McDaniel Fall Semester Fee	72,000	6,000	6,000
McDaniel Spring Semester Fee	72,000	6,000	6,000
	\$ 163,452	\$ 13,623	\$ 14,082

Estimate Used To Project Cost

\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
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One time Costs	Total Amount	Per Student Amount	Per Student Amount
Student Fingerprints/Background Checks	\$ 660	\$ 55	\$ 55
McDaniel Enrollment Fee	1,200	100	100
Laptops	14,880	1,240	1,240
	\$ 16,740	\$ 1,395	\$ 1,395

Estimate Used To Project Cost

\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400
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Students are eligible to enroll in the lowest cost HCPSS HMO plan. The current average claims cost for 18-22 year olds in this plan is \$248 per year with annual administrative fees totaling \$674 per enrolled student. The first cohort had 6 students enroll in the plan. The total administrative and claims costs incurred to cover these students for the first year are \$1,839. These costs are currently accounted for in the HCPSS Health and Dental Fund. Cohort 1 projections assume 6 students continue in the plan for all four years. Cohort 2 projections assume all 12 students enroll in the plan for all four years.

Howard County Public School System
 Teachers for Tomorrow
 Projected Costs for Two Cohorts

Projected Costs for Current Cohort

Semester	Description	Projected Expenses
August 2016	One Time Costs	\$ 15,400
August 2016	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 77,000
January 2017	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 77,000
August 2017	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 77,000
January 2018	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 77,000
August 2018	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 77,000
January 2019	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 77,000
August 2019	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 77,000
January 2020	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 77,000
		\$ 631,400

Projected Costs for Second Cohort

Semester	Description	Projected Expenses
August 2017	One Time Costs	\$ 16,800
August 2017	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 84,000
January 2018	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 84,000
August 2018	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 84,000
January 2019	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 84,000
August 2019	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 84,000
January 2020	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 84,000
August 2020	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 84,000
January 2021	Tuition, books etc..	\$ 84,000
		\$ 688,800

Projected Cost to Matriculate Two Cohorts	\$ 1,320,200
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Howard County Public School System
Teachers for Tomorrow
Budget to Actual as of 2/28/17

Revenues

Date	Donor	Amount
5/13/2015	Board designated seed funds	\$ 275,000.00
11/16/2016	Individual donor	40.00
11/23/2016	BrightMinds Foundation donation	610.00
1/18/2017	Individual donor	50.00
1/18/2017	Anonymous	500.00
1/18/2017	Individual donor	25.00
		\$ 276,225.00

Expenses

Date	Expense	Amount
6/16/2016	Fingerprints/Background Checks	\$ 580.25
8/24/2016	McDaniel Fall Semester fee	66,000.00
8/24/2016	McDaniel Enrollment fee	1,100.00
9/1/2016	Supplies	75.79
9/6/2016	Student transportation	250.00
9/12/2016	Meeting costs	51.64
10/7/2016	Fall Textbooks	5,834.59
10/10/2016	Supplies	250.00
10/24/2016	Student transportation	1,660.00
11/30/2016	Supplies	11.92
12/16/2016	Workshop Wages - staff working on T4T	602.84
2/1/2017	Supplies	2.98
2/1/2017	McDaniel Spring Semester fee	66,000.00
2/3/2017	Supplies	19.20
2/6/2017	Meeting costs	120.00
2/7/2017	Spring Textbooks	3,886.98
		\$ 146,446.19

Remaining Balance \$ 129,778.81

HCPSS
FY 2018 Potential Budget Cuts

At the request of the county budget administrator, the school system is providing potential budget cuts to bring the FY 2018 request to a maintenance of effort level of funding by the county. The list below provides options to reach within \$4.2 million of the requested goal. Potential cuts requiring negotiation have various scenarios detailed on a separate schedule. This schedule reflects the scenario identified. However this does not reflect any predetermined or desired outcome by management. It simply reflects associated costs should this scenario be implemented.

