

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Daisy Zhang <daisy\_liu\_zhang@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 12:02 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS budget

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am concerned about the HCPSS education budget not being fully funded, which could result in larger class sizes, insufficient staffing and less programs offered to students.

HCPSS is the crown jewel of HoCo. As a resident of Howard County and a tax payer, I am looking to your decisions on funding the HCPSS education budget as the most important demonstration of your commitment to the children of this county, who deserve a world-class educational experience.

On behalf of the school children of Howard County, I respectfully request that the County Council adequately fund the educational needs of our school system to ensure its long term success. Please do the right thing for our county and fully fund the HCPSS budget request.

Sincerely,

Daisy Zhang  
9637 Susies Way  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Nooreen Zaidi <nfzaidi@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 7:05 PM  
**To:** Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; Weinstein, Jon  
**Subject:** HCPSS budget request

Members of the Howard County Council,

As a resident of Howard County and a tax payer I am looking to your decisions on funding the HCPSS education budget as the most important demonstration of your commitment to the children of this county. I demand that the County Council adequately fund the educational needs of our school system to enable it to provide the best educational experience possible for all of our students. Class sizes, proper staffing and diverse programming are the fundamental elements of a world-class educational system and they are all currently in jeopardy with the current budget proposal.

The Board of Education has done its due diligence and cut its budget by request. They have demonstrated leadership and stewardship by making tough decisions. In doing so they are working to fix the problems they inherited. They are not passing the buck and saying "I didn't create the situation so it's not my responsibility to correct it." On behalf of the school children of Howard County I am asking you to do the same. This is necessary for Howard County to thrive in the long term. Please do the right thing for our county and fully fund the HCPSS budget request.

Sincerely,  
Nooreen Zaidi  
4516 Hidden Hollow Drive  
Ellicott City MD 21043

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Ann E. Davis <Ann\_Davis@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 5:45 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** request to fully fund education budget

Members of the Howard County Council,  
As residents of Howard County, educators in the Howard County School System, and tax payers, We are looking to your decisions on funding the HCPSS education budget as the most important demonstration of your commitment to the children of this county. We demand that the County Council adequately fund the educational needs of our school system to enable it to provide the best educational experience possible for all of our students. Class sizes, proper staffing and diverse programming are the fundamental elements of a world-class educational system and they are all currently in jeopardy with the current budget proposal. The Board of Education has done its due diligence and cut its budget by request. They have demonstrated leadership and stewardship by making tough decisions. In doing so they are working to fix the problems they inherited. They are not passing the buck and saying "I didn't create the situation so it's not my responsibility to correct it." On behalf of the school children of Howard County we are asking you to do the same. This is necessary for Howard County to thrive in the long term. Please do the right thing for our county and fully fund the HCPSS budget request.

Sincerely,  
Ann and John Davis  
4617 Terry Drive  
Ellicott City, Md 21043

Ann E. Davis  
Veterans Elementary  
Vocal Music  
410-313-1700  
ann\_davis@hcpss.org

"Today is a Good Day for a Good Day!"

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Ken and Trish Ververs <ktververs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 5:15 PM  
**To:** Weinstein, Jon; Kittleman, Allan  
**Cc:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Mt Hebron budget

Dear Mr. Weinstein and Members of the Howard County Council,

I've been a Howard County since 2003 and the primary reason that we chose to move our family to Ellicott City was to raise our family in a community that valued education. That commitment to education means that hard choices need to be made and as a tax payer I'm looking to make sure the HCPSS education budget is *fully* funded. I understand that there is a balance but cutting teachers' jobs is NOT the answer.

As a family in the NE area, my three kids are used to using "cottages"

"trailers" for extracurricular classes and homerooms, having crowded hallways, and limited class space as the size of their classes has continued to grow. I've seen the loss of paraeducators and teachers having to do more with less. However, the recent news that my children's high school class size will grow from 33 to 34 and class availability will be reduced due to the furloughs is too much. I'm sending my first child off to college and I see the competitive market. I've always been proud that our county produces some of the brightest children in the nation but it is becoming too much of an uphill battle. I have met some fantastic, dedicated teachers that my children have had the privilege to learn from. But I've also seen access to the teachers decline and response times increase, simply due to the number of children that they are responsible to teach. It is already a struggle and increasing class sizes will only make this situation worse. The loss of 10 teachers at Mt. Hebron alone will only further reduce the opportunities that we offer our children.

