

Sayers, Margery

From: Tasha Brison <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 6:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget concern

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern:

I'm a kindergarten teacher in Howard County Public Schools, and an increase in class size from grades one through 12 will also affect kindergarten students. As a teacher of young children, it is extremely difficult to reach them and give them the individual attention and care that they need when the class size is larger than 18 students. Please restore the money needed in the budget to ensure that class sizes stay small enough for students in the kindergarten classrooms to receive the attention they deserve and need at such a critical point in their academic careers.

Thank You,

Tasha Brison

Tasha Brison

tabrison@gmail.com

307 Shannon Forest

Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060

Sayers, Margery

From: Benjamin Schmitt <bdschmitt@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 4:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: How Much More?

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and County Executive...

As I'm coming to the close of my 20th year in teaching, I keep asking myself why I'm still here. Teachers in general are underappreciated and overwhelmed. However, as an art teacher, it's even worse. I'm constantly looked at by my school-based colleagues as just a provider of planning-time, nothing else. My school-based administration doesn't care to know my curriculum, making my evaluation process useless. And to top it off, the Central Office of the school system keeps dumping kids in my classroom.

Years ago, the student teacher ratio was adjusted at both the primary and intermediate levels. For primary classes, it was capped at 19:1 (students:teacher), while it was capped at 25:1 at the intermediate level. Eventually this would also be done for Kindergarten at 22:1 when the full-day programming began. At first, this sounded wonderful. It didn't take long to figure out that this would only effect homeroom type staff, not related arts folks at all. Therefore, ever since the decision was made, I've endured something so lovingly referred to as "sprinkling." This happens when in the primary grades a class is split and then "sprinkled" among the others when those classes go to Related Arts classes. For example, if there are five 1st grade homerooms, they take the fifth one and divide it up among the other four. In turn, this results in classes of first graders of 28-30 students. For example, this year I have three 2nd grade classes of 30 students each, and four 1 st grade students anywhere between 28-30 each. There would never be that amount of students in an ELA or math class. Considering the amount of IEP's, 504's, and behavior plans, this is simply not best practices. It's also not the least restrictive environment for the most at-risk students either.

This process has only gotten worse over the last couple of years. Under the previous Supt. my funding went down, and class sizes increased. This makes it even worse for me in terms of sizes overall, even more so considering the "sprinkling." And to make matters worse, this

also changes my overall class load because of staffing. Now, we're doing it more, again and again.

I'm tired riding this carousel over and over, maintaining some level of professionalism and care for my students and job, all while keeping HCPSS a "world-class" school system. It's clear with the budgeting process, that county government is okay with this. They have their pet projects, and issues to run on, while the school system is told to do the best they can in "these tight fiscal times." I'm not seeing many other departments and programs being given that message. I watch the police and fire departments get long-term contracts with guaranteed yearly COLA and maintenance of benefits. I read that the CE and County Council members deserve more pay for their time, effort, and the demands of the job. I observe all of the growth in the county at the cost of the school buildings, students, staff, and infrastructure while the developers aren't made to pay their fair share when compared with other districts.

It's time for this to stop. It's time to do what's best for students, families, and staff when it comes to education. It's obvious that it's comfortable to watch the issues, but not do anything about, while kicking the can to the next administration. Enough already. No wonder there are less and less education majors, and teachers completing their entire careers. It's time to stand up. Question is...will you?

Benjamin Schmitt

bdschmitt@verizon.net

7817 Whistling Pines Ct.

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Karlheim <SUSAN_KARLHEIM@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 6:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Limit how many students a teacher can have.

Council Members ,

Good Evening Councilman Kittleman, Please be advised that I currently have over 260 students. I am responsible for knowing all of their health concerns, IEP plans, behavior plans, and learning styles. In addition, I must communicate with over 500 parents. When is the last time you answered to over 500 people every other day? The role of the PE teacher in the middle school setting is unbelievably out of control. Please add more teachers to account for the changes that were made when every child was added to PE. How can some professionals have rosters with 7 kids for the day or 80 and I have 260? Yes, I also have those 7 special needs children in amongst my 260. Many CEO's don't have 260 workers in their company let alone know each of their strengths and weaknesses. Either go back to a plan of every day PE for a quarter with most students receiving 3 quarters a year (the students had more PE then than now.) or grant each student two-quarters of everyday PE for 1st and 3rd quarter or 2nd and 4th quarter. That way each student receives an outside curriculum and an inside curriculum. This madness of shuffling students into classes where the teachers have no time to prepare lessons or equipment let alone communicate with parents and students, oh and of course teach, is ignorant. I have observed teachers just running recess to keep up with all that is asked of just this position in middle school. No other position has this type of responsibility. With all this said, the number ONE crisis that our students are facing is not literacy, it is obesity. HCPSS has answered with less PE per child and not enough time given to PE Middle School teachers. I have given you two solutions to the problem and hope you will consider them both or come up with a third. This problem needs to be discussed. Thank you for listening. Respectfully yours, Susan Karlheim M.Ed.

Susan Karlheim
SUSAN_KARLHEIM@hcpss.org
901 Meadowgreen Dr
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: Carly Norris <CARLY_NORRIS@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 3:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

To Whom It May Concern:

As a teacher and parent in HCPSS, I have serious concerns about the class size increase. This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students specifically those with IEPs and those currently working below grade level because it greatly reduces the instructional time I have with them. Working more students into reading and math groups is a disservice to them and is morally wrong. I have 20 students in 1st grade, 6 students have IEPs and there are 10 total working below county expectations in reading. I work hard to support my students but with so many, I am not achieving the growth for them I expect.

My daughter, in second grade, is in a classroom so full that when I went in to be a guest reader there was no space to move without knocking into a wall, or desk, or child.

I hope you visit classrooms and see what our students face in already overcrowded spaces.

Thank you,

Carly Norris
CARLY_NORRIS@hcpss.org
4658 South Leisure Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Westendorf <JESSICA_WESTENDORF@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 4:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: decrease class sizes

Council Members ,

Hello,

I am writing to tell you how an increase in class size will negatively impact my students. The best way that I can meet the diverse needs of all of my students is to get to know them on a personal level. This becomes very hard to do as more students are placed in my classroom. I only get a little over 3 hours per school day with my homeroom class. The more students I have in my classroom, a smaller portion of that time is given to each individual student. I cannot make a meaningful impact in my students' lives if I cannot give them the individualized time and attention that they each need and deserve. It is critical that class sizes be decreased, not increased as the current budget mandates. We must value our children enough to invest in their education and mental well-being.

Thank you for your support,
Jessica Westendorf

Jessica Westendorf
JESSICA_WESTENDORF@hcpss.org
8504 Wild Wing Way
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Aleah Zinalabedini <Aleah_Zinalabedini@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 2:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budgets

Council Members ,

Good Afternoon,

As a teacher, I am trying not to be disheartened by what seems like increasing behavior issues, and now increased class sizes. The expectations put on us are already challenging to meet, and raising class sizes, will only compound the challenges we face. These challenges have a direct impact on student achievement gaps, which is the end result of increased class size. Meeting the needs of our learners is already challenging, adding more students to the mix, even if it is 1-2 will only further this gap. Please find the money, somewhere, somehow, so that educators have a chance to help students grow and thrive. Its not fair to students that what already feels like large classes will continue to rise.

Aleah Zinalabedini
Aleah_Zinalabedini@hcpss.org
4697 Hallowed Stream
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Allison Venuti <allison_venuti@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 2:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fund HCPSS!!!!

Council Members ,

I know that as the County Executive and County Council members you have a lot of different groups asking for money. I also know that as a HCPSS teacher I'm obviously biased, but I truly believe the HCPSS is in the most desperate need for the additional funding. I've been teaching in the county for over a decade and I've watched as class sizes and workload expectations have increased, just as support staff has decreased. Now that we have an opportunity to fix this, it's time that we dedicate the money to the school system to help our students! You will quite literally be investing in our future by funding the incredible students in our Howard County schools.

People move to Howard County because of the schools. Peoples' property values are high because of the schools. Taking money away from our schools does not benefit anyone! Increasing class sizes is not the solution to saving money. I understand that on paper the bottom line may look appealing, and that maybe it doesn't sound like a "big deal" to add a few extra students to each classroom, but I can assure you that it is a "big deal." When I had 29 students in my 4th grade co-taught classroom last year, we were tripping over each other and there were just too many students for us teachers to be truly effective. When there are that many students in a classroom, how are we as educators supposed to give individual time and attention to our students? When I'm pulling reading groups and I have 13 students in a reading group, that's no longer considered a small group. There's not enough room at the table to accommodate that many students in a reading group. It just doesn't work. The students shouldn't have to suffer because the county didn't have enough money to keep the necessary amount of teachers and staff.

Again, we have the chance to restore \$5.9M to the school system's budget and undo some of the damage we've already caused to our children. Let's do the right thing, let's do the smart thing, and most importantly, let's do right by our children! Please, please, PLEASE!!!, dedicate the \$5.9M to HCPSS so we can get our class sizes back to a manageable number

that will allow us to actually teach a quality HCPSS level education. Let's get the class sizes restored, so that we can get some of those 217 displaced teachers back into the schools they belong in.

I know you're probably receiving hundreds, if not thousands of emails, but I beg you to restore the \$5.9M to HCPSS to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Thank you for your time.

~Allison Venuti
HCPSS educator

Allison Venuti
allison_venuti@hcpss.org
4110 Turf Run Circle
Randallstown, Maryland 21133

Sayers, Margery

From: Doug Lea <nbct@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2018 2:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Funding

Council Members ,

I'm writing to urge you to restore funds for our school system. Small changes that negatively impact our students add up over time - a little less money for materials one year, a new student-teacher ratio that eliminates personnel the next, fewer support services another time... Our school system (where I have spent most of my days from kindergarten through a long career as an educator) was once untouchable. Decreasing resources at a time when the needs that students bring are increasing is a recipe for a downward spiral of quality that would be hard to mitigate after the fact. For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to restore the 5.9 million to the school system budget.

Doug Lea
nbct@live.com
10964 Eight Bells Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Kimberly Arndt <kimberly_hughes@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 10:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding Needed

Council Members ,

My students need to build relationships with adults in their life. Smaller class sizes help. My students are more cooperative when they know I care. When I make connections with them, it benefits them emotionally and academically, leading to lifelong learners and productive citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Arndt
Kindergarten Teacher

Kimberly Arndt
kimberly_hughes@hcpss.org
11460 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Pellegrino <lisa_pellegrino@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 5:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Budget Concerns

Council Members ,

Dear Honorable Elected Officials:

I am greatly concerned with the proposed changes to class sizes in Howard County Schools.

As an educator, and parent, I worry on a daily basis about establishing the caring and nurturing relationships our young people need so badly today. Children are increasingly taking their lives, and those of others, out of despair and feeling like outsiders. As a teacher, I hold myself accountable to watch and connect with my students in the hopes of preventing future acts of violence. Every day, I try to spend some individual time with each child, but am rarely successful. If I have more students...

Compounding the socio-emotional challenges, I face educational ones as well. Currently, I teach a class of 25 fourth grade students with no additional support staff. With the range of behaviors and needs of this group, I am hard-pressed to maintain the pace and immersion that I need to expose them to the required curriculum. I worry our children will not be adequately prepared to meet the demands of the world. If I have more students...

Personally, increased class size will also result in a larger workload of grading. As it is, I spend upwards of 12 to 15 extra hours of my own time EVERY week planning and scoring assignments. Adding to my burden will add to my stress and time spent on unpaid work, or decrease the personal feedback I can provide to each student.

When I became an educator, I had dreams of making a difference in the lives of the children entrusted to my care. I am disappointed to be put in the position of choosing to connect with students, or get the curriculum taught. I am disappointed to be put in the position of choosing my students or my family. I am disappointed that my dream job now operates like a manufacturing job. I am scared that my own children's educators are faced with these same choices that will affect the lives and success of my loved ones.

Please...do right by our children.

Sincerely,

Lisa Pellegrino

Lisa Pellegrino

lisa_pellegrino@hcpss.org

6341 Beechwood Dr

Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Aimee Kandelman <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 2:45 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Students & Staff in the FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

Please consider the impact of funding levels on educational performance. This class size increase will impact instructional differentiation by increasing time spent on behavior management and therefore minimizing time spent on instruction.

This class size increase will impact educational space because there just isn't enough room in classrooms for more desks and more bodies - plus it will restrict movement which is needed not just for benefit of instructional activities but also for behavioral management.

This class size increase will effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county because with each additional student, that is another family that needs time for me to get to know them, to know the child as a learner, to plan for that child's instruction - it all takes time and it stands to reason that with each additional student in the classroom that is proportionally less minutes per kid across the board.

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Aimee Kandelman
amk716@gmail.com
6907 Meadowlake Rd
New Market, Maryland 21774

Sayers, Margery

From: Ronald Caplan <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 10:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Cutting the School Budget is not the answer

Council Members ,

i am not a resident of Howard County. I was a special education supervisor for the county for 18 years until I retired in 2010. Cutting the school system budget is not an easy decision. However, once it is done, your constituents, the parents, will face the reality of the impact the cuts will have on their children, the ability to have the needed instructional supports needed for their children, and on the morale of the dedicated instructional staff. Please reconsider restoring needed funding of the school system's budget.

Ronald Caplan
caplan46@gmail.com
830 Bomont Road
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

Sayers, Margery

From: Amanda Wadsworth <amanda_wadsworth@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 9:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Principal's Voice on Budget

Council Members ,

Dear Council,

I am writing as a principal of Centennial Lane Elementary School. Our school system's budget has recently been drastically reduced. This causes me great concern not only as a principal and an educator, but also as a parent. In a world in which we are concerned with the safety of our students, the mental health of our community and the high demands of our education, you are creating a very dire situation.

The class size increase is one of the largest impacts in our setting. You are asking the earliest learners to learn in an environment in which 1st graders may be in a class of up to 26 students. When presented with this number of students, teachers are limited in their ability to meet individual needs, manage behaviors and connect with each student on a deep level. The number one impact/strategy that supports student achievement is the relationship the student has with the teacher. Your reduction in funding is creating a situation in which this becomes highly unlikely. The words of Maya Angelou speak to that which we will lose with the greater class size. "People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel." How will children "feel" that connection with their teacher when they are one of 26 or 32? Have you ever been in a classroom of that size? If not, I urge you to come and experience such a class as you consider whether to restore the 5.9 million.

In addition, with the increase in class sizes, our already overcrowded schools must endure an educational space that is less conducive to student learning. We have an increase in the need for portables, which again, speaks to safety.

It saddens me that the actions of others are impacting our future. It saddens me that negative politics may be potentially playing any part in the future of our children. I am strongly

advocating for the 5.9 million dollars to be restored in order for our students to receive the best education that they deserve.

Let's allow our children the power of a smaller class size, the differentiation this allows, and the relationship they deserve. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Wadsworth

Principal

Centennial Lane Elementary

Amanda Wadsworth

amanda_wadsworth@hcpss.org

7184 Millbury Court

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jameelah Jefferson <jameelah_jefferson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 8:46 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: restore \$5.9M for class size

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

This class size increase will effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in my class. It will also so negatively impact my ability to reach the individual needs of all my students through individualized instruction. Please restore the 5.9M to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this very important matter,

Jameelah Jefferson
1st Grade Teacher
Dayton Oaks Elementary School

Jameelah Jefferson
jameelah_jefferson@hcpss.org
2103 N Rolling Rd
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244

Sayers, Margery

From: Glenn Schneider <GSchneider@thehorizonfoundation.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 5:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony on HCPSS Operating Budget
Attachments: FY 19 HCPSS Budget Testimony_2018.pdf

Dear Chairwoman Sigaty and Councilmembers:

Please see the attached testimony regarding the HCPSS FY 19 Operating Budget. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Glenn

Glenn E. Schneider
Chief Program Officer, Horizon Foundation
Direct: 443-766-1217 | Mobile: 443-812-6955
gschneider@thehorizonfoundation.org
www.thehorizonfoundation.org

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FY 2019 Board of Education Operating Budget: Public Hearing

**Item: Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) Budget –
Addition of Three Social Workers**

Position: SUPPORT

The Horizon Foundation would like to offer its support for the addition of three new social work positions in the FY 2019 HCPSS budget (see 3403, Alternative In-School Programs). Last year, the Foundation and the Howard County Health Department provided funding to launch a school-based mental health pilot program in five Howard County public schools. This program currently provides referred students with one-on-one counseling by licensed therapists during the school day. Though the school year is not complete, it seems that the program is helping to improve the health and social functioning of children enrolled in the program.

According to HCPSS leadership, adding these new social work positions will allow for an expansion of services to additional schools and result in better coordinated care and support being given to students. The Foundation concurs with this assessment.

The 2016 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that 1 in 4 high school students and 1 in 5 middle school students report regular feelings of sadness or hopelessness. Fourteen percent of high school students said they made a plan within the past year about how they would attempt suicide. National research shows that most mental health issues present before the age of 18, often as early as elementary school.

Unaddressed mental health challenges are debilitating for children and their families. Children with ignored mental health needs are less likely to succeed academically, and find it more difficult to interact with peers, family members and others. Youth with mental health challenges also suffer from worse physical and mental health outcomes in adulthood.

Schools are uniquely positioned to identify these challenges, address treatment needs, and ultimately help students succeed. Research has repeatedly shown the effectiveness of providing emotional supports and mental health interventions in school settings.

Funding these new social work positions would be a wise investment in the mental health and wellness of our children, families and community.

Sayers, Margery

From: heather.urner@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 5:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony

Good Evening County Council,

My name is Heather Urner, 10212 Hickory Ridge RD Apt 203 Columbia MD 21044.

If the the proposed FY 2019 Operating Budget for all funds totals \$1.6 billion, a 1.9 percent increase from last year's budget. The General Fund Budget, which supports the majority of government services, totals \$1.1 billion. Why not give the education any available funds. We brag about being a leader in MD and in the country. We did this while our Board members said " Don't have the money to run the school system."

Our Board has been faced with recent and cuts and most likely further cuts if the funds aren't voted on by you to extend what was the minimum and to have true amount to show our children we are here to fund you with the full tools to succeed.

Yes, last year was different, thank goodness our Board and our Interim Superintendent Dr. Michael Martirano for HCPSS are able to respectfully disagree and agree throughout this budgeting process and beyond.

We actually received 572 million approved fy 18, will request 645.1 million, don't look at the smallest possible just because we got through this year. Give our children the full request, show we our a County where civility includes thinking first of of education system and all it needs to run at optimum level. Don't tell the community that the minimum is all education deserves.

This is the time to make statement of we can do better for our community, we will do better for our children. Say that Howard County is the County you thought it was

We are a County about Education, about our Children.

Go above than expected and give HCPSS the full request, nothing less.

Thank you

Heather Urner

Sayers, Margery

From: Erica Rutan <erica_rutan@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 7:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size is the number one priority!

Council Members ,

Dear Howard County Council Members and County Executive Allan Kittleman,

First, thank you Mr. Kittleman for visiting my classroom last year at Deep Run Elementary School. Your presence shows me that you care about us, about our students, and about our schools. You may remember my class because one of my students asked if you were Donald Trump. You were patient with that child, while I tried not to snicker.

As you know, Deep Run Elementary is a title 1 School. And, like every school in Elkridge, it is over-populated. The redistricting next year will alleviate this only slightly. We have a very high transitory rate. We get many new students through the year. My son was in a kindergarten class a few years ago at Deep Run that had 27 students in it! 4 of them came speaking NO English. Can you imagine how this teacher was able to teach? More importantly, can you imagine how the students were able to learn?