Potential Reduction Description	Potential Reduction Amount	FY 2018
Defer all Equipment purchases (ONE-TIME COSTS)	<u>(803,200)</u>	\$ 872,421,722
		(803,200)
<i>Reduce all restored from FY17 Revised Approved budget</i>		
Reduce all restored Supplies-General	(723,831)	
Reduce all restored Travel-Conferences	(39,580)	
Reduce all restored Travel-Mileage	-	
Reduce all restored Wages-Temporary	(188,187)	
Reduce all restored Contracted-Consultant	<u>(246,520)</u>	
		(1,198,118)
<i>Reduce all increased from the FY17 Approved budget</i>		
Reduce all increased Supplies-General, excluding ES #42	(762,216)	
Reduce all increased Travel-Conferences	(59,947)	
Reduce all increased Travel-Mileage	(16,102)	
Reduce all increased Wages-Temporary	(42,780)	
Reduce all increased Contracted-Consultant	<u>(55,900)</u>	
		(936,945)
<i>Reduce other non-essential items</i>		
Defer the purchase of supplies for ES #42 to FY 2019 (ONE TIME COSTS)	(1,119,502)	
Transportation contracts out to bid, estimated savings as of 2/28/2017 per David Ramsay	(326,160)	
Reduce 1.0 Bus Router new position request	(61,077)	
Eliminate parochial (community) transportation	(709,643)	
Eliminate Workshop Wages not protected by negotiated agreement	(2,357,590)	
MOI reductions of 20%	(480,271)	
Eliminate lunch/recess monitors	(824,999)	
Increase Class Size **	<u>-</u>	
		(5,879,242)
<i>Reduce employee health contribution based on Fund 13 reductions</i>		
Reduction in GF contribution to the HD Fund, based on benefit credit reduction for enrolled employees to \$1	(2,943,602)	
Reduction in GF contribution to the HD Fund, based on benefit credit reduction for non-enrolled employees to \$1	(955,904)	
Reduction in GF contribution to the HD Fund, based on cutting 100% of Virgin Health Miles incentives	<u>(900,000)</u>	
		(4,799,506)
<i>Reduce technology chargebacks based on Fund 11 reductions</i>		
Reduction in technology chargebacks related to the deferral of new training for technology staff.	(137,000)	
Reduction in technology chargebacks related to the deferral of 50% of restored and increased software, hardware, and contracted labor.	(534,825)	
Reduction in technology chargebacks related to the deferral of 50% of supplies increase.	(218,065)	

HCPSS
FY 2018 Potential Budget Cuts

Reduction in technology chargebacks related to deferral of equipment and increase to equipment repair	(120,300)	
		(1,010,190)
<i>Reduce all Board additions</i>		
1.0 BOE Attorney and 1.0 BOE Budget Analyst/Internal Auditor	(192,788)	
35 positions - 20.0 Media Paraeducators, 15.0 Media Secretaries	(1,313,577)	
1.0 Reading Specialist	(85,743)	
0.5 Teacher Robinson Nature Center	(44,818)	
52.0 Elementary Paraeducators	(1,951,602)	
2.0 positions - 2.0 Behavior Specialists	(216,333)	
1.0 Cultural Diversity Coordinator	(141,803)	
All non-position expenditures; wages, etc.	(223,962)	
		(4,170,626)
<i>Reductions requiring negotiation</i>		
Adjustment to cost-sharing of health benefits.* Options include an increase to the employees' share by a flat percentage across both groups, or increasing both groups to the same rate of cost share. (Effective January 1, 2018)	(3,196,500)	Increase all to 20%
Furlough day(s) (includes FICA and retirement, as well as ISF chargebacks for savings related to furlough of ISF employees)	(8,473,807)	3
Cut the COLA systemwide; 2% is included in the Board of Education's Request. The full 2% COLA could be cut, reduced by 1%, or cut by 0%.	(11,597,753)	2%
Cut the step increase systemwide; a full step increase is included in the Board of Education's Request. The increment could be deferred 100%, deferred for 50% of the year, or funded with a 0% deferral.	(10,681,619)	100%
Reduction in Internal Service Funds contributions/chargebacks related to COLA adjustment (Health, Technology, Print, Workers' Compensation)	(101,781)	
Reduction in Internal Service Funds contributions/chargebacks related to step adjustment (Health, Technology, Print, Workers' Compensation)	(114,577)	
		(34,166,037)
General Fund potential reductions		(52,963,864)
General Fund Approved		\$ 819,457,858
Total Budget Based upon County Maintenance of Effort Funding Only		\$ 815,212,566
Amount Over MOE After Reductions		\$ 4,245,292

* Current negotiated cost-sharing provides that employees pay 13% or 15% based upon hire date. Savings are calculated by independent actuary.

School Administration does not currently recommend class size adjustments as a cost savings strategy because it compromises instruction.