The County Council simply must adequately fund the educational needs of our school system to enable it to provide the best educational experience possible for all of our students. Class sizes, proper staffing and diverse programming are the fundamental elements of a world-class educational system and they are all currently in jeopardy with the current budget proposal. The Board of Education has done its due diligence and cut its budget by request. They have demonstrated leadership and stewardship by making tough decisions. In doing so they are working to fix the problems that they inherited. They are not passing the buck and saying, "I didn't create the situation so it's not my responsibility to correct it." On behalf of the school children of Howard County I am asking you to do the same.

Please do the right thing for our county and fully fund the HCPSS budget request.

Sincerely,  
Trish and Ken Ververs  
ktververs@gmail.com

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Katie Burkitt <katiepb@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 2:05 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** BOE budget

Members of the Howard County Council,

As a resident of Howard County and a tax payer I am looking to your decisions on funding the HCPSS education budget as the most important demonstration of your commitment to the children of this county. I demand that the County Council adequately fund the educational needs of our school system to enable it to provide the best educational experience possible for all of our students. Class sizes, proper staffing and diverse programming are the fundamental elements of a world-class educational system and they are all currently in jeopardy with the current budget proposal.

The Board of Education has done its due diligence and cut its budget by request. They have demonstrated leadership and stewardship by making tough decisions. In doing so they are working to fix the problems they inherited. They are not passing the buck and saying "I didn't create the situation so it's not my responsibility to correct it." On behalf of the school children of Howard County I am asking you to do the same. This is necessary for Howard County to thrive in the long term.

Please do the right thing for our county and fully fund the HCPSS budget request.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Burkitt  
4745 Gawain Dr  
Ellicott city, MD 21043

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Phillip Dennis <ptendoc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 1:46 PM  
**To:** Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** School budget

*Dear Mr. Kittleman and Members of the Howard County Council,*

*As a resident of Howard County and a tax payer I am looking to your decisions on funding the HCPSS education budget as the most important demonstration of your commitment to the children of this county. I demand that the County Council adequately fund the educational needs of our school system to enable it to provide the best educational experience possible for all of our students. Class sizes, proper staffing and diverse programming are the fundamental elements of a world-class educational system and they are all currently in jeopardy with the current budget proposal.*

*The Board of Education has done its due diligence and cut its budget by request. They have demonstrated leadership and stewardship by making tough decisions. In doing so they are working to fix the problems they inherited. They are not passing the buck and saying "I didn't create the situation so it's not my responsibility to correct it." On behalf of the school children of Howard County I am asking you to do the same. This is necessary for Howard County to thrive in the long term.*

*Please do the right thing for our county and **fully fund the HCPSS budget request.***

*Sincerely,  
Phillip Dennis, MD, PhD  
2327 Daniels Rd.  
Ellicott City, MD*

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Karen Simpson <KAREN\_SIMPSON@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 9:45 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget fy19

Council Members ,

I am asking you to restore the 5.9M so our students continue the best education possible. If you keep increasing class size it will ultimately make challenges in teaching. It is already challenging especially the mix of students that don't want to learn affecting those that do. With one teacher in class it's very difficult to engage with those that want to learn because we are correcting those with bad behavior.

Karen Simpson  
KAREN\_SIMPSON@hcpss.org  
5230 Green Bridge Road  
Dayton, Maryland 21036

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Ruth F. Walker <Ruth\_Walker@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 8:25 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Copy of Letter sent to IAC re: Talbott Springs Rebuild

This letter was sent to the IAC on May 9, 2018 in support of a Rebuild for Talbott Springs.