I am not emailing to tell you that class size affects students' learning. I'm assuming that this is common knowledge. What I would like to argue is how much this move would, in particular, affect the more populated schools, the title 1 schools, and the schools with behaviors that really impact the learning of the classroom. This move would still make western Howard County schools have the lowest numbers, the highest test scores, and the lowest transitory rates.

When I think of cultural proficiency and closing the gap, I think of these moves that counties make and shake my head. These are the decisions that widen the gap, lower test scores for title 1 schools, and cause the discrepancies that our data continue to support.

If you need to do something like this, please consider doing what Montgomery County has done - make the class sizes for title 1 schools smaller than the other schools. Please do not increase class sizes for the schools that would both impact them and hurt them most!

Thank you,
Erica Rutan
1st grade teacher

Erica Rutan
erica_rutan@hcpss.org
6334 Ema Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Carol Spaulding <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 2:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget reform

Council Members ,

Dear Councilman,

Please fully fund the education budget so that our classrooms are not overcrowded and teachers are overworked. It is imperative that class sizes are not increased so that students get the attention and instruction they need to obtain a quality education.

Howard County is known for it's excellent school system. Please allow this to continue into the future. Our children are worth it!

Carol Spaulding
caspauld@aol.com
8625 Jennifer Ct.
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Ericksen <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 2:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 34 STUDENTS IN EVERY CLASS IN HOWARD COUNTY?

Council Members ,

How can we continue to maintain excellence if our classes are filled with 34 students? Does anyone really believe this will help the emotional-social well-being of our students? How can we really initiate all this "Strategic Call to Action" FIERCE URGENCY of NOW stuff if we place that many students in every teacher's classroom?

One step forward and three steps back. Is this what we want for our wonderful students who are expecting more from leaders and the adults in our county? PLEASE find money to add to the FY19 budget. This is shameful to be considering this as the answer.

Susan Ericksen
sericksen@aol.com
2910 Tulip Way
Manchester, Maryland 21102

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Ericksen <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 2:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 34 STUDENTS IN EVERY CLASS IN HOWARD COUNTY?

Council Members ,

How can we continue to maintain excellence if our classes are filled with 34 students? Does anyone really believe this will help the emotional-social well-being of our students? How can we really initiate all this "Strategic Call to Action" FIERCE URGENCY of NOW stuff if we place that many students in every teacher's classroom?

One step forward and three steps back. Is this what we want for our wonderful students who are expecting more from leaders and the adults in our county? PLEASE find money to add to the FY19 budget. This is shameful to be considering this as the answer.

Susan Ericksen
sericksen@aol.com
2910 Tulip Way
Manchester, Maryland 21102

Sayers, Margery

From: Pamela Riley <pamela_riley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 12:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore 5.9 million

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Kittleman,

I am asking that you restore the 5.9 million cut that will increase class sizes. Also the other resources that will be impacted. This will have an effect on the level of communication and support we will be able to provide every student and their family. We need the 5.9 million restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. If not restored this will only have a negative impact on our students and staff.

Pamela Riley
pamela_riley@hcpss.org
8001 Cocan Way
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennie Hill <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 12:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FUND THE HCPSS BUDGET

Council Members ,

Please do the right thing and fund the full HCPSS budget. HCPSS' reputation as a world class school system is slowly slipping away due to the continued cuts. It's election year - people are watching and taking note.

Jennie Hill
jennie414@gmail.com
10209 Bradley Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Christina Wanex <christina_wanex@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 11:27 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Students and Staff in FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

I am writing to ask you to support students and staff in the FY19 Budget. Increasing the class size will not only impact my educational space, which is already limited with only 18 first graders, but it will also impact the differentiation I am able to provide to my students. For example, in first grade, I have four reading groups. I am supposed to allot an hour for reading groups in order to incorporate other necessary components into the language arts block. With four groups instead of 3, I am using 1 hour and 20 minutes for groups each day as it is. I have five students out of 18 who need one-on-one support with writing. I am the only provider of this support. More students in a class means that more students could need support. When class sizes are big, it is difficult to do certain types of hands-on activities because of the space and management. For example, last year, I had 32 students in my above grade level math class. I didn't have enough desks so a group sat at the reading table without desks. We were not able to do certain types of games due to space. I was not able to utilize a 2-group model when needed, because a group would have consisted of 16, which is not small enough to provide one-on-one support when needed. At times, I'd have to split my class into three groups and have 12 in some of those groups. This is still considered large for a math group. The more groups a teacher needs to have, the less time others get with the teacher. It means that students are left to complete assignments without the help of a teacher, or under the guidance of a teacher, or with the support of a teacher when needed. Please do not increase class size. Accommodate a budget that keeps classes small for optimal instruction. Furthermore, it will be more difficult to hold conferences and communicate with families, and provide support to those families as needs arise if stretched too thin. For example, for 18 students, it already takes 30 minutes a week to provide Friday Folder Comments and ratings. We need 5.9 million restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best instruction as possible.

Christina Wanex
christina_wanex@hcpss.org

6911 Carroll Highlands Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Carol Spaulding <carol_spaulding@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 10:52 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the budget

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

Please restore the 5.9 million to our education budget. Increasing class sizes will drastically affect the quality of our students education. As a parent, staff and now grandparent I would hate to see the quality of Howard County's to be affected!

Sincerely,

Carol Spaulding

Carol Spaulding

carol_spaulding@hcpss.org

8625 Jennifer Ct

Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Alison Schwartz <ALISON_SCHWARTZ@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 10:52 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Budget Cuts

Council Members ,

To Whom This May Concern:

My name is Alison Schwartz and I am currently a member of Howard County's Education Association. Research shows that students thrive in smaller classroom settings. As an educator, I am able to provide my students with more targeted instruction, support, and care when I have a smaller class size. I fear that the larger my class sizes get, the more children may feel like "just another number" in my classroom. Children deserve to be cared for individually and I will always speak up for the importance of smaller class sizes. We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

I was also one of the two hundred and seventeen teachers that were surplused due to the recent budget cuts in the county. The surplus process has been a source of anxiety as I navigate finding a new placement and teaching a full course load at the same time. I have been in the same school for three years consecutively, and I have built strong relationships with the staff members and administrators. I am quite disappointed that I was surplused because this means that I will no longer be working with these outstanding colleagues who have been mentoring me since the beginning of my teaching career.

Please consider restoring the previous budget cuts not only for the students sake, but for the teachers who have been established in certain buildings and now face additional stress while trying to teach their current class load.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Alison Schwartz

Howard County Education Association Member

Alison Schwartz
ALISON_SCHWARTZ@hcpss.org
610 Shipley Road
Linthicum Heights, Maryland 21090

Sayers, Margery

From: Betsy Fetchko <betsy_fetchko@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 9:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore \$5.9M !!!!!

Council Members ,

It is nearly impossible to teach English adequately to a class of 34 students -- there is not enough: one-on-one time, time to meet re: specific issues/writing strengths-weaknesses, time to develop relationships that allow me to foster success in the classroom.

PLEASE restore the \$5.9M and allow us to do our jobs effectively -- it's ALL our futures on the line if we allow students to be shafted by politics and lack of attention to the priority: teaching students to effectively manage information, make critical decisions, and plan for/help create a positive future.

Thank you, Betsy Fetchko

Betsy Fetchko
betsy_fetchko@hcpss.org
3624 Joycin Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Linda Birdsong <linda_birdsong@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 9:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore school funds

Council Members ,

I am writing to request that you restore \$5.9M for class size as well as other resources that we stand to lose with budget cuts. Due to these cuts there will be challenges in course offerings, impact on instructional differentiation so necessary for optimal education for each student, and level of support I am able to provide for each student and family in our schools. HCPSS has long enjoyed high marks as it has led education in the state. I do not think we will continue to be at the top of the counties in MD if this funding is not restored. We have maintained a wonderful reputation in the county, state, and nation, as leading with our curriculum, per pupil expenditure, and test scores. Look for this to fall if the funds are not restored. That is NOT who we are or aspire to be in HCPSS.

Thank you for considering this vitally important request.

Linda Birdsong

Linda Birdsong
linda_birdsong@hcpss.org
9376 Sewall Avenue
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Judith Young <judy_young@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 8:13 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please make sure class sizes are not increased!

Council Members ,

I'm writing to you as a classroom teacher and as a person with a child in HCPSS. Students need all the help they can get and the more qualified, caring adults in our schools, the better. Teachers need to have class loads that allow effective individualization of instruction, time to plan and to contact parents, and space in which to move students around. Please restore the \$5.9 million to the budget!

Judith Young
judy_young@hcpss.org
5477 Bright Hawk Ct
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharon Williams <sharon_e_williams@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 8:06 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support students and staff in the FY19 budget,

Council Members ,

Increased class size will negatively impact student learning.

There will be challenges in course offerings due to the increase in class size. We need the 5.9 million restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Sharon Williams
sharon_e_williams@hcpss.org
7620 Woodpark Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Lee Hart <Lee_Hart@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 11:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY19

Council Members ,

The students in Howard County need their teachers and staff.

Lee Hart
Lee_Hart@hcpss.org
2719 Silver Hill Ave
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

Sayers, Margery

From: Jaclyn Bryant <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 10:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support students and staff in the FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

Dear County Executive Kittleman and fellow esteemed County Council Members,

I understand that our county faces some very difficult decisions as we are about to vote on the FY19 budget. However, I would hope that fully funding our public schools would be an easy decision to make. There have been studies that have shown that one of the biggest factors in predicting success in the classroom comes from class size, because it allows teachers to focus on students individually and allows for more differentiation of lesson material. Allowing even one or two more students in each classroom will decrease the amount of time teachers are able to spend providing supports to students in need and communicating effectively with families. I urge you to consider restoring the 5.9M in cuts to keep our class sizes as is, and continue to ensure that our public schools remain not only top in the state of Maryland, but top in the nation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jackie Bryant

Jaclyn Bryant
jebryant7@gmail.com
1134 Circle Drive
Halethorpe, Maryland 21227

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Payne <karen_payne@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 8:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY19 Budget Concerns!

Council Members ,

It is imperative to let my elected officials know that increasing class sizes will have a significant impact on the outcome of student learning! Something must be done to prevent this from happening to our schools in Howard County!

I am proud to live and teach in Howard County. It is one of the best counties to raise and educate students in the nation. One of the main reasons our schools are rated so highly, is because class sizes have had appropriate student/teacher ratios. If class sizes increase, it must be known that learning outcomes will inevitably decrease.

I am responsible for teaching first graders how to read. I work with many differentiated groups already to meet the students needs. Increasing the class size by just 4 or 5 students would create more reading groups that would NOT be able to fit into the reading/language arts block. In addition, there would not be any space to fit 4-5 more desks in the classroom without removing the reading-group table. This would pose a tremendous logistical problem for finding space in the classroom for teaching small differentiated reading groups. Our classrooms are already filled to the max with student desks, and our schedule is already filled to the max to be able to meet with all the differentiated groups. There simply would not be any more time in our reading block schedule to add one more group. Something would need to give. Juggling too many first grade differentiated reading groups in one classroom would create many challenges, and would make it extremely difficult to ensure optimal success for all students. If students go on to second grade without learning the basic fundamental phonics and reading skills from first grade, they will suffer educational set backs that could have lasting impacts.

PLEASE do whatever possible to keep class sizes as they are now. Keeping the best interests of the students in mind, find a way to NOT increase class sizes!

Karen Payne
karen_payne@hcpss.org

5022 Middlesmoor Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Judy Brubaker <judy_brubaker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 8:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the 5.9 million to the education budget

Council Members ,

Our current superintendent of schools is trying his best to provide balance in the education budget given the mess he inherited. This funding needs to be restored so our school system can continue to deliver high quality education to our students, which they deserved. The fiscal mistakes made due to a lack of oversight while our prior superintendent was employed should not negatively impact my students or my own child. Without restoration of this funding, I see this happening. Please restore the 5.9 million.

Sincerely,

Judy Brubaker

Howard County Resident, Parent, and Educator

Judy Brubaker

judy_brubaker@hcpss.org

4550 Vinter Way

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Ericksen <susan_ericksen@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 7:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 34 students per class??

Council Members ,

Dear Allan Kittleman, I am a ninth grade teacher at your Alma Mater Atholton High. I am an experienced teacher in howard county having taught over two decades in our county. I am full of pride when people ask what I do for a living and in specifically letting them know I work in howard county and at the BEST high school in the county. That said, I am very concerned and upset by the proposal to have 34 students in a class. I teach ninth grade all day long and transitioning to high school is very tough for this student group. The new initiatives (Strategic Call To Action) set by our new superintendent to "do no harm" and "The Fierce Urgency of Now" which is a tremendous effort by all educators and stakeholders to focus on student-centered, individualized instruction, and building an inclusive and nurturing environment, while emphasizing emotional-social well-being of all of our students. With 34 students in all of our classes, it creates a tremendous burden on teacher's to try to meet these new expectations. Simply put, I can not get to know and support my students in the way I should! PLEASE find it in your heart and mind to BETTER support students and staff in the FY19 budget. P.S. I shook your hand when you came to my Health Education classroom with Superintendent Dr. Martirano and Marcy Leonard at the beginning of the year. You observed my discussion with students for a respectful, safe, and trusting learning community. You also saw the artifacts wall in the media center last year when AHS celebrated our 50th anniversary. My students and AHS mean the world to me, please give more care and thought in your efforts with FY19 budget! Thank you for all you do!

S. ERICKSEN (Always a Raider!)

Susan Ericksen
susan_ericksen@hcpss.org
2910 Tulip Way
Manchester, Maryland 21102

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Ericksen <susan_ericksen@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 7:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 34 students per class??

Council Members ,

Dear Allan Kittleman, I am a ninth grade teacher at your Alma Mater Atholton High. I am an experienced teacher in howard county having taught over two decades in our county. I am full of pride when people ask what I do for a living and in specifically letting them know I work in howard county and at the BEST high school in the county. That said, I am very concerned and upset by the proposal to have 34 students in a class. I teach ninth grade all day long and transitioning to high school is very tough for this student group. The new initiatives (Strategic Call To Action) set by our new superintendent to "do no harm" and "The Fierce Urgency of Now" which is a tremendous effort by all educators and stakeholders to focus on student-centered, individualized instruction, and building an inclusive and nurturing environment, while emphasizing emotional-social well-being of all of our students. With 34 students in all of our classes, it creates a tremendous burden on teacher's to try to meet these new expectations. Simply put, I can not get to know and support my students in the way I should! PLEASE find it in your heart and mind to BETTER support students and staff in the FY19 budget. P.S. I shook your hand when you came to my Health Education classroom with Superintendent Dr. Martirano and Marcy Leonard at the beginning of the year. You observed my discussion with students for a respectful, safe, and trusting learning community. You also saw the artifacts wall in the media center last year when AHS celebrated our 50th anniversary. My students and AHS mean the world to me, please give more care and thought in your efforts with FY19 budget! Thank you for all you do!

S. ERICKSEN (Always a Raider!)

Susan Ericksen
susan_ericksen@hcpss.org
2910 Tulip Way
Manchester, Maryland 21102

Sayers, Margery

From: Diane Cohen <dianedcohen22@gmsil.com>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 7:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY 2018 Budget

Council Members ,

Please fully fund the Board of Education needs to continue the outstanding education we provide students and support of our staff. I am a Paraeducator in a local elementary school. This year, due to cuts for lunch room monitors, I have reduced time to work with struggling students, as paraeducators are shifted to monitor the lunchroom. My academic skills are much more valuable than my time selling lunches and washing tables. Please restore the lunch room monitor positions.

Additionally, keeping our class sizes as they are now, allows teachers and all support staff to provide more individual and positive attention to our most valuable clients, our HCPSS students!

Diane Cohen
dianedcohen22@gmsil.com
10671 Quarterstaff Rd
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Michele Brett-Gilmore <MICHELE_BRETT-GILMORE@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 5:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HoCo Budget

Council Members ,

Please do everything in your power to fix the budget for FY19. Our students are the ones who will suffer. There is not enough support in the schools to support those students who need additional teacher/paraeducator support as it is now (which is 1/3 of each classroom). The rooms do not have enough space to walk around the desks and adding more students will cause a more restrictive environment and possibly a fire hazard (and this is in a new school building). I beg you to restore the 5.9M to our students.

Michele Brett-Gilmore
MICHELE_BRETT-GILMORE@hcpss.org
6421 Treetop Circle
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Bonnie Dorsey <bonnie_dorsey@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 5:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: class size increase

Council Members ,

Please reinstate the 5.9M to the budget. Increasing class size will impact the instructional differentiation I provide to my students daily. It is crucial to provide as much individualization as I can, and the more students in the class, the harder it is. It is also more difficult to maintain communication with families as class size increases. If we want Howard County to maintain the best education in the state- and possibly the nation- then we need to keep the class size as it is. I strongly urge you to restore the funding to ensure small class size.

Yours,

Bonnie Dorsey

First Grade Teacher in HCPSS

Bonnie Dorsey

bonnie_dorsey@hcpss.org

9243 Ridgefield Circle

Frederick, Maryland 21701

Sayers, Margery

From: Carol Eassa <carol_eassa@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 5:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Increased class size?????? WHAT???

Council Members ,

This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students...

This class size increase will impact my educational space, I can barely fit 24 kindergartners in my classroom now.

There will be challenges in course offerings due to this class size increase.

This class size increase will effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county.

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible!!! You know this is true. Howard County provides the best education in the state.

This will undoubtedly jeopardize our qualifications. Educators will burn out at a faster rate than is already happening because of other work that has been mandated. Please keep us number 1. Increased class sizes would be an utter nightmare.

Carol Eassa

carol_eassa@hcpss.org

5852 Richards Valley Road

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Steve Burnett <sburnett@mcdaniel.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 5:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Increasing class size is not in the best interest of our kids

Council Members ,

Hello,

I came to Howard County after spending numerous years working with students in Carroll County and Washington County. Howard County is by the far the best educational system I have had the privilege to serve. One of the reasons is the commitment to providing the appropriate resources for our kids. The primary resource is human. Strong teaching in environments that allow for individualized instruction for all kids makes a difference. Working in two counties that allowed for class sizes to creep up has resulted in declining student performance.

Please don't let this happen to our kids.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven W. Burnett

Glenelg High School

Steve Burnett

sburnett@mcdaniel.edu

2045 Hughest Shop Road

Westminster, Maryland 21158

Sayers, Margery

From: Rachael Schultz <rachschultz@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 5:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: If you care...

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

If you want our students, our future, to continue to be the best they can be, we MUST limit class sizes. 34 students is really 4 too many.

This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students...to their detriment.

Rachael Schultz
rachschultz@comcast.net
7903 Rustling Bark Court
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Stacey Belsky <stacey_belsky@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 4:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restored the 5.9M

Council Members ,

As a teacher, I am writing to ask you to PLEASE restore \$5.9M for class size as well as other resources we stand to lose with these cuts that are projected. This class size increase will significantly impact the instructional differentiation I provide to students as well as the level of communication I provide to the students and their families. We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Stacey Belsky

science teacher, Elkridge Landing Middle School

Stacey Belsky

stacey_belsky@hcpss.org

7209 Fawn Crossing Drive

Clarksville, Maryland 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Judith Kahn <jj0329@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 4:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore the FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

We need every bit of the 5.9M restored to ensure that our students continue to receive the best education possible. As a kindergarten teacher, I am responsible for teaching a very rigorous curriculum to our youngest learners. I rely on our paraeducators to support my instruction. Please restore the FY19 budget so that I can continue to provide my students with all of the support they need to be successful in kindergarten and ready to move on to first grade.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Judith Kahn
jj0329@comcast.net
4286 Bright Bay Way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Mary Ellen Bowers <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 4:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore 5.9M

Council Members ,

Please think about the students. An increase in class size will decrease their time it's a teacher, will negatively impact how much they can learn, and decrease how much a teacher can support each child. Teachers are already stretched thin. Putting more students in a class will not improve education it will take away from it.