** Data is not currently available to determine cost savings should class size adjustments be considered.



Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045
410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org

April 24, 2017

TO: Howard County Council Members

FROM: Oakland Mills Board of Directors
Jonathan Edelson, Board Vice-Chair and Education Committee Chair

SUBJ: **REVISED** Testimony in support of Funding for Talbott Springs Elementary and Oakland Mills Middle School Renovations

Good evening, my name is Jonathan Edelson and I reside at 6144 New Leaf Court in Columbia. I am Vice-Chair of the Oakland Mills Board of Directors and Chair of the Oakland Mills Education Committee. I am testifying on behalf of the Oakland Mills Community Association. I would like to begin by thanking our County Council for holding tonight's hearing and for funding important efforts within the Oakland Mills Community.

I am testifying in support of two Howard County Public School projects within the County Executive's proposed Capital Budget. We are concerned the Administration has opted not to allocate any funding towards these projects in the proposed Executive's FY18 Capital Budget. This includes funding that was removed from the Planning and Design capital project that would authorize a feasibility study for Talbott Springs ES. While we understand the Council is limited in its ability to restore funding; we want to lend our voice and ongoing support for our Oakland Mills schools in the hopes the Administration and school system will collaborate together and identify the funds necessary to move forward with the feasibility study as quickly as possible. We further lend our support for the OMMS and TSES projects and hope that if programmed for FY19, that these projects will not continue to be delayed.

Talbott Springs Elementary was constructed in 1972. It has not had a full renovation in its 45 years of existence. It has had a couple of additions in 1999/2000 and 2008 to bring it up to standards to provide educational programs. These have included adding the gym and all-day kindergarten space.

Talbott Springs is currently well above its capacity, with 501 students attending a school designed to hold 377. This requires that entire grades attend school in 11 portable classrooms outside the building. This also required a redistricting of about 100 children from Talbott Springs to Stevens Forest several years ago, which put the newly-renovated and expanded Stevens Forest above capacity and requires an entire grade at Stevens Forest to be in portables at a newly-renovated facility.

Additionally, much of Talbott Springs' learning environment is still partially open classrooms, which is an educational infrastructure that dates back to the 1970s and has been abandoned in all recent school

construction and renovation. Through discussions with the Talbott Springs PTA and administration, I have learned that many aspects of the school are out of date, from the aforementioned capacity and learning space configuration to the physical plant. Many other schools have been constructed or renovated since the core of the Talbott Springs facility was constructed in 1972. The Oakland Mills Community Association believes that students at Talbott Springs and throughout Oakland Mills deserve modern, state of the art learning facilities and we respectfully and strongly encourage the County Council to support capital funds for a full modernization of Talbott Springs and a facility that can house all of its students within its walls.

We also support the full renovation of Oakland Mills Middle School, as indicated in the County Executive's capital budget. While Oakland Mills Middle does not have capacity issues like those of our elementary schools, it has had only one renovation in its 45 years, and the facility lags behind those middle schools built or renovated more recently.

Complete renovation of Talbott Springs Elementary and Oakland Mills Middle is much needed and long overdue. Each facility faces a number of programmatic, systemic, and physical upgrades. Thank you for your consideration. Oakland Mills looks forward to our continued partnership as we work to revitalize our community and continue to improve our County.

Sayers, Margery

From: karenlgray@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Sandy Kutner Cederbaum; Jonathan Edelson
Subject: Support for renovations at Talbott Springs and Oakland Mills Middle Schools

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am requesting that money be found to fund a feasibility study for renovations at Talbott Springs Elementary School. The school is well over capacity; full grades of students are housed in portable classrooms and others in outdated open classrooms. A significant number of students have been transferred to Stevens Forest Elementary, which is also over capacity, and to which the students must walk almost a mile, rather than practically across the street to Talbott Springs. The need for expansion and renovation is urgent and palpable.

I also support renovations for Oakland Mills Middle School, which is also in need of updating.

Schools in Oakland Mills face many challenges, including large percentages of low-income, minority, and foreign-speaking students. It is particularly important that these school be up-to-date and able to handle the capacity in order to meet these challenges.

Please do what you can to move these essential renovations along.

Thank you,

Karen Gray
5951 Camelback Lane
Columbia, MD 21045
410-730-7941

Sayers, Margery

From: Bruce Cummings <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 12:08 PM
To: pleml@mseanea.org; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Subject: Investing in kids = smart money

Allan Kittleman,

Investing in our children will pay dividends in our community for many years. The Board of Education's budget honors commitments made to employees, and restores support staff to help kids in our kindergarten classrooms and media centers.

Further, the Board has reined in central office expenditures and put money back in the classroom where it is needed most.

Our county is growing every year. So, too, should your commitment to students. Please fully fund the Board of Education's request.

Thank you for your service,

Bruce Cummings
pittsburgh81083@outlook.com
9324 Kenbrooke Court
Laurel, Maryland 20723