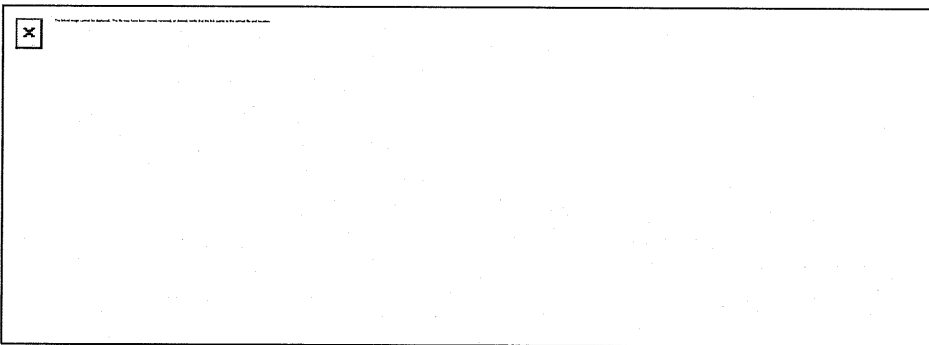
May 9, 2018

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

Mr. Mason,

This letter is written to support a rebuild with additional capacity of Talbott Springs Elementary school. The Columbia East Cluster of schools shows an increasing enrollment over the next 5 years with capacities of several recently renovated schools exceeding design limits.

The constraints that were not in consideration at the time were the availability of additional land to expand the school facility or the changing dynamics of the families that are now impacting enrollment at these schools. Figure 4.1 from the 2017 Feasibility Study shows projected enrollments to continue to climb through the next 5 years.



Inaccurate enrollment projections are one reason to consider building a larger school. One other compelling reason is the fact that 5 out of 6 schools in this area will continue to be at or over capacity for the next 4 years. (See Figure 4.1.) A new, larger school with adequate core facilities for the student population growth for Talbott Springs will allow the flexibility to redistrict students from contiguous neighborhoods to their neighborhood school to ease overcrowding.

School programming needs have changed and the future of educational reform will have challenges we cannot imagine at this point. As an example, the Talbott Springs renovation/addition of 2008 was intended to



accommodate full day kindergarten and a spike in enrollment in that age group. With the addition of Full Day Pre-K and the expansion of that program, it became necessary to move Pre K into the Kindergarten addition. All of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes are now housed in a five pod portable. One-third of our student population is located outside of the school building. The school still has the core facilities for 377 but now serves 505 students. Wear and tear on the building as well as safety concerns are troubling. The question is how student enrollment projections continue to climb without evidence of new home construction? (See Figure 4.1)

Many schools in the Columbia East sector have enrollment coming from less traditional sources. Even though the cost of homes and rentals in Howard County tend to run higher than surrounding areas, this area of Columbia is one of the more affordable housing areas in Howard County. The community in this cluster is not an "Age in Place" community. Many residents move out after the children have grown. New residents bring new children into the community.

Enrollment projections are difficult to predict as many schools in this sector enroll families living in multi-family residences. Housing subsidies are also available in our attendance areas making living in our school enrollment area even more affordable. In addition, schools in this area become the home school for children from homeless families. Because of the "invisibility" of these students, they are difficult to include in enrollment projections.

These student populations are also the neediest. The numbers of students eligible for Free and Reduced Meals averages out at 58%. The schools in this cluster provide services outside of a classroom setting including daily breakfast program, clothing drives, summer feeding sites, after school bridges programs, assistance with language interpretation, blessings in a backpack, holiday food baskets and many other services in support of families.

A renovation vs a rebuild of Talbott Springs causes grave concern as to what will be found when walls are removed. Mold issues have surfaced in the past. They may have been addressed, but the inadequate HVAC systems installed in the school building have caused many roof leaks and other water issues over the years. Leaks can leave water pooling in walls, pipes and other unseen areas. Pooling water can cause growth of bacteria and mold. No one can attest to what is and isn't in those walls, until they are removed. By then, it is too late. A Renovation does not address the need for expanded core facilities such as Gymnasium, Cafeteria, Kitchen, Media Center, hallways and bathrooms.