Mary Ellen Bowers
mebbiebows@gmail.com
7959 Telegraph Road
Severn, Maryland 21144

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephanie Bruner <stephanie_bruner@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 4:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Devistating Increase in Class Sizes

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Allan Kittleman,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the increase in class size in Howard County Schools. I have been a resident of Howard County all of my life. I graduated from Howard County Schools and chose not only to raise my family in Howard County, but to teach in Howard County as well. I have been a Howard County Teacher for 21 years. Howard County has always been a leader in the education that we provide for our students. This unprecedented increase in class size will most definitely impact the quality of the education we are able to provide for our students.

I teach first grade. I am responsible for teaching my students to read. There is a very small window of time in which students are learning to read. By third grade, students are expected to be able to read to learn. The window to teach students "how" to read is extremely small and intense. It is essential that I meet with reading groups as often as possible. The increase in class size will either decrease the time that I am able to spend with my groups daily or decrease the number of days per week that I am able to spend with them. Either way, the students will not get the attention they need to make the strides they need to make.

Other considerations should include the impact this decision will have on my physical space. There is simply not room in my classroom for 5 or 6 more desks. I take pride in knowing my students and their families. I communicate regularly with them about their child. The increase in workload would make this personal attention all but impossible.

Please restore the budget to be sure that Howard County students continue to receive the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bruner

Stephanie Bruner

stephanie_bruner@hcpss.org

1266 Emmaus Road

Woodbine, Maryland 21797

Sayers, Margery

From: Deborah Barlow <barlowhd@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Impact of increased class size on AP courses

Council Members ,

Dear council members,

I am so worried about the impact of the increased class size on my AP World History students next year. Over the past 5 years, Hammond has offered this AP class for any student that is willing to "step it up" as they are preparing to be college and career ready. Many of my students have never attempted a college level course, so they need extra support, encouragement and nurturing. With an average of 22 students per class, these students are successful and pass the AP World History exam given by the College Board. Next year I am scheduled to have an average of 32 students in my AP World History classes. How can I continue to differentiate instruction with such large classes? How can I give essay writing feedback with such large classes? How can I continue to give my Hammond students the opportunities that were celebrated in our "School of Opportunity" award? Please consider restoring \$5.9 million to reduce class sizes for our high school students, as well as the elementary and middle school students.

Thank you,

Debbie Barlow

Social studies teacher

Hammond High School

Deborah Barlow

barlowhd@verizon.net

9357 Spring Water Path

Jessup, Maryland 20794

Sayers, Margery

From: James Murray <james_murray@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size & FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

As a Science Teacher and a voter in Howard County I urge you to restore the funding for the education of our students. Class size is a huge issue that effects the education and safety of our students in the science classroom.

Sincerely,

James Murray

James Murray

james_murray@hcpss.org

5885 Stearman Court

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Charles Wehr <CHARLES_WEHR@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore the budget so we don't need to increase class size!

Council Members ,

Hello I am writing you as a HCPSS teacher, but more importantly as a parent of two children of HCPSS. My oldest is graduating from college this year and had the benefit of smaller class sizes. His younger brother is currently at MRHS at a very critical point in his academic career. I would be very upset if he is made to suffer the consequences of this action to increase class sizes. Please work to find another way to ease the budget.

Thank you,
Charlie Wehr
Art Teacher (TSES and WWES)

Charles Wehr
CHARLES_WEHR@hcpss.org
2175 Sykesville Rd.
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Cramer <LISA_CRAMER@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: class sizes

Council Members ,

This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students. Our new superintendent preaches knowing the learner...how can we do that when our classes are larger? We want to support our students but with larger class sizes someone will get left behind.

Lisa Cramer
LISA_CRAMER@hcpss.org
8705 Cardinal Forest Circle
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeanine Hintz <Jeanine_Hintz@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY19 Budget HCPSS

Council Members ,

Dr. Mr. Kittleman,

I have been a resident of Howard County for 13 years. My children have been attending Howard County schools for the past 11 years. I have worked in HCPSS for 8 years, 6 as a paraprofessional in Special Education, and the last 2 as a classroom teacher. I have never seen the possibility of the large increase in class size in all of those years. We are the number one school system in the state! We need to restore the 5.9M budget to ensure that all of our students receive the best education possible! An increase to the current class size will impact the amount of instructional differentiation I am able to provide to my students. I believe the increased class size will also impact the free choice and movement of my elementary students. I am also concerned for my own children at the middle and high school level if the class sizes increase. There will be challenges to increase the number of students in a classroom and still provide the excellent level of attention and instruction they have in the past. I hope the County Council will hear the concerns of its teachers and county residents and restore the budget to HCPSS needed to keep class sizes as they are.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Hintz

Jeanine Hintz

Jeanine_Hintz@hcpss.org

14073 Monticello Dr.

Cooksville, Maryland 21723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Coker <jennifer_coker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore 5.9 Million to HCPSS Budget

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman and County Council Members,

Please make the choice to restore funding to the HCPSS budget. The impending increases on our already significant class sizes will have a direct impact on our ability to best educate HCPSS students.

Increasing class sizes over the past decade has added to an already challenging workload. Due to the volume of students I teach, I have even before now had to cut out valuable assignments, in particular, reducing the number of formal essays and projects that I assign to and evaluate for my students. I work between 50-60 hours a week, bringing work home in the evening and weekends, and I still struggle to keep up with all that being a quality educator entails. Even with these extended hours, the reality is that my time is finite, and cannot be used to ameliorate problems caused by a lack of sufficient funding. Education can be incremental, and so every assignment cut due to an overwhelming workload means another opportunity for learning and vital skill development that my students lose out on. The detrimental outcomes of such a case are not instantaneous, instead developing over the long term. Sadly, this often leads to those outside the classroom failing to recognize a direct correlation between insufficient funding and reduced yields in education.

Increasing class sizes also leads to more management challenges, reduced communication with families and support networks, and a lower ability to know our students as individual learners and tailor teaching to best meet their diverse needs.

HCPSS cannot continue to be a leading school system without also leading in its investment in education. Teachers and ESPs are on the front lines, fighting for our students, but we cannot succeed without your help.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Coker

Jennifer Coker
jennifer_coker@hcpss.org
411 Oak Court
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Elizabeth Jay <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:13 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size

Council Members ,

Please restore the budget to keep HoCo from increasing class sizes! I have been a HoCo teacher for 17 years and can personally attest to the effect that increased class sizes has on a classroom.

Elizabeth Jay
Esak1979@hotmail.com
9332 Town Place Drive
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

Sayers, Margery

From: Sandra Cosentino <sandra_cosentino@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the 5.9M that effects class size

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. We have been known as the best education system in the nation. Research shows that class sizes have a direct impact on the quality of education children receive. Keep Howard County schools at the top.

Sandra Cosentino
sandra_cosentino@hcpss.org
9308 Rock Meadow Dr
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: John Skrynecki <john_skrynecki@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 3:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Sizes

Council Members ,

As an elementary school educator, I cannot stress the importance of class size enough. Class sizes are already too large. At our guided reading training, the suggest number of students per group was six. With the ever expanding class sizes, many groups are double that size. The larger class sizes also make it more challenging to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all learners. The more learners there are, the less individual attention the students receive. Combined with inclusion students and adult supports, the physical space of the classroom is also being less and less functional. With the amount of bodies put into one classroom, there is less space to collaborative activities and less space for the students to move around. The expanding class sizes also make it more challenging for me to effectively communicate with parents. Sending home personalized notes about behaviors and instruction is much more challenging when the number of students is extend . I have 28 students in my class and three have IEPs. These students each have one-on-one support in the classroom, which pushes the number of people in my room to 32, including myself. This does not take into account the ESOL teacher, speech teacher, and occupational therapist who also come into my room. While their support is much appreciated, they also take up precious space in our expanding classrooms and generate distracting noises of their own. I implore you to restore the \$5.9 million to maintain class sizes.

John Skrynecki
john_skrynecki@hcpss.org
7939 Brightwind Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Gregory Walsh <greg_walsh@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Help our Schools

Council Members ,

Mr. Kittleman and members of the county council,

My name is Greg Walsh and I am an educator in HCPSS. Mr. Kittleman, I met you at Peter Parlette's birthday celebration. I've been an educator for 11 years and have worked along side Peter for the past 8 years. I absolutely love our school system. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult and demanding as our class sizes have continued to increase. As a related arts teacher, our classes are even larger than the general education classes. Peter and I both teach technology classes and we are allotted 30 computers per class. This year I had several classes at 30, a few classes at 31 and even one at 32. This is far too many students for elementary classes. We need the 5.9 million dollars restored to ensure our students continue to receive the BEST education possible! This class size increase will impact my teaching in several ways. It will make it harder to differentiate instruction, it will provide different instructional equipment for different students (we have 30 desktops in the room and have to move laptops in when classes reach over 30 students. This means different programs and often different activities. This also pulls these laptops away from laptop carts that are used for instructional and testing purposes by general education teachers), there is a limit of space in my room, and with a growing number of other needs with students with IEPs and 504s, it spreads me too thin in the classroom. Those are only a few of the ways the class size increase will directly effect me and our students. Please stand with educators and our children and restore the 5.9 million dollars. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and thank you for all you do for the best county in Maryland!

Sincerely,
Greg Walsh

Gregory Walsh
greg_walsh@hcpss.org

9684 Horsham Drive
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen MacLaughlin <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School Funding

Council Members ,

Good afternoon,

I am writing as a Howard County Resident, a parent of children in the school system, and a HCPSS teacher. I urge you to restore the \$5.9 Million in school funding to the budget. My coworkers are getting surplussed, my son is in a class of more than 20 first graders, and I worry how he'll get the teacher's attention next year if he's in a class with 25 or more with no instructional support. Less teachers and more students per room, means that Howard County will lose it's status as one of the best school systems in the state, if not the country. In a high school classroom of more than 30 students with one teacher and only 50 minutes of instructional time, each student gets a maximum of 88 seconds of individual instruction. With potentially 160 or more students, those teachers will find it impossible to differentiate instruction, make regular contact home, or be attuned to student issues. Once again, I ask that you restore the \$5.9 million in funding for our schools. Thank yo u for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen MacLaughlin

Kathleen MacLaughlin
katie.maclaughlin@gmail.com
9529 White Spring Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jen Johannes <jennifer_johannes@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fund our schools, class size makes a difference

Council Members ,

I have been a teacher for 16 years. This is my first year in Howard County. I work at a Title I school and have found the class sizes to be manageable. This has lead to much higher student acheivement because I can get around to help each student one on one. I was not able to do this at my last school in Anne Arundel County because I had so many more kids in my class. PLEASE, if you have to cut something, please don't make it impact class size.

Kind regards,

Jen Johannes NBCT

Jen Johannes

jennifer_johannes@hcpss.org

8213 Tyson Rd

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Mcvay <karen_mcvay@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HC Education Funding

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Increasing class size even by 1 student is a deterrent to student achievement in Howard County. According to many academic studies including the STAR experiment, small class sizes increase student achievement including test scores and grades. Small class sizes also lower discipline referrals and help close the achievement gap as smaller class sizes is twice as effective for poor and minority students. With smaller classes, teachers are able to provide students with individualized instruction and quality feedback that fosters student growth. Students in small class sizes are more likely to graduate high school within 4 years, attend college, and get a career in a STEM related field. Dr. Martirano emphasizes creating a classroom community of mutual respect and the key to student success is building positive relationships. Teachers can only build these successful relationships with the students if class size is reduced not increased.

Karen Mcvay
karen_mcvay@hcpss.org
8105 Morning Breeze Drive
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Tara Terry <tara_terry@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible

Council Members ,

This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students. As a former special education teacher I value having inclusion classes but with class sizes increasing I cannot safely meet the needs of all my students. I teach Family and Consumer Science, a critical life skills class that facilitates independence for all of our students. Increasing class size impacts the safety of students when cooking and using knives; decreasing the amount of food lab experiences is not the answer but is likely if class sizes are increased.

Don't impact the real world, hand on experiences of our middle schoolers and especially of our special education students.

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible!

Thank you,
Tara Terry
FACS Teacher at FQMS MS in Howard County

Tara Terry
tara_terry@hcpss.org
13500 Tridelphia Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Sandra Lane <Sandra_Lane@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore 5.9 M

Council Members ,

If the banks can get a money so should the fine educators. Please restore the 5.9 m

Sandra Lane
Sandra_Lane@hcpss.org
512 Oakton Rd
Odenton, Maryland 21113

Sayers, Margery

From: Joel Trumper <joel_trumper@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size

Council Members ,

Nothing effects quality education more than class size. As a Howard County teacher with 27 years experience, I can tell you class sizes are already too large. Making them larger will spell disaster. It will turn our school environment into what feels like a city versus a village. Please restore \$5.9M for class size as well as other resources we stand to lose with these cuts.

Joel Trumper
joel_trumper@hcpss.org
6575 Twilight Glow Dr
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Jonathan Sindler <JONATHAN_SINDLER@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS budget

Council Members ,

Please consider restoring the 5.9M to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Without it, there will be challenges in course offerings due to this class size increase and that will lead to the decrease in the quality of so many of our program. In addition, this will affect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family.

Thanks for all of your help and support!

Jonathan Sindler
JONATHAN_SINDLER@hcpss.org
2515 Rutters Ridge Drive
Eldersburg, Maryland 21784-6964

Sayers, Margery

From: Nancy Unterman <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size

Council Members ,

As a parent and employee of HCPSS I implore you to please fund the necessary budget to ensure no increases in class size. Appropriate class size is crucial for our students. Learning in a safe and nurturing environment cannot occur when teachers are spread too thin and students cannot be properly tended to in order to ensure an appropriate instructional match. In Howard County our schools our our bedrock; our pride and joy. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Nancy Unterman

Howard County Resident of 12 years

Nancy Unterman

nancyu125@yahoo.com

5832 Shady Oak Ln

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Taffie Clark <Taffie_Clark@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class sizes are so important!

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. When the classes sizes are increased there become multiple disadvantages to our students academics. If we are looking to provide a quality education, increasing the numbers do not work. In a smaller class, I am able to work with students to a two to one ratio in math when they do not understand a concept. In reading, I am able to help them become better readers without a wide focus on multiple strategies because our groupings of students we can better meet their needs in their academics. For Howard County to be one of the best counties, to not only live in but to work in as a teacher, raising class sizes would create more problems in the future.

I am a resident here, I have been teaching for 10 years. Please fund the budget so we are not raising classes sizes.

The students do matter and as a teacher I can better advocate for them.

Thank you,

Taffie

Taffie Clark
Taffie_Clark@hcpss.org
6712 Cozy Lane
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Swann <LAURA_SWANN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Book work or Brain work?

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

This is my 7th year teaching, and most of my instruction in the 7th grade English classroom (teaching ELLs, IEPs, and GT students) depends on my flexible groupings. I use MAP scores and PARCC scores consistently to differentiate instruction, plan station activities tailored to each group level, choose readings leveled to the student's ability level, and deliver quality instruction. Being an employee that is now surplus .4, I will be split between two schools. This will severely hinder my ability to support and provide instruction to each and every student to the same caliber I am operating with this year.

Driving back and forth between schools, as well as the increase in students in my class sizes at those schools means that I will be teaching a much larger population of students, and have less time to plan lessons. Grading essays will be extremely difficult given the larger number of class sizes as well. It is difficult now to provide quality feedback to each and every one of my 120+ students now when they write essays and will become near impossible when class sizes increase.

The only job of the school system, and the most important job, is to deliver instruction to students. Everything else is extra. How can we provide the only thing needed (teaching students) when we have less teachers in each school, and more students in each class? Providing station activities, differentiated instruction, leveled activities, project-based learning, and clear, detailed feedback on student writing will become near impossible given class sizes that are any larger than they are now. Please reconsider where these budget cuts can come from, and think about the students and teachers.

Thank you,
Laura Swann

Laura Swann
LAURA_SWANN@hcps.org
10806 Beech Creek Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Katherine Copanic <KATHERINE_COPANIC@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size Matters

Council Members ,

Good afternoon,

I'll make this brief. We need the 5.9M restored to ensure class sizes do not increase. Class sizes have direct impact on instructional differentiation, space, classroom resources, the level of communication that can be done to home, and course offerings. I say this today as an educator in this county since 2006 and as a parent of children in our system.

Here are some articles to back up the importance of keeping class sizes lower:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/how-important-is-class-size-after-all/2011/07/11/gIQAgNUj9H_blog.html?utm_term=.24c064ed0831

<http://www2.ncte.org/statement/why-class-size-matters/>

Have a nice day,

Katherine Copanic

Teacher and Parent in HCPSS

Katherine Copanic

KATHERINE_COPANIC@hcpss.org

5008 Ravenhill Row

Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Wendy Cohen-Holbrook <wendy_cohen-holbrook@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS budget

Council Members ,

As a parent and a teacher, I urge you to restore the \$5.9 million dollars to our school system budget. Without these funds it will be an even more difficult challenge to provide my neediest students with the differentiated instruction they require. I work with English Language learners and students with special education needs who depend on me to accommodate the curriculum so they can access the academic content of their classes. My colleagues are already stressed by the increased demands of our instruction and the behaviors of students who don't get academic support at home. We promise so much to the families of Howard County but without financial support, I fear that we will be making empty promises. Our technology is a wonderful tool to support our students, but teachers are the most significant ingredient for a proficient education. Please consider this in making your decision.

Wendy Cohen-Holbrook
wendy_cohen-holbrook@hcpss.org
5941 Cedar Fern Court
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Todd Garner <todd_garner@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Bigger Classes, Bigger Gaps in Education

Council Members ,

Hello,

As an educator, I spend much of my time working with the neediest students. If this budget issue is not handled and class sizes increase, I will not be able to physically help the students in my room. It is hard enough as it already is to meet each students' needs. If you add on more people for me to be responsible for their learning, it will make my job too difficult of a task. Then, you're affecting morale and possibly losing great teachers due to job dissatisfaction. Support us teachers by funding the budget. Keep our schools great. Don't let our product get diluted.

Todd Garner
todd_garner@hcpss.org
7116 Millbury Ct
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathryn Menne <kathryn_bruning@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Increase in Class Size

Council Members ,

The class size increase will impact by ability to provide quality differentiated instruction for my students. Increased class size means that my reading groups will have to be larger, giving me limitations on how individualized my instruction can be. The increased class size will also make it more difficult for me to truly get to know my students as learners and to provide feedback to both the students and parents about their learning and progress. Please consider restoring the 5.9M to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible!

Thank you- Kathryn Menne

Kathryn Menne
kathryn_bruning@hcpss.org
1200 Schindler Drive
Silver Spring, Maryland 20903

Sayers, Margery

From: Amber Naden <Amber_Naden@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore class sizes

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

I am a teacher who is about to be surplussed this year. I taught Kindergarten in PG county for 13 years. This year was the first year I had fewer than 20 students. It made SUCH a difference with instruction. Every single one of my students is on grade level and 7 of them are reading at transitional levels. This could not have been achieved with a larger class size. Please restore class sizes. It is really one of the most important things for student achievement. In my old school, there would be years I had students entering with no English, zero letters and sounds and no prior knowledge. Years I had 23 students or more, it was very difficult to pull students up, but when the class size was small, I was able to show tremendous growth no matter what students came in with. Please use money from some other area. I'd rather be furloughed than have a larger class.

Sincerely,

Amber Naden

Amber Naden
Amber_Naden@hcpss.org
7856 Foxfarm Lane
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Sayers, Margery

From: Amanda Seigel <amanda_thompson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size

Council Members ,

I teach kindergarten in Howard County and am very upset by the idea that our class sizes may increase. There is so much research that says smaller class sizes allow for more individualized learning and attention for each student. The academic demands are already so high for even our youngest learners, and increasing the class sizes will only make meeting these standards harder to achieve. It is very difficult to give each students the attention they need and deserve with bigger classes (even as big as they are right now). If anything, we should be working to DECREASE class sizes to allow for more differentiated instruction in the classroom. Thank you.

Amanda Seigel
amanda_thompson@hcpss.org
2707 Debbie Court
Finksburg, Maryland 21048

Sayers, Margery

From: Katherine Chandler <katherine_chandler@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size

Council Members ,

Smaller class sizes are the one thing that research consistently states is the ONE thing that can be done to improve children's progress. Please continue to support our students! We have a great school system for a reason!

Katherine Chandler
katherine_chandler@hcpss.org
6714 Allview Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Garber <buzysusan23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:45 PM
To: CouncilMail; Glendenning, Craig
Subject: Budget work session: DRP concern

Good afternoon.

If I heard correctly during this morning's budget work session, the Director of the Dept. of Recreation and Parks is giving his authority to determine how Program Open Space Funds are used for park land acquisition over to the citizen committee asked to find land for High School #14 in Elkridge. Did I hear this correctly???

Isn't it time Howard County stopped non-transparently using DRP's access to Program Open Space funds for school site banking? Citizens from across the County are clearly demonstrating that they do NOT want to see recreational and park lands converted to school sites- commercial sites -or for residential development. (Rockburn - Guilford/King's Contrivance - Savage) You need to be aware that the State very purposefully is reshaping Program Open Space, directing jurisdictions to prioritize purchasing and preserving Targeted Environmental Areas (the "Best of the Best" sensitive environmental lands) so that acquisitions are based on science, not politics.

I urge you to reexamine this practice and commit to living up to Howard County's promoted green infrastructure endeavors. If Howard continues its practice of requesting conversion of state funded park land it threatens the County's future ability to acquire POS funds. As a Patuxent River Commission member warned at a recent meeting, Howard County could also jeopardize federal Land and Water Conservation Funds for the entire State of Maryland if it attempts a swap of lands unequal in recreational and market value.

Best regards,

Susan Garber

Sayers, Margery

From: Yakas Family <yakasfamily@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 9:52 AM
To: BOE@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan; mavis_ellis@hcpss.org
Subject: Old Schools

I grew up in Montgomery County, where schools are properly renovated in a timely manner. For example my childhood ES in Montgomery County was built in 1961, and was then gutted and renovated completely in 1994. In HoCo it seems that schools even built in the 1950s have yet to be renovated. I've just started realizing recently that it's unbelievable how old and outdated a lot of our schools are. We've been pushing for new schools, but the ones we have are crumbling.

My neighborhood school is St. Johns Lane ES. It was built in 1954. It is therefore, older than the year my childhood ES was built. Yet, St. Johns Lane ES is outdated, overcrowded and old. I know that over the years, portions of it have been redone or added on to--but that is not good enough. There are 7 pod classrooms. We need to refocus efforts into renovating and updating existing schools. St. Johns Lane is one of the oldest schools in the HoCo school system, therefore it really should be next in line for updates. Especially in light of the fact that you keep finding mold in certain areas of the schools.

I visited recently, and I was struck by the fact that the cafeteria was almost identical to the cafeteria of my childhood ES in 1985. Yet, if I were to go back to my childhood ES now, it's all updated. The County should be focusing on making room in existing schools. Build them up to accommodate more kids and to be more efficient. The population is exploding, yet in a lot of ways Howard County is not keeping up.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kristin Yakas

Sayers, Margery

From: Jahantab Siddiqui <Jahantab_Siddiqui@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 6:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Anissa Brown Dennis; Michael Martirano; Karalee Turner-Little; BoE Email
Subject: Talbott Springs Elementary School Project Planning Timeline
Attachments: Board Memo - Talbott Springs Elementary School Project Planning Timeline.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Councilmembers,

Dr. Martirano asked that we share the attached memorandum with you regarding Talbott Springs Elementary School. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Jahantab

Jahantab Siddiqui

Chief Communication, Community & Workforce Engagement Officer

Howard County Public School System

Office: [410-313-6680](tel:410-313-6680)

Cell: [443-355-7562](tel:443-355-7562)



April 5, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

Subject: Talbott Springs Elementary School Project Planning Timeline

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the timeline associated with the Talbott Springs Elementary School (TSES) project. On August 17, 2017, staff presented the TSES Feasibility Study to the Board of Education. The Board approved the project and directed staff to begin the planning process. The TSES project is listed as a replacement school in the FY18 Board Approved Capital Budget. The State requires that for replacement schools or schools involving major demolition, a feasibility study must be submitted and approved by the Designee's of the Interagency Committee (IAC).

Once a project (e.g., replacement, renovation or renovation/addition) receives initial approval by the Board in the capital budget, direction is given to staff to initiate the planning of the project. Staff continues to plan for the TSES replacement and advocate for State local planning approval and state funding at the replacement rate, until an alternative direction is approved by the Board.

For the TSES project, the following timeline occurred:

- **February 23, 2017** – FY 2018 Board of Education Requested Capital Budget listed TSES as a renovation project. A feasibility study is not required to be submitted to the State for a renovation project.
- **May 25, 2017** – FY 2018 Board of Education Approved Capital Budget shows TSES as a replacement project. As a replacement project, the State requires a feasibility study be submitted for review and approval. The change in project scope was the result of discussions between County Council and the Board of Education during the FY 2018 Operating and Capital Budget process.
- **August 17, 2017** – TSES Feasibility Study was presented to the Board of Education. At that time, staff advised the Board that the budget is subject to the State review of the TSES Feasibility Study.

- **September 13, 2017** – TSES Feasibility Study submitted for State review.
- **October 4, 2017** – HCPSS staff submitted the FY 2019 State Capital Budget request, which included a request for State Local Planning for the TSES replacement project. Construction funding was not requested in FY 2019 due to the lack of design progress. State Local Planning can be requested prior to or in the same year as a Construction Funding, depending on the design progress.
- **November 9, 2017** – Mr. Scott Washington, Director of School Construction, received the Capital Improvement Plan Issues Letter from Joan Schaefer, Deputy Director, Maryland Public School Construction Program (CIP). This letter is the result of the CIP review meeting with the State and identifies issues with the FY 2019 State Capital Improvement Program submittal. Staff was asked to provide additional information for multiple projects, including the TSES project and Feasibility Study.
- **November 27, 2017** – HCPSS staff submitted a response to the issues letter, which stated we will continue to coordinate with our state contact, Ms. Jillian Storms, regarding any concerns with the TSES Feasibility Study.
- **December 7, 2017** – Dr. Martirano presented testimony at the IAC Appeals on the TSES Replacement as well as other projects and concerns.
- **December 8, 2017** – The Designee’s for the IAC issued a letter stating they feel the Board’s decision of a replacement school for TSES is not justified and will not support funding the project at the replacement rate. (HCPSS received it via email on December 18, 2017)
- **December 20, 2017** – The December 20, 2017, IAC meeting agenda was posted on the IAC’s website with FY 2019 Designee funding recommendations. TSES Replacement received a “C” status, which meant that the project is “deferred, and not currently eligible for planning or funding approval based on unresolved issues.”
- **January 11, 2018** – HCPSS received communication from the Board of Public Works (BPW) that their annual appeal meeting was by invitation only. HCPSS and the Board did not appeal to the BPW at that time regarding TSES receiving a “C” status as this opportunity was not afforded to us.
- **January 26, 2018** – The BPW letter indicating approval of 75% of the proposed FY 2019 Capital Budget for public school construction was issued.
- **February 8, 2018** – HCPSS staff sent a letter requesting that the IAC Designees reconsider support for TSES replacement.

- **February 8, 2018** – Staff presented schematic design to the Board. The Board approved the schematic design as submitted.
- **February 8, 2018** – Staff presented a capital budget amendment to the Board. The revisions included an updated timeline and cash flow for the Hammond HS renovation/addition. Staff indicated we were working through the State’s issues on its lack of support for the TSES replacement.
- **February 28, 2018** – IAC recommendation of 90% of the proposed capital budget for public school construction was issued. TSES remained a “C” status.
- **March 2, 2018** – HCPSS staff sent a memorandum to the Board regarding the final decisions on the State Local Planning for the FY 2019 Capital Budget, including the lack of support for a TSES replacement.
- **March 29, 2018** – County Executive Proposed Capital Budget lists TSES as a renovation/addition.

Although the State will not support funding TSES at the replacement rate, they have indicated they may fund TSES at the renovation rate. State funding allocations for a renovation/addition at TSES can be applied toward a replacement. The Board may still choose to move forward with a replacement school, should local funding be available to cover the difference in cost.

In addition, there have been questions pertaining to the reconsideration (a.k.a. as appeal) letter. The letter that was sent to the Board on Wednesday, April 4 that was addressed to Fred Mason is the reconsideration letter. We have not received a response from Mr. Mason at this time.

HCPSS staff has verified with Public School Construction staff today that there is a Designees work session on April 11, 2018, and that the TSES reconsideration letter has been placed on the agenda for discussion. Please note, the Designee meetings are not public meetings. As a result, HCPSS was unaware that the April 11, 2018 meeting was scheduled.

The next steps include the following

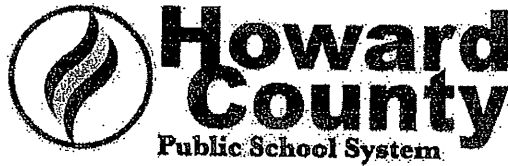
- Staff will continue to follow-up with the Designees on the issues identified in their letter, dated December 8, 2017.
- HCPSS staff will follow-up with the Public School Construction Program staff on April 12 to discuss results of the Designees meeting.
- HCPSS is able to request both State Local Planning and Construction funding (should planning have progressed sufficiently) in the FY 2020 State Capital Budget. This process starts July 1, 2018.

We have been asked what the community can do in support of TSES and what talking points can be shared. The community may advocate to the state for the reconsideration of

the replacement school by using the points from the HCPSS letter dated February 8, 2018.
(See Attachment.)

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Anissa Brown
Dennis, Chief Operating Officer.

Copy to: Executive Staff
Board of Education Office



February 8, 2018

Mr. Fred D. Mason III
MSDE School Facilities Branch Chief
Designee to the IAC
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Mason:

Thank you for your letter dated December 8, 2017 informing us of the Designee's decision on the Talbott Spring Elementary School – Replacement. We would like to respond to the reasons given for not supporting the Howard County Board of Education's (Board) decision to build a replacement.

- The replacement option is more expensive to construct and has a greater 40-year life cycle cost than the renovation/addition option.

The 40-year life cycle cost of replacement is higher due to the overall cost of the replacement option. The operation and maintenance of the new school is actually less than the renovation/addition option even though it is more square footage. One factor which adds to the overall replacement cost is the demolition of the existing building, and preparation of the play fields at this location.

- The replacement option does not reduce the construction schedule compared to the renovation/addition option.

The 27-month schedule for the replacement school allows the school to be occupied while the demolition of the existing school and site mitigation is completed; building occupancy would be approximately 6-8 months sooner than the renovation/addition. While Scheme 2 would be an occupied renovation, it will require the entire 27-month period to be fully completed with all areas of the building occupied.

- The renovation/addition option can, with more intense design effort, significantly address the limitations of the existing facility.

The renovation/addition option was developed as a feasible and comparative design for the feasibility study. The option is a viable layout given the existing building geometry and site limitations. As a conceptual layout for a renovation option, the plan would be further developed during the design process.

Mr. Fred D. Mason III

February 8, 2018

Page Two

- The proposed replacement facility is large for the student capacity of the school and greater in total area than the renovation/addition option. The replacement option provides 182 gsf per student for a 500 student capacity or 143 gsf per student for the proposed local enrollment of 640 students.

As stated, the current enrollment for this transient population is approximately 500 students. The replacement facility is being constructed for the local capacity of 535 students which would address changing enrollment numbers. In addition, immersion classrooms are designed for an additional 85 students. This provides the new school with a total local capacity of 620 students.

- The existing facility has had \$1,601,704 in state expenditures in the last 16 years, including a partial renovation in 2000 and 2008, a kindergarten addition in 2008, and several QZAB projects in the last 3 years. The facility received a "Good" overall rating in a 2013 PSCP Maintenance Evaluation. It scored 83.6% out of 100% in a 2008 facility appraisal by HCPSS consultants. The perception during the site visit is there is more life to the existing building, providing the partial height walls and open return air plenum are fully addressed.

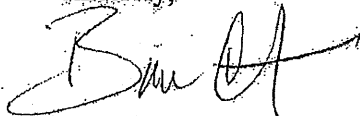
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As the design of the project continues we respectfully ask the Designees reconsider their decision and support the recommendation of a replacement school.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gist
Executive Director
Capital Planning and Operations

Cc: Anissa Brown Dennis
Scott Washington
Betsy Zentz
Gina Petrick
Renee Kamen

Sayers, Margery

From: Mike V <mvanghel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2018 10:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: In support of REPLACING Talbot Springs Elementary School

Hello,

Please note my concern over the proposed remodel of Talbot Springs Elementary, located in Columbia, MD, as detailed below in Oakland Mills Board of Directors Chairman Jonathan Edelson's letter.

I support replacing this building.

Thank you,
Mike Vanghel
9490 Battler Ct
Columbia MD, 21045

On March 29, the Oakland Mills Community Association learned through a review of the County Executive's Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Budget that the anticipated rebuild of Talbott Springs Elementary School in Oakland Mills is now funded as a four-year renovation and addition due to denial of state matching funds. This is shocking and devastating news to our community as officials have been telling us for the past year that a new Talbott Springs would be constructed, and plans were shared with the community in a meeting several weeks ago. Simultaneously, we learned that the county, which had already been celebrating a final decision on where to locate the new High School 13, will launch a taskforce to plan for its 14th high school.

That OMCA and the school's PTA only learned this through a read of the budget after county and school system officials repeatedly spoke on the record in support of a rebuild is incredibly disappointing. Moreover, the Talbott Springs Principal, who has spent many hours giving county and state officials tours of the inadequate facility, which has mold issues in addition to insufficient learning space, also only learned of this on the 29th.

We understand that the state's decision is being appealed, and we strongly urge you to do everything in your power to support funding the replacement for Talbott Springs Elementary. The school is approaching 50 years old and has its original air handling units, which have been sources of mold. These units are no longer in production and are patched together when repairs are needed. Talbott Springs also has 6 classrooms outside, and more students will be learning outside in trailers during the 4 years it will take to renovate the school, versus the rebuild plan which would have kept students in the old building while the new building was under construction, causing minimal disruption to the education of over 500 students.

Stop to think about this for a moment – this means that a child who is in kindergarten at TSES when the renovation starts will have to deal with learning disruptions, mid-year classroom moves, lack of fields and other space due to construction equipment and “off limits zones,” and all of the other inconveniences of a renovation until he or she is in third grade. Two-thirds of this child's entire elementary school education will be spent in a construction zone.

On August 17, 2017, the Director of School Construction presented the Talbott Springs Elementary School Feasibility Study to the Board of Education. This study looked at three options for the school: light renovations, major renovations and additions, and a new replacement school.

The study recommends a new replacement school. Among the reasons for this recommendation are:

- occupants of Talbott Springs ES will work, teach and learn, in a newly constructed building where all spaces will be constructed for their intended use. No spaces will be repurposed as in the renovation schemes;
- there will be virtually no disruption to the students educational spaces of Talbott Spring Elementary School during construction;
- replacement results in lower operating costs over the life of the school compared to the renovation schemes; and
- replacement allows the high performance school building to be used as a teaching tool to educate students, educators and community members about the benefits of energy efficiencies.

We are also very concerned that the needs of Oakland Mills children are being ignored while the school system and the county pursue other projects. Oakland Mills has the most economically-challenged student population in the county at every level: elementary, middle, and high school. Many of our children need greater support, yet at the elementary school level, they are learning in schools that do not have the capacity to house them in the main building. Talbott Springs became so overcrowded that children who live in a Howard County Housing Commission apartment complex directly next door to the school instead attend school nearly a mile away at Stevens Forest Elementary, which was renovated in 2012 and has its whole fourth grade in trailers due to crowding. At Talbott Springs, the core of the building has had only limited renovation to replace lighting, renovate restrooms, and build some low partition walls to try to reverse a very outdated open classroom learning environment, per the feasibility study. Many other schools have been built or thoroughly renovated since 1973, while Talbott Springs stood mostly untouched save for additions in the past 20 years just to bring it closer to par with other schools by providing a gymnasium and kindergarten classrooms.

In its current state, Talbott Springs must accommodate the whole fourth and fifth grades in portable classrooms outside of the school. It is hard to imagine how many more students will be displaced to relocatable classrooms during a renovation that is projected for completion in 2023. In a world where school safety is a high priority, having 150 students and many adults routinely transitioning between portable classrooms and the school building is not a long term logical option.

In addition to this shocking news about Talbott Springs, due to overdevelopment in other parts of the county, High School 13 has been fast-tracked and renovation and expansion of Hammond High School has been moved ahead of the Oakland Mills High renovation, even though Oakland Mills is an older school that will be used to ease overcrowding at other schools through the JumpStart program. Oakland Mills Middle School renovations were also pushed back to accelerate High School 13. All it takes is a quick glance at the exterior of Talbott Springs, Oakland Mills Middle, or Oakland Mills high to realize that these are nothing like the newer facilities other Howard County communities enjoy. A walk through the schools further reveals the disparity in facilities in Howard County.

OMCA feels there is systemic neglect of a community of nearly 10,000 Howard County residents and a school community that reaches well beyond the borders of Oakland Mills Village. While children in other communities are enjoying or looking forward to new, modern schools, our children and teachers are being forced to soldier on in outdated, insufficient facilities or to suffer through years of disruption while their school is renovated around them when it could and should be replaced with a new school as originally planned.

We demand a full and coordinated effort of our school Superintendent, Board of Education, County Council, County Executive, and State Delegation to ensure that Talbott Springs Elementary will be rebuilt. Children in Oakland Mills deserve clean, modern, fully functioning educational facilities just as all children throughout Howard County and the State of Maryland do. How can we tell our children that the new school they have been promised has been taken away and they will instead spend 4 years in a construction zone, when a new school could have been built in less time? How can we continue to tell children who live next door to an overcrowded school that they must instead walk through a commercial area to attend another crowded school nearly a mile away? The current condition of Talbott Springs and the years it has gone without major investment in the original building are also unacceptable and major contributors to the

need for an entirely new facility. Many Oakland Mills children face challenges that people don't expect to see in the third wealthiest county in the country. They should not face additional challenges because their schools are not properly prioritized.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Edelson,
Chairman Oakland Mills Board of Directors
Jledelson.omca@gmail.com
202-957-0000

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Vaillancourt <Cynthia_Vaillancourt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 3:47 PM
To: Terrasa, Jen; Sigaty, Mary Kay; CouncilMail
Cc: BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Anissa Brown Dennis; Karalee Turner-Little
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - RE: Talbott Springs Replacement School Correspondence

Hi Jen,

To date we do not have a response. This message was also sent to Ms. Brown Dennis, so I will be looking to her for the additional information you have requested.