All children deserve a fighting chance for success. Many students and families in the Columbia East Cluster face challenging circumstances on a daily basis as evidenced by the Title I designation and the Free and Reduced Meals percentages. A rebuild allows instruction to continue in stable classroom environments. A Rebuild of Talbott Springs levels the playing field for our at-risk populations. A level playing field answers the call for equity.

The information included in this letter supports the need to consider the rebuild option for Talbott Springs. We respectfully request for the IAC to change the initial decision from renovate to rebuild Talbott Springs Elementary School..

## **History of Underestimation**

When new elementary schools have been constructed in Howard County, there is evidence of the repeated construction of under-sized schools, despite continual expanding enrollment as evidenced in the examples shown below.

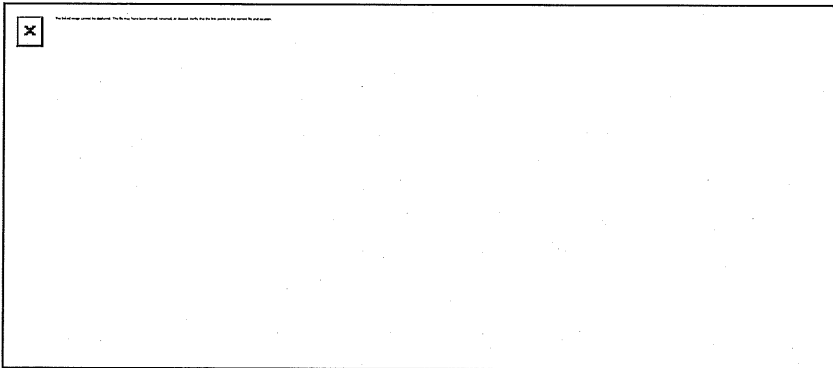
### **Ducketts Lane**

Ducketts Lane Elementary School is our first example. As new school construction with some enrollment history, capacity issues have already become evident less than 5 years after the school was constructed.

This school, in a developing portion of Howard County built in 2013, is now significantly over capacity in 5 years. The future for Ducketts Lane does not show a reduction in anticipated enrollment growth. The school is listed as having 9 portable classrooms. If each of those classrooms holds 30 students, you have an additional 270 students that must use core facilities like the cafeteria, gymnasium and hallways originally built for 770 students. By 2022, the projected utilization indicates there will be a need for more than portable classrooms. Less than 20 years after the school was built the original building will require a substantial investment of capital funds, again.

The projections from the 2017 Howard County Feasibility Study indicate that 7 out of 9 schools in that cluster are at or above capacity. The projections for 2022 show little room for capacity for redistricting. (See Figure 4.3)

Taken from Howard County Public Schools 2017 Feasibility Study



### **Veterans Elementary School**

Another example of a relatively new, undersized elementary school is Veterans Elementary. The community lobbied to have the building plans readjusted to account for enrollment expected from the new home construction just two blocks away from the school. The request was denied.

Five portable classrooms currently in use have the capacity to add an additional 150 students to core facilities built for almost 200 fewer students. This not only presents scheduling use for hallways and restrooms, it also presents safety concerns. The feasibility study for this area (Figure 4.3) shows very few options for relieving overcrowding through redistricting over the next five years. Attendance area adjustments are a likely strategy to relieve overcrowding, but the projections show there is little available capacity at any other elementary schools in the Northeastern Cluster.

### **Facing the Future**

We have this one opportunity to “do it right” with a rebuild of Talbott Springs. A new building with a 40-year life span vs a renovation with a 20-year life span will be of tremendous benefit in future school planning for Howard County Public Schools. Dollars that might be spent to continue to put a “band aid” on the Columbia East cluster can then be rerouted to parts of the county with demanding expansion needs.