We will get back to you.

Cindy V

From: Terrasa, Jen <jterrasa@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 7:15 PM
To: Cynthia Vaillancourt; Sigaty, Mary Kay; CouncilMail
Cc: BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Anissa Brown Dennis; Karalee Turner-Little
Subject: [BoE Email] - RE: Talbott Springs Replacement School Correspondence

Cindy,

Thank you for this information. I am glad to hear you are continuing to pursue funding for a replacement school. Did you ever get a response from Fred Mason, III? Is the letter to Mr. Mason that you attached to your email what is referred to as an appeal? If not, how can we find information about who you are appealing to and how the community can give input regarding the appeal?

Would someone from HCPSS be able give us a timeline and to tell us what the process is going forward/what are the next steps? When and by whom will the appeal be decided? How can the community get involved? It would be good to have this information to share with the many people who are contacting us about this.

All the best,
Jen

Jennifer Terrasa
Councilwoman, District 3
Howard County Council
Phone: (410) 313-2001
Email: JTerrasa@HowardCountyMD.gov

“Like” my page on [Facebook](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#)!

From: Cynthia Vaillancourt [mailto:Cynthia_Vaillancourt@hcpss.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 6:25 PM
To: Sigaty, Mary Kay <mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov>; CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Michael Martirano <Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org>; Anissa Brown Dennis

<Anissa_BrownDennis@hcpss.org>; Karalee Turner-Little <Karalee_TurnerLittle@hcpss.org>

Subject: Talbott Springs Replacement School Correspondence

Hi Mary Kay,

Some questions have come up about the status of the funding for the proposed replacement school for Talbott Springs Elementary. I am attaching the correspondence related to the denial of our initial request for funding, and our appeal. The Board's Capital Budget Request was for a replacement school. It continues to be the Board's position and desire to secure state funding for a replacement school. We are proceeding with planning for a renovation in the event we are unsuccessful in our appeal so that we will be able to proceed as quickly as possible either way. I am told it is common for the initial request to be denied. We will continue to pursue the funding for the replacement school.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either the Superintendent, or me.

Warm regards,

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Jen

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Phone: (410) 313-2001
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Subject: Talbott Springs Replacement School Correspondence
Attachments: Talbott Springs ES REPL Feasibility Study Review Ltr SIGNED.pdf; Letter to Designees Addressing TSES Concerns.app.pdf

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either the Superintendent, or me.

Warm regards,

Cindy Vaillancourt



STATE OF MARYLAND
PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM
200 W. BALTIMORE STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
410-767-0617

ROBERT A. GORRELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

KAREN SALMON, Ph.D.
CHAIRPERSON

December 8, 2017

Mr. Scott Washington
Director of School Construction
Howard County Public Schools
10910 Route 108
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

**Re: Talbott Springs Elementary School
Replacement – Feasibility Study
Locally-Funded**

Dear Mr. Washington:

The Designees for the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) have reviewed the Feasibility Study, received on September 13, 2017, for the replacement of Talbot Springs Elementary School. Additional information provided on September 25, 2017 and October 4, 2017 was considered as well as the outcome of a site visit on November 9, 2017 by Robert Gorrell, Public School Construction Program (PSCP), and Michael Bayer, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

According to the study, the 54,089 gross square feet (gsf) school was constructed in 1973 with additions and building renovations in both 2000 and 2008. The existing State Rated Capacity (SRC) of the school is 500 students with a current enrollment of 447 students. The proposed renovation/addition option demolishes 44,089 gsf, renovates the remainder of the facility, and constructs 33,581 gsf in additions. The replacement option, and the one Howard County Public Schools (HCPSS) plans to develop, demolishes the entire existing facility and constructs a new two-story 91,211 gsf elementary school on the 10 acre site. Both options are estimated to have a 27-month construction period. The study indicates that the replacement and renovation/addition solutions are for a 500 student capacity, although the estimated SRC is 638 students, based on the proposed number and type of teaching spaces.

The replacement school project was included in HCPSS's fiscal year 2019 (FY19) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as a local planning request for a revised State scope of 60,240 gsf of new construction and a proposed enrollment of 500 students. The local scope has a proposed area of 91,211 gsf new construction with a proposed enrollment of 640 students. The project is scheduled for bidding in November 2018 and occupancy in August 2021.

The Designees concluded at their meeting on November 16, 2017 to recommend funding the project on the basis of a renovation/addition, if and when it receives funding approval. Based on the information submitted, the Designees did not find compelling reasons in the feasibility study to support the demolition of the existing structure for the following reasons:

- The replacement option is more expensive to construct and has a greater 40-year life cycle cost than the renovation/addition option.

Mr. Scott Washington
Talbott Springs Elementary
December 8, 2017
Page 2

- The replacement option does not reduce the construction schedule compared to the renovation/addition option.
- The renovation/addition option can, with more intense design effort, significantly address the limitations of the existing facility.
- The proposed replacement facility is large for the student capacity of the school and greater in total area than the renovation/addition option. The replacement option provides 182 gsf per student for a 500 student capacity or 143 gsf per student for the proposed local enrollment of 640 students.
- The existing facility has had \$1,601,704 in state expenditures in the last 16 years, including a partial renovation in 2000 and 2008, a kindergarten addition in 2008, and several QZAB projects in the last 3 years. The facility received a "Good" overall rating in a 2013 PSCP Maintenance Evaluation. It scored 83.6% out of 100% in a 2008 facility appraisal by HCPSS consultants. The perception during the site visit is there is more life to the existing building, providing the partial height walls and open return air plenum are fully addressed.

The report does not show overriding limitations that would preclude continued use of the existing 1973 building. The building is in good condition, has solid finish materials, and presents some unique architectural features, such as high ceilings in some of the classrooms. The study includes at least one acceptable renovation/addition option, although we recommend this design layout be reexamined to absorb unnecessary corridors into the adjacent educational spaces and address the lack of window exposure for some of the classrooms. The Designees maintain that the local decision to build a replacement school is not justified, and consequently do not recommend the local planning approval and future funding of the project as a replacement facility.

We understand this project is proceeding as a locally-funded project. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff is available to work with you during the schematic design process or should the feasibility study be revised. If you or your staff has questions, please contact me at 410-767-0097 or fred.mason1@maryland.gov or Jillian Storms, MSDE School Facilities Architect, at 410-767-0615 or jillian.storms@maryland.gov and we will be happy to assist you.

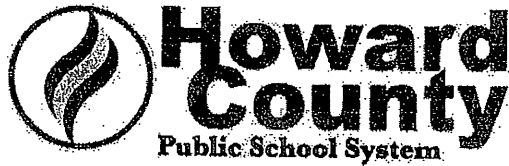
Sincerely,



Fred D. Mason III
MSDE School Facilities Branch Chief
Designee to the IAC

FM/js

c: Bruce Gist, HCPSS
Daniel Lubeley, HCPSS
Betsy Zentz, HCPSS
Arabia Davis, MDP
Robert A. Gorrell, PSCP
Joan Schaefer, PSCP
Mahmood Yahyai, PSCP/DGS
Michael Bayer, PSCP/MDP
Robyn Toth, TCA Architects



February 8, 2018

Mr. Fred D. Mason III
MSDE School Facilities Branch Chief
Designee to the IAC
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Mason:

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Mr. Fred D. Mason III

February 8, 2018

Page Two

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As stated, the current enrollment for this transient population is approximately 500 students. The replacement facility is being constructed for the local capacity of 535 students which would address changing enrollment numbers. In addition, immersion classrooms are designed for an additional 85 students. This provides the new school with a total local capacity of 620 students.

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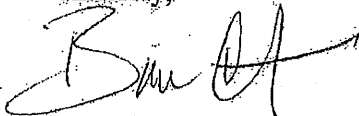
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As the design of the project continues we respectfully ask the Designees reconsider their decision and support the recommendation of a replacement school.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gist
Executive Director
Capital Planning and Operations

Cc: Anissa Brown Dennis
Scott Washington
Betsy Zentz
Gina Petrick
Renee Kamen

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Mahajan <jessica.mahajan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 7:40 AM
Cc: CouncilMail; guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us
Subject: Talbott Springs ES deserves the promised rebuild

Dear Senator Guzzone, Delegate Atterbeary, Delegate Turner, Delegate Pendergrass, County Executive Kittleman, County Council Members, Members of the HCPSS Board of Education, and Superintendent Martirano,

Talbott Springs Elementary School (TSES) desperately needs to be rebuilt. I am appalled that you are threatening not to follow through on the promise to rebuild this 50-year-old school.

The 2017 Feasibility Study on this school determined that the most economical and reasonable course of action was to rebuild the school, not renovate it. While other parts of the county have received brand new facilities, this school has remained almost untouched for 50 years! Light renovations here and there do not make it equitable to the quality of schools in other parts of the county. The HVAC system is woefully outdated, increasing the risk of mold, and too many children are learning in portable classrooms.

While Howard County plans to build its 13th high school, and starts making plans for the 14th to relieve overcrowding in another part of the county, Columbia elementary schools, particularly those in Oakland Mills, are continually pushed to the bottom of the list. My children attend Stevens Forest Elementary (SFES) which was immediately overcrowded after its last renovation due to overcrowding at TSES that pushed students that literally live next door to TSES into SFES. These students, ages 4-11, walk a mile across busy intersections with few crossing guards! TSES has six classrooms learning in trailers/portables and SFES has the entire Fourth Grade in trailers. During this current push for school safety, shouldn't getting children out of what should have been temporary classrooms be a priority?

A complete rebuild of TSES will be less disruptive to the students and staff than a renovation. A complete rebuild will relieve overcrowding at TSES and SFES. A complete rebuild will show that the County actually does care about Oakland Mills and the other aging parts of the county and are not just throwing money at the new shiny bits. Those of us who pay a lot of money, both list price and in taxes, to live in Columbia, and in the parts of Howard County that aren't brand new, were not part of the overbuild that led to overcrowding of high schools. Our students shouldn't be made to suffer while areas with new development get brand new facilities every few years. All of our Howard County schools are top notch, with quality educators, and all our students deserve quality learning environments.

For years now, the school system and county have put Oakland Mills schools at the bottom of the list for renovations and updates so that our buildings are now far behind the standards of others in the county and it's starting to feel like intentional neglect. Our students don't deserve to be on the bottom of the list year after year.

Talbott Springs Elementary School deserves the full rebuild that was promised. Please give them a quality learning environment comparable to that of the rest of the county and please make the safety of our young students a priority.

Sincerely,

Jessica Mahajan
SFES Parent and PTA Board Member
9471 Maera Court
Columbia, Maryland

Sayers, Margery

From: Mollie Nelson <mollie.nelson77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 8:05 PM
To: guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.uw; vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us; frank.turner@house.state.md.us; shane.pendergrass@house.state.md.us; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org; BOE@hcpss.org
Cc: Newstips_@baltimoresun.com; tips@patch.com
Subject: Concerned Parent from Talbott Springs Elementary School

To Senator Guzzone, Delegate Atterbeary, Delegate Turner, Delegate Pendergrass, County Executive Kittleman, County Council Members, Superintendent Martirano, and HCPSS Board of Education Members ~

It has recently come to the attention of the Oakland Mills Community that funds allocated toward the rebuilding of Talbott Springs Elementary School have been adjusted to a renovation. As parents of 2 children who attend Talbott Springs, this deeply concerns both myself and my husband. We are both current TSES PTA members and I have served as Secretary of the TSES PTA for the past 2 years. Talbott Springs is a wonderfully inclusive school with teachers, administrators and other staff who daily give our children an amazing education.

However, Talbott Springs is falling apart. In the last 2 years alone, we have seen numerous mold issues, busted water pipes and just this February, the heat system pumped 120 degree air into our cafeteria for a day while the kindergarten pod saw 90 degree air. Last week we had issues with the doors not locking properly. And to top it off, the school regularly has ants and mice. In a county that boasts one of the best public school systems in the country and was voted one of the richest counties in the U.S. in 2017 by Forbes, this is an unacceptable situation. As a community we are passionate about the education our children receive. We have fought long and hard for renovations throughout the years and have waited our turn. We are some of the oldest schools in the county, Talbott Springs ES being close to 50 years old!

In 2017, the Board of Education voted YES on the rebuild for Talbott Springs. Now we find ourselves fighting again for the same issue that was already voted for and funded. Now you are trying to take it away. The same way you have taken World Language out of our classrooms and fought to downgrade Pre-Kindergarten, effectively deteriorating equity throughout the school system. It seems to many in the community that as other schools are getting more and more, you are taking from the communities that have less to begin with. We are supposed to be diverse, inclusive and equal. Yet, Oakland Mills community consistently feels pushed aside in favor of other, more affluent villages.

This proposed new renovation also raises safety concerns for us. With police now being an integral part of our schools and safety/security of our children being a priority, we cannot continue to house 2 full grades in pods outside of a secured school. We cannot troop our children and staff in and out of the building every hour of every day and expect security not to be a concern. And to have a renovation happen while children are in the building?!?! Where will 5 grades plus pre-k go while this renovation is occurring? It is truly unsafe to have 4 year olds in a building that is under construction. Our children deserve to go to school under safe conditions. They deserve security!

Please, do not downgrade the rebuilding of Talbott Springs ES to a renovation. Our children deserve to go to a school where heating and air conditioning work, where water pipes do not burst and flood the cafeteria, and where rodents and insects do not run rampant. They deserve classrooms with windows (which not all rooms currently have)! This is also a safety issue.

On a personal note, this recent turn of events has caused my husband and I to take a hard look at why we chose to live here. Measures like this force us to consider whether we chose wrong, and should rectify that decision. Where do our tax dollars go? Why should our children suffer? Because we are Title 1??? Please,

come visit Talbott Springs and take look at our school for yourselves and you will see that Talbott Springs is in desperate need of a rebuild. Do not deny safety to the children of an Oakland Mills Community school.

Sincerely,
Mollie and Brenton Nelson

--
Mollie Nelson

Sayers, Margery

From: Mj Monck <mjmonck@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 11:18 AM
To: guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us; vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us; frank.turner@house.state.md.us; shane.pendergrass@house.state.md.us; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org
Subject: Talbott Springs

I have witnessed first hand what a renovation-in-place looks like. I substituted at Swansfield during the time of their renovation. It was horrendous. Years of movement. Kindergarteners having to walk for 10 minutes around the building to get to recess and then 10 minutes back for lunch. Packing and unpacking classrooms **in the middle of the year**. A sense of demoralization among the staff. Stacks of packed and unopened boxes staff had to rifle through to find assessments and other resources.

I was only there a few days yet I can imagine how it must have felt going through this for years.

It is not what our students and staff deserve and it is not what Talbott Springs should be asked to do.

I was at Talbott Springs when it was renovated over a summer many years ago. It was a lovely refresh of the building but it wasn't nearly enough. And it certainly isn't enough now.

Talbott Springs needs a NEW building.

Thank you.

Marijane Monck

Sayers, Margery

From: Erin Smart <erinmariesmart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 5:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reinstate funding for Talbott Springs Elementary Rebuild

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of my two daughters, Lily (8) and Joanna (5), and their classmates at Talbott Springs Elementary School. Our family, and our neighbors, were overjoyed last year when the Howard County School System announced that they would be fully rebuilding our local elementary school. In a county where zoning has created de facto racial and socioeconomic segregation, here was an attempt to begin redressing some of those wrongs.

Serving a population where roughly 50% of the students receive free and reduced meals, Talbott Springs has been a pilot for many county program, such as school-wide breakfast, a "Let's Rethink Lunch" initiative that brought a fresh fruit and vegetable bar (as well as increased menu choices), and a now-discontinued K-5 world languages program. These initiatives, in conjunction with a robust Title I program, have helped to communicate value to my daughters and their classmates. Our school is, indeed, the center of our community--in all the ways that a good school should be. Having a facility that could accommodate each child, and could potentially welcome back our neighbors in the adjacent apartment complex, was not simply needed; it was also deserved.

Imagine our dismay to discover that due to a denial of state matching funds, this long-overdue capital improvement project--touted by all our local and elected officials--had been reduced to a renovation. Meanwhile, construction of a new county high school has been fast-tracked. This seems like a bait and switch, not just to your constituents, but to all our children who have been awaiting construction to begin on their promised new school.

I urge you to uphold your duty to the residents of Oakland Mills. My daughters and their friends are counting on you.

Yours sincerely,

Erin M. Smart

Sayers, Margery

From: K Adams <umkmadams@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 5:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Talbott Springs Elementary School

I am very disappointed to hear that the funding for Talbott Springs Elementary School has been reduced, and the building is not planned to be replaced. The building has been documented over and over again to be inadequate with significant mold problems and inadequate instruction space. I urge you do to everything in your power to ensure that the TSES replacement plan continues to be implemented.

Thank you,

Katherine Adams

Sayers, Margery

From: Sandy Cederbaum <manager@oaklandmills.org>
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 12:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jonathan Edelson
Subject: Talbott Springs Elementary School_renovation funding_URGENT
Attachments: Talbott Spring ES_ New Construction Funding_OMCA_30mar18.pdf

Please see the attached letter from Oakland Mills Board of Directors Chair, Jonathan Edelson. We are extremely concerned about the potential lack of state matching funds for the complete rebuild of Talbott Springs Elementary School.

Your attention to and assistance with this important matter is greatly appreciated.

Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager

Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn ~ 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045
Office: 410-730-4610
fax: 410-730-4620

<http://oaklandmills.org> – follow link on right of web homepage to JOIN OUR LISTSERV
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Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045

410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org



March 30, 2018

Senator Guy Guzzone
Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
Delegate Shane Pendergrass
Delegate Frank Turner
James Senate Office Building, Room 121
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

County Executive Allan Kittleman
Councilman Calvin Ball
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Senator Guzzone and Delegates Atterbeary, Pendergrass, and Turner,
County Executive Kittleman and Councilmembers Sigaty, Ball, Fox, Terrasa, and Weinstein:

On March 29, the Oakland Mills Community Association learned through a review of the County Executive's Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Budget that the anticipated rebuild of Talbott Springs Elementary School in Oakland Mills is now funded as a four-year renovation and addition due to denial of state matching funds. This is shocking and devastating news to our community as officials have been telling us for the past year that a new Talbott Springs would be constructed, and plans were shared with the community in a meeting several weeks ago. Simultaneously, we learned that the county, which had already been celebrating a final decision on where to locate the new High School 13, will launch a taskforce to plan for its 14th high school.

That OMCA and the school's PTA only learned this through a read of the budget after county and school system officials repeatedly spoke on the record in support of a rebuild is incredibly disappointing. Moreover, the Talbott Springs Principal, who has spent many hours giving county and state officials tours of the inadequate facility, which has mold issues in addition to insufficient learning space, also only learned of this on the 29th.

We understand that the state's decision is being appealed, and we strongly urge you to do everything in your power to support funding the replacement for Talbott Springs Elementary. The school is approaching 50 years old and has its original air handling units, which have been sources of mold. These units are no longer in production and are patched together when repairs are needed. Talbott Springs also has 6 classrooms outside, and more students will be learning outside in trailers during the 4 years it will take to renovate the school, versus the rebuild plan which would have kept students in the old building while the new building was under construction, causing minimal disruption to the education of over 500 students.

Stop to think about this for a moment – this means that a child who is in kindergarten at TSES when the renovation starts will have to deal with learning disruptions, mid-year classroom moves, lack of fields and other space due to construction equipment and “off limits zones,” and all of the other inconveniences of a renovation until he or she is in third grade. Two-thirds of this child's entire elementary school education spent in a construction zone.