Respectfully,

Ruth Walker  
Howard County Tax Payer

Ruth Walker  
Instructional Technology Support Teacher  
Talbott Springs Elementary School

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Katy Do <katycdo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 13, 2018 9:59 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Talbott Springs

The school is old, and falling apart. It has caused many people to get sick with the asbestos, and many who have had asthmatic issues, have had more issues than when not in school. Two whole grades have to be in a pod rather than in the school. Please update build another school in its place. God bless.

katy Do

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Caroline Bodziak <cbodziak@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 12, 2018 6:57 AM  
**To:** Fox, Greg; CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan  
**Subject:** Fully Fund HCPSS Budget Request

Dear Members of the County Council and my representative, Greg Fox,

As a resident of Howard County and a tax payer I am looking to your decisions on funding the HCPSS budget as the most important demonstration of your commitment to the children of this county. I want the County Council to adequately fund the educational needs of our school system to enable it to provide the best educational experience possible for all of our students. Class sizes, proper staffing and diverse programming are the fundamental elements of a world-class educational system and they are all currently in jeopardy with the current budget proposal.

The Board of Education has done its due diligence and cut its budget by request. They have demonstrated leadership and stewardship by making tough decisions. In doing so they are working to fix the problems they inherited. On behalf of the school children of Howard County I am asking you to do the same. This is necessary for Howard County to thrive in the long term.

Please do the right thing for our county and **fully fund the HCPSS budget request.**

Respectfully,

Caroline Bodziak  
cbodziak@aol.com  
3133 Hearthstone Rd.  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Guihua Wang <Guihua.Wang@kci.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 11, 2018 9:07 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS funding

*Members of the Howard County Council,*

*As a resident of Howard County and a tax payer I am looking to your decisions on funding the HCPSS education budget as the most important demonstration of your commitment to the children of this county. I demand that the County Council adequately fund the educational needs of our school system to enable it to provide the best educational experience possible for all of our students. Class sizes, proper staffing and diverse programming are the fundamental elements of a world-class educational system and they are all currently in jeopardy with the current budget proposal.*

*The Board of Education has done its due diligence and cut its budget by request. They have demonstrated leadership and stewardship by making tough decisions. In doing so they are working to fix the problems they inherited. They are not passing the buck and saying "I didn't create the situation so it's not my responsibility to correct it." On behalf of the school children of Howard County I am asking you to do the same. This is necessary for Howard County to thrive in the long term.*

*Please do the right thing for our county and **fully fund the HCPSS budget request.***

*Sincerely,*

Grace Wang

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jomo Fowlkes <jasean9394@yahoo.ocm>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 2:39 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Reaching the Whole Child

Council Members ,

As an educator, we know the best way to engage children is to show them you care. As classes get bigger and the needs of children grow, it will be harder to reach each student in the class. Then we, the best we can try to keep students in separate class as their personalities cause conflicts. With larger classes will not give us the chance to do it and cause more distractions in class. Please fund us so we can continue to give the student the best possible education and emotional support from his/her teacher.

Jomo Fowlkes  
jasean9394@yahoo.ocm  
4702 Ashforth Way  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Nancy Barker <irsjgal2@comcasr.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Restore funds to Educational Budget 2019

Council Members ,

Please use your vote to restore as much as possible to the HCPSS budget requests for the 2019 school year. The need is tremendous and what educators and staff have to work with is decreasing each year due to continued demands on their time and less to work with. Kids only have one shot and these formative years are critical. Most of you do believe this in your hearts, but can not see clear to find the money to make it happen. As a retired HCPSS teacher of 37 years I have seen a great deal of change in the system & not all of it good. Teachers & support staff are leaving, in many cases, because they can no longer fight the system with inadequate funding. Materials of instruction cut by 50% year after year. Teachers use their own money to supplement the classroom because they can not stand to see their kids go without.

Please see your way to fund the budget as much as possible. The children, your teachers, staff and the county deserve no less.

Nancy Barker  
Retired HCPSS

Nancy Barker  
irsjgal2@comcasr.net  
1021 Rocky Glen Dr  
Brookeville, Maryland 20833



**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Chris McClary <chris@classic-photo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:34 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** School budget

Council Members ,

Fully fund the school budget

Chris McClary  
chris@classic-photo.com  
11208 Albeth road  
Marriottsville, Maryland 21104

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Kimberly Feldman <kfeldman@umbc.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 10:02 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support Teachers, Students, and Our Future

Council Members ,

I was Howard County Teacher of the Year 2009, and I am currently a teacher educator from a local university working with interns in the district. I am writing to support the call for reasonable class sizes and appropriate salary steps and cost of living increases. We are experiencing a severe drop in enrollment in teacher education programs, and from talking with high school students, I know that they are hesitant to enter the profession because they see how demanding the work is as well as how under-appreciated teachers are.