On August 17, 2017, the Director of School Construction presented the Talbott Springs Elementary School Feasibility Study to the Board of Education. This study looked at three options for the school: light renovations, major renovations and additions, and a new replacement school. The study recommends a new replacement school.

Among the reasons for this recommendation are:

- occupants of Talbott Springs ES will work, teach and learn, in a newly constructed building where all spaces will be constructed for their intended use. No spaces will be repurposed as in the renovation schemes;
- there will be virtually no disruption to the students educational spaces of Talbott Spring Elementary School during construction;
- replacement results in lower operating costs over the life of the school compared to the renovation schemes; and
- replacement allows the high performance school building to be used as a teaching tool to educate students, educators and community members about the benefits of energy efficiencies.

We are also very concerned that the needs of Oakland Mills children are being ignored while the school system and the county pursue other projects. Oakland Mills has the most economically-challenged student population in the county at every level: elementary, middle, and high school. Many of our children need greater support, yet at the elementary school level, they are learning in schools that do not have the capacity to house them in the main building. Talbott Springs became so overcrowded that children who live in a Howard County Housing Commission apartment complex **directly next door to the school** instead attend school nearly a mile away at Stevens Forest Elementary, which was renovated in 2012 and has its whole fourth grade in trailers due to crowding. At Talbott Springs, the core of the building has had only limited renovation to replace lighting, renovate restrooms, and build some low partition walls to try to reverse a very outdated open classroom learning environment, per the feasibility study. Many other schools have been built or thoroughly renovated since 1973, while Talbott Springs stood mostly untouched save for additions in the past 20 years just to bring it closer to par with other schools by providing a gymnasium and kindergarten classrooms.

In its current state, Talbott Springs must accommodate the whole fourth and fifth grades in portable classrooms outside of the school. It is hard to imagine how many more students will be displaced to relocatable classrooms during a renovation that is projected for completion in 2023. In a world where school safety is a high priority, having 150 students and many adults routinely transitioning between portable classrooms and the school building is not a long term logical option.

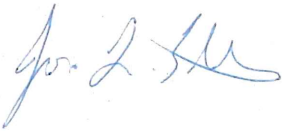
In addition to this shocking news about Talbott Springs, due to overdevelopment in other parts of the county, High School 13 has been fast-tracked and renovation and expansion of Hammond High School has been moved ahead of the Oakland Mills High renovation, even though Oakland Mills is an older school that will be used to ease overcrowding at other schools through the JumpStart program. Oakland Mills Middle School renovations were also pushed back to accelerate High School 13. All it takes is a quick glance at the exterior of Talbott Springs, Oakland Mills Middle, or Oakland Mills high to realize that these are nothing like the newer facilities other Howard County communities enjoy. A walk through the schools further reveals the disparity in facilities in Howard County.

OMCA feels there is systemic neglect of a community of nearly 10,000 Howard County residents and a school community that reaches well beyond the borders of Oakland Mills Village. While children in other communities are enjoying or looking forward to new, modern schools, our children and teachers are being forced to soldier

on in outdated, insufficient facilities or to suffer through years of disruption while their school is renovated around them when it could and should be replaced with a new school as originally planned.

We demand a full and coordinated effort of our school Superintendent, Board of Education, County Council, County Executive, and State Delegation to ensure that Talbott Springs Elementary will be rebuilt. Children in Oakland Mills deserve clean, modern, fully functioning educational facilities just as all children throughout Howard County and the State of Maryland do. How can we tell our children that the new school they have been promised has been taken away and they will instead spend 4 years in a construction zone, when a new school could have been built in less time? How can we continue to tell children who live next door to an overcrowded school that they must instead walk through a commercial area to attend another crowded school nearly a mile away? The current condition of Talbott Springs and the years it has gone without major investment in the original building are also unacceptable and major contributors to the need for an entirely new facility. Many Oakland Mills children face challenges that people don't expect to see in the third wealthiest county in the country. They should not face additional challenges because their schools are not properly prioritized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon. L. Edelson".

Jonathan Edelson, Chairman
Oakland Mills Board of Directors
Jledelson.omca@gmail.com 202-957-0000

Cc: Dr. Michael Martirano, Interim Superintendent, HCPSS
Members of the Board of Education, HCPSS
Ms. Diane Wilson, Chief of Staff to Howard County Executive

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Benavides <benans@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 4:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: ATTENTION- Concern for Centennial High School

Dear County Council:

As a concerned parent of two current Centennial High School students (and of a third, recent CHS graduate), I am writing to ask that a serious look be taken at the growing demands on our highly desirable school system, particularly Centennial High School, during the current budget process. In light of Centennial's overcrowding and understaffing, and the declining physical state of our 41 year old building, Centennial parents are concerned that the school system and the County have neither an equitable approach for distributing current resources nor a cohesive long-term plan for renovating and maintaining our older schools and building new schools.

Centennial High School is the second largest high school in the county and is currently 22.9% over its stated capacity of 1320 students. Already, Centennial has registered 1618 students for 2018/2019 school year, the same number we had for this school year. That is 300 students over capacity. History shows that this number will rise by approx. 60 students prior to the beginning of the school year. Furthermore, that number will likely increase once school starts; last year CHS had over 90 students register during the school year.

Not only has this overcrowding made using a locker impossible due to the sea of student traffic in the hallways, required students to stand and eat their lunch due to lack of seats in the cafeteria, and eliminated indoor pep rallies and school-wide assemblies because the gym can not hold even half our student body – this overcrowding has necessitated that 13 of Centennial's teachers "float" and 145 sections of classes at our high-performing school have 33 or more students per class. The recently approved 34:1 student-teacher cap is already being hit by some classes at Centennial, and with the 4.2 staffing positions that we are slated to lose for the 2018/2019 school year, CHS will have many sections of classes that exceed this new cap. Proper staffing has been an issue at Centennial for years. Despite steady enrollment increases, Centennial has not received "equitable" staffing. In fact, for this current 2017/2018 school year, Centennial did not receive ANY staffing for its core academic classes even though enrollment increased by more than 100 students.

In addition to being understaffed, Centennial is also "under-equipped" from a technology standpoint. The number of school computers is woefully deficient; we have only 28 computers per computer science class and yet the new class size is 34. Furthermore, the computers are embarrassingly out of date, crashing often and taking over 7 minutes to boot up.

Centennial High school is 41 years old, and we are in desperate need of a complete systemic renovation to replace the aging heating and cooling systems, upgrade the plumbing and electrical systems, supply new data technology and security systems, provide new interior finishes throughout the building, create ADA accessibility compliance throughout, repartition select areas of the school, and construct building additions as necessary to fulfill program deficiencies. The temperature in our classrooms fluctuates greatly and parts of our system are so rusted the facilities personnel have a difficult time making any adjustments. We only have a 2-pipe system, so unlike other schools in the county, our chiller cannot be turned on during the winter because it is so old facilities personnel are afraid it will freeze. Furthermore, we are the only high school in the county that does not have easily accessible outdoor bathrooms or drains in our field concession stand. We must empty buckets of water in order to use our concession stand sink.

The County has recently fast-tracked the renovation of Hammond High School (which is the same age and footprint as Centennial) citing over-crowding. Yet, Hammond has 300 fewer students than Centennial! Centennial's

renovation was originally on the 2020 capital improvement budget and is no longer on ANY capital improvement budget through 2028. As a 41-year-old school that is more than 20% over capacity, it makes no sense that Centennial is being bypassed for renovations. This lack of equity is highly concerning.

As a Centennial parent, I am concerned that the school system and the County do not have a cohesive long-term plan for renovating and maintaining our older schools and building new schools. The quality of our school system is such an asset to Howard County and a big reason why people move here. Unfortunately, this popularity has led to rising numbers of students, putting a large strain on the system. Builders who wish to develop in Howard County should have to pay for the burden it will place on our school infrastructure. Developers in Howard County pay far less than those in neighboring Montgomery County. For Centennial High School, the new subdivision of Centennial Overlook added 100 new homes to an already overpopulated district. To date, 77 students from that development are enrolled in the Centennial district, 60 of which are at the elementary school level. As these young families grow, so will the enrollments at our schools.

Howard County is a wonderful place to live and a great place to raise our children. The education our students receive cannot be topped. However, the environment in which our Centennial students are forced to exist day in and day out needs to be addressed. The class sizes are too high, the school building needs major repairs, and the equipment desperately needs updating. Please consider our Centennial students when devising a feasible plan to fund all school renovations and needed upgrades. The mental health, safety and security of our students and teaching staff depend on it.

Kind Regards,

Susy Benavides
443-996-6673

Sayers, Margery

From: Michelle Dunwoody <mdunwoody@bop.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 5:05 PM
To: BOE@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Subject: Concern with Centennial High School - Inequity

Mr. Martirano, Mr. Kittleman, County Council and BOE,

I'm a PTSA officer (PTSA 2nd Vice President) for Centennial High School and I'm concerned with the inequity being demonstrated in CHS vs the rest of the county. It has come to my attention that because the students in our school are high achieving, they're not being provided with the same amount or quality of resources being afforded other schools. I'm writing to request that CHS be given at least the same amount of resources; if not more, as our school is overcrowded. I'm simply asking for equity. I've outlined below a few of my concerns which are shared with other parents, staff, and administrators from Centennial High School. If we want to continue to be a leader within the county, I ask that you plan to address all of the issues below.

CAPACITY AND OVERCROWDING

- Centennial is the second largest high school in the county. We are 22.9% over our stated capacity of 1320 students.
- Centennial has already registered 1618 students for classes, the same number we had for 2017/2018 school year. History shows that this number will most likely rise by 50 students prior to the beginning of the school year. Additionally, last year we had over 90 students register during the school year.
- We are currently just shy of 300 students over our stated capacity of 1320.
- We currently have 13 floating teachers and 145 sections of classes with 33 or more students per class.
- With the number of teachers our principal is being asked to surplus, Centennial will have many sections with a student to teacher ratio in excess of the recently approved 1 to 34 cap.
- Not only do we need more space, but we also need more teachers.
- We do not have the room in our gymnasium to hold even half of our students, so we cannot have any indoor pep rallies.

CONDITION OF SCHOOL BUILDING:

- Centennial High school is 41 years old.
- We are in desperate need of a complete systemic renovation to replace the aging heating and cooling systems, upgrade the plumbing and electrical systems, supply new data technology and security systems, provide new interior finishes throughout the building, create ADA accessibility compliance throughout, repartition select areas of the school, and construct building additions as necessary to fulfill program deficiencies.
- The temperatures in our classrooms fluctuate greatly and parts of our system are so rusted the facilities personnel have a difficult time making any adjustments.
- We only have a 2 pipe system so unlike other schools in the county, our chiller cannot be turned on during the winter because it is so old facilities personnel are afraid it will freeze.

- We are the only high school in the county that does not have easily accessible outdoor bathrooms or drains in our field concession stand. We must empty buckets of water in order to use our concession stand sink.
- The number of school computers is woefully deficient, and the computers are embarrassingly out of date.

INCREASED BUDGET TO FUND NECESSARY MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO AGING BUILDINGS

- The Centennial parents are concerned that the school system and the County do not have a cohesive long-term plan for renovating and maintaining our older schools and building new schools.
- The school system is the bread and butter of the county and the reason people move here, thereby increasing property values.
- The rising number of students is putting a large strain on the system.
- Builders who wish to develop in this county should have to pay for the burden it will place on our school infrastructure.
- Developers in Howard County pay far less than those in Montgomery County.
- Centennial Overlook added 100 new homes to an already overpopulated school district. To date, 77 students from that development are enrolled in the Centennial district, 60 of which are at the elementary school level, which means these are young families will, in all likelihood, have additional children.
- Howard County is a wonderful place to live and a great place to raise our children and the education our students receive cannot be topped, but the environment in which many of our students are forced to exist day in and day out needs to be addressed.
- The class sizes are too high, the school buildings need major repairs and the equipment desperately needs updating.

I am asking you as part of this year's budget process to take a serious look at the growing demands of this highly desirable school system and devise a feasible plan to fund all renovations and upgrades currently necessary, as well as build new schools, to meet our county's growing need in a timely manner. The education, safety and security of our students depends on it.

Thanks,
Michelle

Michelle E. Dunwoody, MS, BSN, WHNP-BC
Rear Admiral, US Public Health Service
Assistant Surgeon General
Chief Nurse
Health Services Division
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 1st St. NW, Rm 400
Washington, DC 20534
Office: 202.616-1965

***Treat employees like they make a difference and they will!
**If you aren't at the table, you're on the menu...*



"This message is intended for official use and may contain SENSITIVE information. If this message contains SENSITIVE information, it should be properly delivered, labeled, stored, and disposed of according to policy."

Sayers, Margery

From: Yujun Mao <maoyujun@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2018 11:51 PM
To: allan_kittleman@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org; BOE@hcpss.org
Subject: Centennial High School Concerns

Dear Executive Kittleman, Superintendent Martirano,

My name is Yujun Mao. A proud mother of two Centennial high school students. A Centennial High School two terms of PTSA BOD member.

It was great pleasure that I actually met and spoke to both of you by chance.

I met and spoke to Mr. Kittleman last May when you presented the Howard County Political Science Award of 2017 to my daughter. Thank you, Mr. Kittleman!

I met and spoke to Mr. Martirano this February 23 at Centennial High School Chinese New Year dumpling luncheon. Thank you Mr. Martirano for showing up and enjoy the delicious dumplings.

My whole family love and care our CHS community, we want our kids be sound and safe at school. I do have the following concerns, please take your time to read.

CAPACITY AND OVERCROWDING

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- We are currently just shy of 300 students over our stated capacity of 1320. The County's Jump Start program did nothing to resolve our over-crowding issues.
- We currently have 13 floating teachers and 145 sections of classes with 33 or more students per class.
- With the number of teachers our principal is being asked to surplus, Centennial will have many sections with a student to teacher ratio in excess of the recently approved 1 to 34 cap.
- Not only do we need more space, but we also need more teachers. We are slated to lose 4.2 staffing positions this upcoming year. This is not uncommon. Even though our enrollment increases Centennial does not receive the proper staffing. By way of example, for this current 2017/2018 school year, Centennial did not receive any staffing for its core academic classes for even though we have 100 more students from the previous year.
- We do not have the room in our gymnasium to hold even half of our students, so we cannot have any indoor pep rallies.
- Our Cafeteria is overcrowded and students often have to stand to eat their lunch.

CONDITION OF SCHOOL BUILDING:

- Centennial High school is 41 years old.
- We are in desperate need of a complete systemic renovation to replace the aging heating and cooling systems, upgrade the plumbing and electrical systems, supply new data technology and security systems, provide new interior finishes throughout the building, create ADA accessibility compliance throughout, repartition select areas of the school, and construct building additions as necessary to fulfill program deficiencies.
- The county has recently fast-tracked the renovation for Hammond High School which is the same age and footprint as Centennial due to over-crowding and yet they have 300 less students than Centennial which was originally on the 2020 capital improvement budget and is no longer on any capital improvement budget through 2028.
- The temperatures in our classrooms fluctuate greatly and parts of our system are so rusted the facilities personnel have a difficult time making any adjustments.
- We only have a 2 pipe system so unlike other schools in the county, our chiller cannot be turned on during the winter because it is so old facilities personnel are afraid it will freeze.
- We are the only high school in the county that does not have easily accessible outdoor bathrooms or drains in our field concession stand. We must empty buckets of water in order to use our concession stand sink.
- The number of school computers is woefully deficient, and the computers are embarrassingly out of date. We have only 28 computers per computer science class and yet the new class size is 34. Moreover, the computers we do have take over 7 minutes to boot up, a good indicator of exactly how old they are.
- We are out of space in our cafeteria and often have students standing to eat their lunches.

INCREASED BUDGET TO FUND NECESSARY MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO AGING BUILDINGS

- The Centennial parents are concerned that the school system and the County do not have a cohesive long-term plan for renovating and maintaining our older schools and building new schools.
- The school system is the bread and butter of the county and the reason people move here, thereby increasing property values.
- The rising number of students is putting a large strain on the system.
- Builders who wish to develop in this county should have to pay for the burden it will place on our school infrastructure.
- Developers in Howard County pay far less than those in Montgomery County.
- Centennial Overlook added 100 new homes to an already overpopulated school district. To date, 77 students from that development are enrolled in the Centennial district, 60 of which are at the elementary school level, which means these are young families will, in all likelihood, have additional children.
- Howard County is a wonderful place to live and a great place to raise our children and the education our students receive cannot be topped, but the environment in which many of our students are forced to exist day in and day out needs to be addressed.
- The class sizes are too high, the school buildings need major repairs and the equipment desperately needs updating.

I am asking you as part of this budget process to take a serious look at the growing demands of this highly desirable school system and accept responsibility for devising a feasible plan to fund all renovations and upgrades currently necessary, as well as build new schools, to meet our county's growing need in a timely manner. The mental health, safety and security of our students and teaching staff depends on it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Yujun Mao

Sayers, Margery

From: Temrah Okonski <okonskitg@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2018 10:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: About CHS- from a parent

3-24-18

Okonski
2 Students at CHS

To: The Howard County Council

I am writing as I am a concerned parent, and though I love and appreciate the HCPSS, I don't believe that CHS is being treated in an equitable way.

I do believe that CHS excels because motivated and hard-working families move into the CHS district because they want their kids to have the best. My family methodically chose a HS we respected and waited for one year to move into a house that was in the CHS school district.

Teachers love teaching at CHS because the students are inspiring. Why are the CHS students hard working, focused, respectful, and why do they succeed? Because we their parents are working to support them, encourage them, spend money on tutoring when needed, and helping expose them to all kinds of opportunities. Personally I am 100% exhausted.

So when I hear that school's whose performance scores are less than those at CHS are getting more than CHS in terms of renovations and teacher support I am **infuriated, disheartened, and confused.**

I do believe that all Howard County students deserve the right to excel but not at the expense of the staff, students, or parents of CHS. We deserve every modern amenity that any of our neighboring schools receive!

I understand that the underlying issue is money. Nonetheless, school renovation and student-teacher ratios MUST be EQUITABLE. Below are the issues I find most egregious:

- We are 22.9% over our stated capacity of 1320 students.
- We currently have 145 sections of classes with 33 or more students per class.
- We are slated to lose 4.2 staffing positions this upcoming year while our enrollment continues to increase.
- Centennial High school is 41 years old and we are in desperate need of renovations, and we are not earmarked for any capital improvements through 2028.
- Our technology is woefully out of date. We have only 28 computers per computer science class and yet the new class size is 34. Moreover, the computers we do have take over 7 minutes to boot up, a good indicator of exactly how old they are.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LISTENING EARS. I have confidence that you will help those empowered to make equitable and safe changes take the right action.

T. Okonski

Sayers, Margery

From: Keith & Maura Dunnigan <dunniganzoo@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 9:11 AM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Support and Fully Fund HCPSS
Attachments: Document6.docx

Dear County Executive Kittleman and County Council Members,

Attached is my testimony from last evening. While it was heartening to see so many people advocating for important programs in our county, I couldn't help but think who wasn't in the room. Not because they don't wholeheartedly support and want funding, but because they are working, taking care of their families, and some not even realizing the drastic effect that underfunding has on their family/community. I can personally attest to when there are long waiting periods at FIRN and not enough attorneys and trained personal for outreach, it devastates people's future. I think the point was well taken from so many giving testimony. How is it that in one of the richest counties in the country we are having to beg for services to educate our children equitably and provide relief for marginalized families living in poverty? We can and should do better. The disparities between the have's and have not's is only deepening and it's disintegrating our social contact to be responsive neighbors and caring human beings.

We look to our elected officials to ensure that our spending reflects our community values. Our revenue creation should reflect that as well. Thank you for all your service to our community.

With appreciation,
Maura Dunnigan

4808 Woodshire Garth
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Good evening, my name is Maura Dunnigan. I am a parent of 5 children in or graduated from the Howard county Public School System. I am a former special education teacher and as an educator who continues to work with vulnerable students, I want to first thank all the people who testified on behalf of minority and economically disadvantaged children. Keep amplifying those voices.

Equity, inclusion, diversity.

It seems like these are buzz words that we see on every bumper sticker, tagline, and stump speech.

These are foundational values of our school system and community. Yet in a divisive climate where bullying, hate crimes, and vitriol are pervasive.... The essential staffing requests from hcpss and the office of diversity, equity and inclusion have been cut. I am asking that we recognize and support this office with not just a buzzword, but because this is meaningful work that not only impacts our students but ripples out into our community climate.

You don't have to be paying close attention to have heard about the bullying that goes on, the incidents of racism that aren't just the ones that blow up on social media... but the ones that happen every day, like sharp paper cuts to our students of color. The school to prison pipeline that is all too real across our country. Look at the data and see the disconnect in who is teaching in the classroom and the faces of our students. Representation matters. It matters when kids see themselves in the curriculum. When they can relate to one another and understand that they are valued by each other, their school and community.

We are tasking this office to work on things like the opportunity gap, disparities in discipline practices, examining bias and eliminating hostilities that have been simmering for years yet keep bubbling to the surface in the ugliest of ways.

We cannot expect to build capacity for this work without resources. Can you imagine taking on the equity issues of an entire school system with a team of just 3? Training and supporting over 8 thousand teachers and staff? Facilitating meaningful dialogues with 56 thousand students and hoping that they will somehow connect and understand each other?

And yet they hear feedback from teachers like, “thank you for filling in gaps in history, that I had never learned, that led to systemic and structural inequities.” It gives perspective and context. Or from an African American teacher, one of few people of color who teach in the building, expressing how belonging and being valued is important, yet difficult and how that is magnified for students on the margins.

From students, saying that it meant so much to tell their story and be heard by classmates and teachers. This trust had to be developed to tackle problems.

Think these positions don't directly affect students? Look around. Look at someone with a different colored tshirt, who might not share your same views. What if we stopped this meeting right now and spent time telling each other our stories, explaining our lived experiences, who we are? It's harder to hate up close, or judge, bully, and disempower when we get to know each other. These are restorative practices that hcps is facilitating. It is proactive community building, not reactive band aids to trauma.

Strong relationships are a security measure, not armed guards or metal detectors. Otherizing is toxic to our kids, schools and communities. We are thankful to have a superintendent that recognizes and values this and we ask support to fully fund hcps and restore positions in the office of diversity, equity and inclusion.

We need to fund our priorities, not empty buzzwords.

Sayers, Margery

From: Kelly Balchunas <usf1998@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2018 9:25 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Public testimony at county executive budget meeting, 3/8
Attachments: CE budget testimony 2018-03-08.docx

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

I signed up online to provide testimony at tonight's budget meeting. I did not submit testimony online when I signed up as I did not know at the time what I intended to say.

But as I sit here tonight and the night wears on, I find that I cannot stay as less than half of those that signed up to testify have spoken. I have young kids and my husband tells me that they are waiting up for me.

Please see attached my testimony that I planned to provide tonight. As you can see in my written testimony, I find it hard to do what is "right" by my family by being with them, or being here.

Funding for HCPSS is so critical. I counted 5 teachers from my school alone tonight who are in the room. I fear that my written testimony carries less weight than my speaking in person but 137 people speaking is, at a minimum, 137 minutes x 3.

I thank you in advance for your understanding.

Sincerely,
Kelly Balchunas
President, Waverly Elementary School PTA

Good evening.

My name is Kelly Balchunas and I'm here tonight to advocate for every citizen of Howard County as I ask you to not only fully fund the budget request submitted to you by HCPSS but to also fund HCPSS above what has been asked for in their very bare-bones budget for the coming school year. Attending meetings is unfortunately becoming a more frequent necessity for me, and one that I don't particularly enjoy. Being here advocating for Howard County citizens, and especially Howard County children, means I am making a difficult choice.

Increasingly, I find myself having to choose between doing what's right for my family today – reading bedtime stories with my kids and kissing them goodnight – or doing what's right for my family in the future – attending meetings that take me away from my kids to fight for the education funding they deserve and need. It's overwhelming and exhausting for me, and for them.

I shouldn't have to detail why funding for HCPSS needs to be this county's top priority – YOUR top priority. But just in case I do, I will run through some reasons:

1. HCPSS is THE economic engine of Howard County. While the county government might like to think it is our beautiful parks, or the proximity to Baltimore and Washington, or other "quality of life" measures, people come to Howard County to enroll their children in the public school system, which has a REPUTATION for excellence.

2. The REPUTATION of HCPSS makes the county highly desirable for developers to build thousands of expensive new homes, which people are happy to purchase BECAUSE THEY THINK THEIR CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION.
3. The REPUTATION of HCPSS provides long-term Howard County citizens with a valuable asset, as residents sell plots of their land or their homes to people who are happy to make this purchase BECAUSE THEY THINK THEIR CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION.

As a parent and as a PTA President who is able to spend a lot of time in school, the actual REALITY is HCPSS isn't holding up to its reputation. And this is a problem. Each and every year I have seen teachers, students, and the school deal with unnecessary funding concerns that are negatively affecting HCPSS. And therefore, negatively impacting every Howard County citizen and every Howard County child. As an example, just today an HCPSS teacher said the following: "For the first time in my 17 year career in this county, teachers are going to lose their jobs. There aren't going to be enough vacancies for all the surpluses, and our young, non-tenured teachers are the most vulnerable. Teachers who remain will be asked to do even more with even less."

DOING MORE WITH LESS. TEACHERS ARE DOING IT. STUDENTS ARE DOING IT. IT IS NOT EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION. IT IS REALITY NOT HOLDING UP TO REPUTATION. IT IS,

HOWEVER, INCREASING CLASS SIZES FOR THE 3RD TIME IN 3 YEARS. IT IS TAKING A GIANT BACKWARD STEP BY ELIMINATING WORLD LANGUAGE FROM THE CURRICULUM.

The Spending Affordability Committee that was commissioned under your administration recently reported that Howard County has a revenue concern. But Howard County general fund revenue exceeded projections by \$59M in 2016, and \$29M in 2017. How was the surplus spent in those two years?

Wait until people decide that their children will receive just as good of an education in Sykesville, or Olney, or Frederick County, or Severna Park, all which have arguably tantamount “quality of life” measures and proximity to Baltimore and Washington. Many people moving here are highly mobile due to their education and careers. Howard County is their destination because of the school system.

But I have spent quite a bit of time recently looking into schools in neighboring areas and their standards and data and outcomes are comparable to that of Howard County public schools. If I’m doing the research, so are others. This is not hyperbole.

HCPSS says education funding has decreased 4% over the last decade – obviously this spans your administration as well as prior administrations. Your administration claims in some instances that education funding has held steady and claims in other instances that it has

increased. Data included in my submitted testimony demonstrate clearly that HCPSS funding was 56% of the overall county budget in 2012 and is only 52% of the overall county budget in 2018. If the portion of the overall county budget dedicated to HCPSS was still 56% instead of 52%, the school system would have \$43.9M more today.

I don't care whose statement is "right" regarding education funding. In fact, very few people do. Nobody has to be "right". But what is right is, funding HCPSS – and to reiterate – doing well by EVERY county resident who unquestionably benefits by the appropriate funding of HCPSS.

We are all highly aware that this is an election year, as are you. As our County Executive seeking re-election you have an opportunity to be the leader this county needs you to be. To be the individual who puts the brakes on the decline of HCPSS. It's what everyone wants. So please do it.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Scott <jen.e.scott@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 10:43 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: HCPSS and the Howard County Budget

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council Representatives,

I am very alarmed by the news reports about the Howard County Public School System budget shortfall of up to \$50M in the upcoming year. I am writing to urge you to fund the HCPSS at the level requested by the Board of Education- and even beyond. The BOE's own budget request includes a number of unacceptable compromises, including increased class sizes county-wide and the abrupt elimination of the world language programs in Title I elementary schools. (I am thankful they did leave teacher furloughs off the table, as this would be beyond the pale in my view.)

Debating how this situation came to be and where the fault lies may be important for avoiding this situation in the future, but it is an irrelevant distraction at this critical moment. As a county and a community, we absolutely must step up to fund the shortfall in our schools. We must make sacrifices in other areas of the county budget, increase revenues, whatever it takes. We cannot allow our teachers and our children, especially those who are most economically vulnerable, to bear the brunt of this budget disaster.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Scott
3792 Plum Spring Ln.
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Kirsten Coombs <Kirsten_Coombs@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 9:17 PM
To: Richard Kohn
Cc: Cynthia Vaillancourt; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Mr. Kohn,

Are you saying cut our GT Resource Teachers? At RB & WLMS, these educators do amazing things with our students, which I know occurs at all of our schools. They work hard to identify students for these opportunities. These pullouts offer creative ways of teaching core subjects.

Kirsten Coombs
Sent from my Board iPhone

On Mar 7, 2018, at 7:18 PM, Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms Vaillancourt,

Thank you for the explanation. I support the emphasis on equity, but I have mixed feelings about cutting teachers, especially in the Title 1 schools, to pay for the equity administrator. How would it go over to cut GT pullouts? The GT students are doing fine, but we know it is the lower income students who get cut because it is less unacceptable.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2018, at 7:01 PM, Cynthia Vaillancourt <Cynthia_Vaillancourt@hcpss.org> wrote:

I apologize for being dense- I am just not following the Spanish question. We are cutting something like 30 Spanish teachers - reassigning them to other positions, that become open as a result of normal turn over, or growth - the art and music teachers are already in the buildings on staff, but will have their schedules changed BACK to how they were before (and how the rest of the elementary schools operate). The total cost savings noted includes calculations for, I believe, an increase of 1.5 tech ed teachers to restore the tech instruction that was sacrificed for WL. The 2.6 cost savings for the suspension of wl in preK-6 is a net number that takes into consideration the other tweaks involved.

The positions included in the administration category have been changed via reassignments and returns to the classroom, but some of those savings have been offset by the new office for the Diversity and Inclusion office. All that detail is in there--- I am not sure whether the spread sheets you have posted here are the most current versions, or the pages from the budget book. If you have specific questions about particular positions, please let me know - or I can refer you to the public information office.

I think you are trying to imply that we have increased fat in the Central Office while cutting positions in the schools. I don't think that is the case - but if you have specific positions you think should be cut - please identify them.

sincerely,
Cindy V

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 6:28 PM
To: Cynthia Vaillancourt
Cc: akittleman@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Ms Vaillancourt,

I noted I the budgeted expenses that the lines with Administration in the title increased from last year's budget. 2018 is second last column, proposed is last column. If Admin was cut, where is that shown?

2nd question, why is Spanish more expensive than art, music, tech ed. These are usually expensive courses.

Thanks.

Rick Kohn

Sent from my iPhone

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I am sorry, Mr. Kohn, I really don't know what you are asking.

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\$1 million increase under the title "Administration"? Has this been taken out? Also, Operating and Administration increased by \$3.5 million. Why is it so much more expensive to teach Spanish than music and art, or is it mainly recess that will be substituted?

Rick Kohn

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Dear Mr. Kohn,

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All of that information was discussed in great detail during the budget work sessions and can be found on line on the HCPSS website.

The Board has directed the Superintendent to restore class sizes for the entire county as the first priority in the event additional funding becomes available. That would represent roughly \$5.9 mil. In the event additional funding beyond that were to become available, perhaps the World Language program previously offered at only 8 of our 41 elementary schools (not even ALL of our title 1 schools) could be reimagined in a way that it could serve more students in a more equitable way. As it is, the current program of 30 minutes per day for 5 days per week, for preK -5 graders cannot be sustained.

It continues to be a priority goal of the HCPSS to provide world language to elementary school students in Howard County. The suspension of the current program will help make it possible to get the HCPSS on firm financial footing so that a better, more equitable, program can be developed.

In the mean time, all of the impacted students will be able to experience the full Art and Music

curriculum that was reduced in order to fit the 30 minute per day language schedule. They will also have more access to tech ed.. and possibly even more recess.

I encourage you to be in touch with your county government representatives during the next portion of the county's budget process and let them know where your priorities lie.

Many thanks,

Cindy Vaillancourt

speaking as an individual board member.

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 9:59 AM

To: akittleman@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email; Michael Martirano;

Kevin Gilbert

Cc: Tammy Spengler

Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

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Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

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Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 7:09 PM
To: Kirsten Coombs
Cc: Cynthia Vaillancourt; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Thank you. That is clear.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2018, at 6:23 PM, Kirsten Coombs <Kirsten_Coombs@hcpss.org> wrote:

Mr. Kohn,

There were moves to bring legal counsel in house and the Exec is where that and the new Rector of Diversity reside. It also reflects the transfer of positions into Exec.

As to your Spanish instructor question, yes, it is more expensive because we have to continue teaching music, art & PE. Those are mandated ES subjects. Spanish was in addition. It also reflects the fact that some sixth graders were taking a language, which wasn't uniform across Middle school.

I don't think any of the recess schedules are affected from I personally have seen at RBES.

Kirsten Coombs
Sent from my Board iPhone

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Expenditures						
Administration	\$ 12,210,506	\$ 12,342,223	\$ 13,582,729	\$ 13,240,748	\$ 14,204,273	
Mid-Level Administration	56,055,050	58,497,662	59,654,568	62,488,043	62,425,700	
Instruction	329,475,986	330,430,892	337,481,665	358,716,046	364,802,015	
Special Education	91,193,981	93,423,761	98,652,503	104,727,030	109,405,224	
Student Personnel Services	2,937,793	3,201,863	3,279,643	3,425,010	3,661,877	
Student Health Services	7,103,773	7,728,496	7,890,221	8,235,796	8,973,884	
Student Transportation	36,903,221	37,557,887	37,872,734	38,615,733	40,976,791	
Operation of Plant	41,058,508	40,208,488	38,996,338	40,501,696	44,697,662	
Maintenance of Plant	24,043,352	25,285,204	23,447,705	23,939,247	27,063,835	
Fixed Charges	146,662,992	159,105,739	170,296,393	157,397,416	166,382,899	
Community Services	5,939,741	6,568,390	6,477,624	6,973,670	7,174,528	
Capital Outlay	81,264,060	79,881,981	84,324,861	66,111,849	80,638,633	
Grant Programs	30,376,217	27,878,641	29,784,188	25,642,996	26,759,219	
Grant Contingency	-	-	-	4,357,004	3,240,781	
Operating and Administrative Costs	23,972,628	23,648,322	27,205,189	28,088,905	31,450,802	
Claims and Claims Administration	117,529,717	129,027,371	130,651,966	133,024,153	139,239,106	
Payments to Other Funds	2,238,497	2,227,495	2,214,814	2,180,000	2,221,000	
Recovery of Fund Balance	-	-	-	18,800	-	
Other	7,646,834	6,978,691	5,817,535	2,069,689	1,097,831	
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,016,612,856	\$ 1,043,993,106	\$ 1,077,630,676	\$ 1,079,753,831	\$ 1,134,416,060	

FY 2019

Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget

Howard County Public School System

Executive

This schedule provides a summary of the programs included in the Executive section. Beginning in FY 2019, the budget detail for each program is presented by state category in addition to spend category. Highlights are presented based on significant changes to the total budget.

Program	Program Number	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Actual FY 2017	Budget FY 2018	Superintendent Proposed FY 2019
Board of Education	0101	\$ 610,217	\$ 562,962	\$ 524,816	\$ 765,105	\$ 732,231
Office of the Superintendent	0102	831,798	780,905	1,319,169	1,041,778	1,566,281
Legal Services	0104	776,419	554,040	1,398,567	575,514	804,051
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion	0106	-	-	-	-	406,551
Executive Total		\$ 2,218,434	\$ 1,897,907	\$ 3,242,552	\$ 2,382,397	\$ 3,509,163

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Cindy Vaillancourt

speaking as an individual board member.

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 9:59 AM
To: akittleman@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert
Cc: Tammy Spengler
Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 6:28 PM
To: Cynthia Vaillancourt
Cc: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Ms Vaillancourt,

I noted I the budgeted expenses that the lines with Administration in the title increased from last year's budget. 2018 is second last column, proposed is last column. If Admin was cut, where is that shown?

2nd question, why is Spanish more expensive than art, music, tech ed. These are usually expensive courses.

Thanks.

Rick Kohn

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2018, at 5:42 PM, Cynthia Vaillancourt <Cynthia_Vaillancourt@hcpss.org> wrote:

I am sorry, Mr. Kohn, I really don't know what you are asking.

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<Screen Shot 2018-03-07 at 10.34.38 AM.png>

<Screen Shot 2018-03-07 at 10.38.36 AM.png>

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Cc: Tammy Spengler

Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

From: Kirsten Coombs <Kirsten_Coombs@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 6:23 PM
To: Cynthia Vaillancourt
Cc: Richard Kohn; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Mr. Kohn,

There were moves to bring legal counsel in house and the Exec is where that and the new Rector of Diversity reside. It also reflects the transfer of positions into Exec.

As to your Spanish instructor question, yes, it is more expensive because we have to continue teaching music, art & PE. Those are mandated ES subjects. Spanish was in addition. It also reflects the fact that some sixth graders were taking a language, which wasn't uniform across Middle school.

I don't think any of the recess schedules are affected from I personally have seen at RBES.

Kirsten Coombs
Sent from my Board iPhone

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Student Personnel Services	2,937,793	3,201,863	3,279,643	3,425,010	3,661,877	
Student Health Services	7,103,773	7,728,496	7,890,221	8,235,796	8,973,884	
Student Transportation	36,903,221	37,557,887	37,872,734	38,615,733	40,976,791	
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FY 2019

Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget

Howard County Public School System

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Cc: Tammy Spengler

Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Vaillancourt <Cynthia_Vaillancourt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 5:43 PM
To: Richard Kohn
Cc: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

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Cc: Tammy Spengler

Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Vaillancourt <Cynthia_Vaillancourt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 10:19 AM
To: Richard Kohn; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert
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Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

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IndivisibleHoCoMD



March 7, 2018

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman
Howard County Council
Howard County Board of Education
Howard County Superintendent of Schools

We as members of Howard County Indivisible, Immigration Committee seek to support the County's commitment to create a more welcoming environment for immigrants. As members of this committee, we are deeply concerned about some proposed cuts to the Howard County Public School System budget.

The Superintendent has recommended eliminating the elementary school World Languages Program, which was piloted in several Title 1 schools. This program focuses on teaching Spanish language and Latino culture to elementary school students. Programs like this are essential to promoting cultural understanding among immigrants and native-born citizens, and to fighting hostility and xenophobia. In addition, providing this instruction and fostering inclusion and respect will help to decrease the achievement gap between races and income levels.

Cutting this program would be a travesty. Instead we suggest decreasing administrative personnel who do not work directly with students. We cannot pay for new administrative positions by cutting faculty who work with disadvantaged students. The populations that attend our Title 1 schools cannot afford to bear this burden for the county.

We urge you not to cut the World Languages Program from the elementary schools in which it is currently offered. If anything, this program should be expanded.