Teachers are doing THE most important work in our society and they do not receive the time, respect, or resources they deserve and need in order to do the job they need to do. Smaller class sizes allow for more differentiated instruction and personal attention that we know students need for equitable learning and social-emotional health. The quality of instruction and work-life balance for teachers will improve with smaller class sizes and appropriate compensation. Furthermore, teaching as a profession will be more appealing when teachers are happier and more engaged with their students.

If anything, teachers need SMALLER classes, so increasing class size is not a tenable solution to budget issues, especially if attention to equity and teacher quality are high priorities for the district. I hope you will take this into consideration.

Yours,  
Kim Feldman

Kimberly Feldman  
kfeldman@umbc.edu  
345 Greenlow Rd.  
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Susan Peck <Blue.eyedpeck@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 6:05 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Special Ed

Council Members ,

We need to down size so special ed can be included. Too many children in one class makes it hard for one teacher teach.

Susan Peck  
Blue.eyedpeck@icloud.com  
5382 Eliots Oak Rd  
Columbia, Maryland 21044

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Michelle Hyde <michelle\_hyde@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 11:58 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please fund HCPSS!

Council Members ,

As a parent and an educator in HOCO--please fund step and COLA increases. Please do not make class size 34--that will not keep us at the high level of education we are used to in HOCO. We have to realize what is a priority and what is not.....

Michelle Hyde  
michelle\_hyde@hcpss.org  
8827 Doves Fly Way  
Laurel, Maryland 20723

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Anne Long <Anne\_Long@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:09 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Another Perspective

Council Members ,

I work at Homewood. Our students are considered "at risk", which is interesting because they are really "at crisis." As we begin each school year, we teachers know that there are future Homewood students out there. There are students attending (or just kind of attending) their home schools, who will soon be shuttled to our program. They will arrive here, not only because they have done something bad, but because their home school did not do enough good. An increase in class size is directly related to the success of students who are on the edge, who are "at risk." Our students, who are outliers, become so in part because their home school was unable to meet their needs.

Anne Long  
Anne\_Long@hcpss.org  
3242 Sykesville Rd  
Westminster, Maryland 21157

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** laura foerster <laura\_foersterpuglisi@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget HCEA

Council Members ,

Fund our budget, drop class sizes, lower the amount of IEP students in classes in title I schools. BCPS keeps getting raises, why can't we? We are asked to do SO much more instructionally!

laura foerster  
laura\_foersterpuglisi@hcpss.org  
5643 chelwynd road  
halethorpe, Maryland 21227

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Valerie Mcbee <valerie\_mcbee@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:13 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fund Education

Council Members ,

Howard County Public Schools have always had an excellent reputation, and have performed above the National and State levels consistently. People move to this county because of that reputation. When class sizes are larger, we can not meet the needs of our students. Not only is our energy depleted, but our time is also taken away with more grading, more parents to contact, more meetings to attend. We can not keep the high standards that are expected of us when we have these conditions. We will do everything in our power to help each of our students succeed, but we are being set up for failure.

Do more with less. That is what we are told every year. Less time for each student, less time for each family, less time. The scores will go down, we will then look at all the data and try to work out why this is happening. Do more with less does not work.

These last few years have been a struggle. I came to Howard County to teach because it used to be a place where education was valued. Make Howard County that place again. Actions speak louder than words.

Regards,  
Valerie McBee

Valerie Mcbee  
valerie\_mcbee@hcpss.org  
3230 Old Fence Rd  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Roy Rosnik <roy\_rosnik@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:13 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support Students and Staff

Council Members ,

County Council,

As a long time Howard County resident, HCPSS parent and teacher - I would like to give you some input.

Ask anyone that lives in Howard County and they will tell you that the public schools make the difference.