Sincerely,


Tammy J. Spengler

Immigration Committee Co-Chair
Howard County Indivisible
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Corey Bullock <coreybullock@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 1:05 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Cc: tee153@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for Troy Park as HS 13
Attachments: BULLOCK TESTIMONY.docx

Greetings

Please see our attached testimony in support of Troy Park for HS 13.

Sincerely

Corey and Tina Bullock
6291 Hanover Rd
Hanover, MD 21076

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Dear BOE members, Dr. Martirano, County Executive Kittleman and County Council,

Our names are Corey and Tina Bullock and we have lived in the Elkridge area for 14 years. We have two school-aged children who currently attend ELMS and EES. Not only do we live in Howard County, but Corey also works in Howard County. We moved to Howard County because of the excellent public school system and the diversity of our community. We have the greatest neighbors, close community ties and great relationships with the businesses here in our community. We've seen the growth of our community and immediate surroundings and support it all with great pride. Close by we have a new middle school and a new elementary school is on its way also. Even though our kids don't attend either of them, both schools are great additions to upper Eastern Howard County.

As you are aware, High School 13 has been a topic of conversation throughout the county for the last few months. This was preceded by the possibility of redistricting, which met with great resistance. The topic was tabled for discussion until the location of High School 13 had been put to rest.

While I live in the Elkridge area, I acknowledge - and it is very important for you to note - the location of High School 13 does not only impact Eastern Howard County or the Elkridge community. Building a new high school casts a wide net over the entire school-aged population and families in Howard County.

Please take into thoughtful and serious consideration the following reasons for building High School 13 at Troy Park:

- The Troy Park Site significantly lowers the staggering overcapacity percentages specific high schools are currently experiencing (i.e. Howard, Long Reach, Mt. Hebron and Centennial). Less redistricting will be needed if the high school is built at Troy Park.
- The Troy Park Site offers the cleanest elementary to middle to high school feeds, eliminating the need to separate children and families who have been in school communities together for up to nine years.
- Elkridge has experienced rapid over-development, due to its appeal for affordable housing in a highly desired public school system. In fact, in 2016, 1,980 public high school students were living in the Elkridge Community, more than enough to fill a high school!
- Troy Park should be constructed first based on the immediate need of the population. Mission Road should be land-banked. It is of the utmost importance to plan for the future now. As development continues, an elementary school, middle school, vocational center and/or High School 14 will certainly be needed.
- The "park" at Troy Park at this time consists of 3 completed turf athletic fields, a small playground, and plans for a community center. These amenities would tie in beautifully with a high school and create a green space that encompasses education, athletics, conservation and community service.

In regards to placing High School 13 at Mission Road, there are several logistical and safety concerns to seriously consider before casting your vote:

- The Mission Road Site is currently an active quarry and will continue to be one for at least the next 8-10 years. It has approximately 200 large trucks coming in and out of the property throughout the school day. Not only will these trucks contain dust, gravel and other flying debris, but will contribute significantly to the noise and air pollution that surrounds a school campus. Not to mention daily blasts (which though timed and are of short-duration) will significantly contribute to the increased anxiety of children in the general school population, particularly the students with autism and other special needs, causing unneeded interruptions in the school day for students, teachers and staff.

- Savage Stone, LLC (which owns the Mission Road site) has a documented history of Maryland Department of the Environment violations. While they have put best practices in place since these violations have occurred, it brings into question the continuing day-to-day diligence concerning environmental safety by quarry operators and staff.
- Plans for the Mission Road Site show no plans to place a fence or wall between the school site and the quarry. This is an extreme danger to students who wait after school for team practices, children who walk to school, and those individuals who may decide to leave the school property during classroom hours without permission (i.e, runners or just cutting class). It is also worth noting that the rock-loader at Mission Road is currently placed approximately 500 feet from the current sketch of the Mission Road site, as per the Office of School Planning.
- The Mission Road Site raises several red-flags for student safety and liability issues for the county and school board for the future foreseeable future. Questions to consider include, but are not limited to: After the quarry is no longer operational, what is to be done with the approximate 600 foot deep quarry pit? Will it be filled in? If not, will it become a large reservoir for water? If so, the pit could pose a water hazard to high school students wanting a little unsupervised swimming.

These are all important points for the BOE AND County Council to consider looking out into the future development of the Mission Road site.

It is my hope expectation as a resident, tax-payer, and voter in Howard County that the BOE, Dr. Martirano, and County Executive Kittleman will make the right decision and follow Howard County Policy 6000 and 6010, in regards to School Site Selection and Acquisition and do what is in the best interest of the children and families you pledged to serve in Howard County.

Thank you for your time, detailed attention and thoughtful consideration to this important matter.

Corey and Tina Bullock
Hanover, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Anthony Solo <tsolo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 1:05 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Cc: Anthony Solo
Subject: Build at Troy Hill testimony
Attachments: HS13 letter.docx

Dear BOE members, Superintendent Martirano, County Executive Kittleman, and Howard County Council,

We have attached our testimony on why we think Troy Hill Park is the better location for HS13. We understand that you all have a hard choice to make in the next few weeks. Please remember that Elkridge and Hanover areas have been asking for a high school for the last 50 years. The growth in these communities has been so large that it is time for a high school there.

However, the best solution to this problem of where to choose for the next HS is rather simple. However, the hard part is finding the funding from the state and federal government. That solution is build both High schools for both Communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anthony T. and Susan R. Solo
6394 Hanover Crossing Way
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear County Executive Kittleman, Superintendent Martirano, and Board of Education members,

Our names are Anthony and Susan Solo and we live in Hanover, MD. We are writing to urge you to put High School 13 in Elkridge. We support the Troy Hill Park site for the following reasons.

We have been Howard County residents since 2006. Part of the reason that we moved to this County was for the Public Education system. We heard from our realtor that this county's education system was one of the best in the country and doing some quick research then proved they were right. As time went on, we started seeing all the housing developments go in throughout the Elkridge, Hanover, Jessup, and Savage communities. However, what we did not see was the County Government, Board of Education and other county entities improving the infrastructure of the county, mainly the western side of the county, along Route 1 corridor. Elkridge and Hanover have gotten so many new residents, which means MORE students, in the last 12 years that we have been here. But, so has Jessup and Savage. Part of the reason is the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) of 2005 when they had Fort Meade scheduled to grow during the last decade. So, part of the solution to this problem is asking for more federal money from the Department of Defense and Department of Education due to the BRAC. We are sure there are grants that Howard County can apply for to receive money to build new schools. If more money is obtained, then build both areas a high school.

The several reasons Elkridge needs HS13 before Jessup is because our students are already in over-populated schools. We know that Elkridge Elementary has over 900 students from kindergarten to 5th grade. However, looking at other elementary schools in Howard County, it seems we are the exception not the norm. More students than the school can handle. Howard High School and Long Reach High school are also over populated. Re-districting every few years is ridiculous and only angers voters/citizens/parents of the County.

Transportation issues are going to be worrisome for parents that allow kids to travel from Elkridge/Hanover to Jessup, if Mission Road is the next high school and Elkridge/Hanover are re-districted to that school. Route 1 is congested and not the friendliest to new drivers, I-95 is extremely busy will all kinds of traffic during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Route 1 has not been improved to handle the increased traffic during these times. Additionally, the County has several areas along Route 1 that has semi-trucks and if Mission Road is picked, the county adds more buses to this traffic corridor. New housing, mainly apartments and townhouses, continue to populate the Route 1 corridor. When will the infrastructure catch up with the housing in Howard County?

Since we both come from Pennsylvania where there are school districts, we do not understand why Maryland does not adopt a similar plan to them. Maryland likes to have this whole county program. Why not try something new? For example, Elkridge Elementary, Duckett's Elementary and Rockburn Elementary can feed into Elkridge Landing Middle School then that feeds into the New HS13, if it is located at Troy Hill Park. Keeping this community together for the kids from 6th grade to 12th grade only makes sense. This is when children form long lasting friendship.

One reason to get away from a whole county school is snow days. Eastern Howard County may get slammed with snow, however, the Western side gets a small trace amount. Next thing we, the residents of school children, know is the whole county school system is closed.

The easiest solution to Howard County's problem of not enough space for schools is to build a high school for both Elkridge/Hanover area and for the Jessup area. Both areas need a high school! We understand the budget may not allow for this to happen, however, we are sure taxpayers in Howard County would appreciate the two new schools and continue to have the best school system in the country. What better way to showcase that, than having two brand new High schools!! This ties in with asking the federal government for more money through grants!!

The second solution is to start charging these builders a larger fee for continually adding more housing to an over-populated education system. The county's infrastructure is bursting at its seams. The county needs to stop allowing builders to build on any small plots of land until these larger issues are taken care of.

Please build where the kids are! Please build HS13 at the Troy Hill Park site!! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anthony T. and Susan R. Solo
Hanover, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Lauren Polon <lpolon4@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 12:54 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County School Budget

Mr. Kittleman and Howard County Council,

I am a resident of Howard County and parent of a student at Wilde Lake High and Dunloggin Middle. Please extend the proposed 52% HCPSS budget to at least last year's 58% budget. No other budget item in our county is as important as our school budget. Cuts to the school budget should not be cuts made to finance "luxury items" like bike lanes, for example.

Thank you for listening.

Lauren Polon
4747 Columbia Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

From: HCPSS Public Information <publicinfo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 10:12 AM
To: Press Release
Subject: BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS FY 2019 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET, AND FY 2020–2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REQUESTS



Howard County Public School System NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Bassett | brian_bassett@hcpss.org | 410-313-1505

March 6, 2018

BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS FY 2019 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET, AND FY 2020–2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REQUESTS

Ellicott City, Maryland—The Howard County Board of Education last night adopted its Operating Budget Request for the 2018–2019 school year (FY 2019) totaling \$906.8 million. The amount requested represents \$87.7 million, or 10.7 percent, over the amount funded for the FY 2018 school year as well as an additional \$50.5 million request for one-time funds over the next several years. The recurring amount requested from the county is \$583.2 million, which is at the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) level. An additional request for county funding includes \$11.4 million in one-time costs needed for FY2019 as well as a \$50.5 million request from the county to address the Health Fund deficit accrued during FY2017 and FY2018. The HCPSS will work with the County to develop a multiyear plan to eliminate this accrued debt of \$50.5 million. The total request for state funding is \$249.3 million, an increase of \$10.7 million over FY2018. The remaining budget includes funding from Federal and Other Sources totaling \$12.6 million.

Several reductions were made to the Superintendent's Proposed budget to provide additional funding for employee health benefits, stabilizing the Health Fund by meeting the 85 percent required funding level from the school system. This full funding of health care costs will eliminate the structural imbalance while ensuring that the school system's debt will not increase beyond the amount accrued in FY2017 and FY2018. Reductions made by the Board include \$5.4 million to increase class size for grades 1–12 by 1, \$2.8 million in additional position reductions, \$2 million in funding for utilities, \$1.1 million in operations costs, \$1 million for various reductions in academics, \$2.6 million for the elementary and sixth grade world language program, \$700 thousand in funding for the technology plan, \$250 thousand for a proposed middle school athletic pilot program, \$200 thousand in Human Resources funding, \$198 thousand in Athletics funding, and funding for a Board attorney and Budget Analyst/Internal Auditor. The Superintendent's recommended budget had incorporated significant reductions in central office staff, particularly the elimination or

repurposing of 29 central office positions in order to better support schools. The Board also noted that should additional funding become available through budget savings or increases in county and state revenues, this funding will be used to restore class sizes.

Funding was increased to restore the full allocation of lunch and recess monitors. The budget also includes a placeholder of \$8.1 million for salary increases still in negotiations.

The Board also adopted an FY 2019 Capital Budget Request totaling \$79.7 million, a 2020–2024 Capital Improvement Program Request totaling \$517.4 million, and a 2019–2028 Long Range Master Plan of \$983.5 thousand.

The Capital Budget request includes funding for costs associated with locating and constructing a new 13th county high school, targeted to open in fall 2023; an addition to increase school capacity at Waverly Elementary School, scheduled for completion in August 2018; and the final phase of construction of New Elementary School #42, scheduled to open in Elkridge in August 2018. Additional funding is allocated for systemic renovations, which include replacements and upgrade of rooftops and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at several schools.

The Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program Request provides for an accelerated start date for the Hammond High School addition project, and reflects \$98.6 million in reductions for planned projects to accommodate projected county and state funding levels.

The Board will submit its budget requests to Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman on March 12, 2018.

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10910 Clarksville Pike Ellicott City, Maryland 21042 | www.hcpss.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Alexis M. McKenzie <amlaske@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 8:16 AM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Support to Raise HCPSS Budget

Dear Council Members and Mr. Kittleman,

I would like to express my support to raise the HCPSS budget back to 58% of the Howard County budget. I was impressed and in approval with stricter budget policies when the school system was lead by Dr. Renee Foose. At this time due to our change in leadership and more responsible spending I would like the budget to be increased. HCPSS is a wonderful part of Howard County and our children deserve better than increased class sizes.

Thank You,

Alexis McKenzie
5945 Meadow Rose
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: BVivrette <bvivrette@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 9:01 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org
Subject: HCPSS Budget

Council members and Mr. Kittleman,

When people move to Howard County they move here for the educational opportunities. Let's stop using the school budget as a bargaining chip, and do what's right for our kids. We pay plenty of taxes for good schools, not overdevelopment. Developers should pay their fair share of fees for schools and public facilities. Please restore the HCPSS budget and make it a priority, same as you have fast tracked HS13.

Brian Vivrette
Elkridge parent

Sayers, Margery

From: Becki Vivrette <rvivrette@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 8:48 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: County Budget

Mr. Kittleman and County Council,

I am writing to express my sincere disappointment in the county's commitment to fully funding education. I moved to Howard County 5 years ago specifically for the school reputation, and between the school redistricting, HS13, and now, the education budget, I am beginning to regret that decision. The BOE is placed in an impossible position to fully fund our staff and programs when the education budget has been underfunded for quite some time. I am writing to implore you to restore the education budget to 58% as it was in the past, in order to fully support our staff and programs, and ultimately, our children and the future of the county.

When we will start prioritizing what matters? Education, safety, and community should all be number 1. Over-development, greed, and poor planning for our children only hurts us in the long run. I am scared for our family and what the future entails, as we live in the Route 1 corridor, and our voices never seem to matter.

I hope you will consider my points in your budget decisions this week.

Thank you,
Becki Vivrette

Sayers, Margery

From: Alison Hickman <alisonhickman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 11:30 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Preschool Program Funding

Good morning,

I am sharing some feedback that I believe is important as you contemplate the HCPSS budget.

I urge the group to fund **full-day** preschool for as many children as feasible.

I am concerned if there is only half-day preschool that it will not reach the students who are desperately in need of this program. I believe the half-day preschool is only reaching children who have one or both parents at home.

My husband and I are both working professionals who are far enough along in our careers to have a significant degree of flexibility. Even with that level of flexibility, I could not successfully make a half-day preschool program compatible with my schedule. I am fortunate to be able to pay for a full-day high quality preschool program. The only families I know whose children attend part-day preschools are those families with one stay at home parent. Even with transportation funded, part-day preschool requires coordination of two care providers within one day for a working parent, and is incompatible with the way daycares are traditionally priced at a fixed weekly or monthly rate.

The part-day preschool program as it is currently structured is nearly impossible for a single parent or dual working parent household to take advantage of. Please consider making full-day preschool a funded portion of the budget.

Thank you,
Alison Hickman]
6454 Red Keel
Columbia, MD 21044
301-580-5442
Clemens / Wilde Lake / Atholton

From: HCPSS Public Information <publicinfo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 8:43 PM
To: Press Release
Subject: INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTS PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2018–2019 ACADEMIC YEAR



Howard County Public School System NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Bassett | brian_bassett@hcpss.org | 410-313-1505

January 9, 2018

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTS PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2018–2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

Ellicott City, Maryland—Interim Superintendent Michael J. Martirano presented his [proposed budget](#) for the Howard County Public School System fiscal year 2018–2019 (FY 2019) during a special presentation to the Board of Education on Tuesday, January 9.

The FY 2019 budget proposal totals \$850.7 million and represents an increase of \$31.6 million, or 3.9 percent, over the FY 2018 budget. Of the total, \$594.5 million is requested from the County, which represents a \$10.2 million increase for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and \$11.4 million for one-time costs, including the first phase of a four-year plan to address a structural imbalance and deficit in the employee Health Fund.

“The budget proposal serves as a roadmap for educating, nurturing and providing the best start in life for our more than 57,000 children, and for taking care of the staff members who are entrusted with our students’ care,” said Martirano. “It expands educational opportunity and equity, and takes a collaborative approach to establishing realistic funding levels and addressing structural budget issues that have gone unaddressed for several years.”

He noted that the structural imbalance with the Health Fund as the school system’s biggest challenge. “If it weren’t for this deficit, developing the budget would not have been as challenging,” he stated.

The Howard County Public School System has been operating with a structural imbalance that has strained the overall financial footing since 2011. Martirano cited expanded programs, salary increases and the lack of comprehensive planning to develop a sustainable budget plan as

contributing factors to the \$22.2 million negative balance, which will grow this fiscal year by another \$28.3 million. “We must take ownership of the situation and reset our course to one that is fiscally responsible yet still advances programmatic priorities to make HCPSS a premier school system.”

The proposed budget reflects a careful and incremental approach that puts in place a four-year plan to address the Health Fund structural imbalance and deficit, as well as four-year plans to address the shortage of nurses and the need for social workers and other student supports. Funding is also included for innovative new learning options, including the JumpStart dual enrollment initiative, career academies for Agriculture and HVAC, and a pilot middle school athletic program. It includes resources and services that are essential to achievement and well-being, such as daily access to nutritious food, social services and a high quality preschool program that is especially valuable in promoting school readiness for children who face poverty, language barriers and other challenges. It also provides for highly skilled staff and specialized services for students with developmental or intellectual disabilities, in alignment with the school system’s new special education strategic plan.

The budget reflects the system’s goals to align operations more closely to system priorities, direct maximum funding to schools and instruction, and maximize transparency and responsiveness. It incorporates \$4.1 million in cost savings through a comprehensive reorganization and recalibration of Central Office divisions to be more responsive, effective and efficient. Highlights of the budget proposal include:

- \$3.1 million in funding for new special education positions.
- \$4.2 million in funding to new positions to support the expected enrollment growth of 1,150 new students, staff Elementary School 42, and improve school-based student support services, including nurses and social workers.
- \$1.2 million for the JumpStart Initiative to expand dual enrollment for up to an additional 1,000 students.
- \$9.3 million for Operations and Technology to enhance indoor environmental quality and systems security, fulfill increasing transportation costs, and implement other essential projects.
- \$8.1 million placeholder for a salary increase for all staff.

“We cannot implement new programs, introduce new initiatives, or resolve structural issues overnight,” Martirano stated. “The investments and strategies in the FY 2019 budget proposal reflect the priorities of our Board of Education and community. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration in enhancing the academic success and social-emotional well-being of every Howard County student.”

The [Superintendent’s FY 2019 Budget Proposal](#) provides greater detail than has been provided in prior budget documents, to ensure full transparency and facilitate the Board’s deliberation and consideration. The full budget document is available [online](#) as well as a summary and budget process timeline.

The Board will hold public hearings on the proposed budget at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 30 and Tuesday, February 13. Work sessions will be held on February 1, 6, 13, and 15, all scheduled to begin 1 p.m.

The Board is scheduled to adopt its budget request on February 22 at 3 p.m., and to approve the final FY 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets and FY 2020–2024 Capital Improvement Program on May 31 at 9 a.m. All hearings, work sessions and meetings will be held at the Department of Education, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City.

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