Ask any Real estate person - what is the number one selling point to move to Howard County - the quality of the schools.

Do the research - lower class sizes equal higher academic achievement and lower discipline problems.

It is less expensive to educate a student than incarcerate a person.

So if you love this county and want to keep it the best place to live - then support the schools.

How can you do this:

Increase the funding with a mandate to the Board of Education to lower class sizes.

Restore the \$6000000.00 to the budget for students.

Then when you come around and ask for my vote - I will say' "Yes". And I will tell my neighbors to vote for you as well.

Roy Rosnik  
roy\_rosnik@hcpss.org



13434 Chris Mar Court  
Highland, Maryland 20777

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Brittany Franckowiak <brittany\_franckowiak@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:14 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** 34 Teenagers in One Lab Space?

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern:

I am a Nationally Board Certified biology teacher at Wilde Lake HS. I have been teaching AP Biology at WLHS for five years now. Each year, my diverse AP class achieves highly on the exam in May.

For the five years I have taught the course at Wilde Lake, we have successfully had staffing to run 2 sections of the course. This means that I have had two section of AP Biology with no more than 21 students in any given section.

This arrangement has enabled me to deliver safe and effective science instruction to an increasingly heterogeneous AP student population. With smaller classes, I have been able to meet with individual students almost every day to consult with them about their progress, work with them on misconceptions, and coach them directly during laboratory work. During small group work, I've been able to monitor each group more or less constantly, helping students stay on task, guiding productive student talk, and minimizing distractions.

These small class sizes have enabled small lab teams of no more than 3 students, which means that all students at the lab bench can be actively engaged in the procedure and I have a clear view of what each student is doing. Not only does this enhance each student's lab learning, it also allows for safety in the physical space of our lab.

I have 7 student lab benches. Currently, there are 28 desks in the physical space of my classroom to accommodate the 28 students enrolled in my GT Biology section. When every desk is full in my GT course, I cannot physically move through the classroom. The desks and chairs are trip hazards. 28 desks do not fit into rows. I prefer pods anyway, but the 7 pods of 4 mean that my student are almost on top of each other.

Next year, I am looking at a single section of AP Biology that currently has 34 students enrolled.

I cannot physically arrange 34 empty desks in the space of my science classroom. My room will certainly not accommodate 34 desks full of 17 and 18 year old young adults.

With 34 students, my lab teams will grow into 6 teams of 5 students each and 1 team of 4 students each. It is frankly not at all clear to me how I will manage to keep all 34 students safe during lab work as they are crowded into a space that is much too small to accommodate that many young adults.

The result of this will most likely be a decrease in the amount of laboratory work for my students. Labs are the backbone of my AP course and are an essential vehicle for engaging students in authentic science practices. But I cannot effectively monitor and instruct a lab with 34 students. Lab teams of 5 will all but ensure that students do not equally engage in lab work.

With 34 students in AP Biology, I will no longer be able to provide one-on-one support and coaching to students during class time. I will no longer be able to consistently monitor each group of students. Distraction and disengagement will increase, and the quality of our student community will decrease.

As we work to increase equity and access to AP instruction & content, we must understand the importance of a safe and supported space for students to make mistakes and take academic risks. The larger the class, the more difficult it is for students to build community with one another and myself. In a larger class, students are less likely to participate, less likely to take risks, less likely to be willing to talk through a mistake.

It is malpractice to encourage students from underserved populations to enroll in AP courses while simultaneously reducing the amount of individualized instructional support for those students.

Increasing the class size of my AP science course will discourage struggling students from attempting the course. The first students to leave will be the students who feel that they don't belong. This will perpetuate a vicious cycle of unequal access to AP, ensuring that the only students who stay in AP are students who already feel comfortable there--students who need less one-on-one attention to be successful.

I would like to personally invite any member of the County Council to visit my classroom (Room 331 at Wilde Lake) in August to assist me with arranging 34 desks in my classroom. I also welcome practical advice from County Executives about how best to ensure lab safety and provide adequate lab materials for 34 students.

Brittany Franckowiak

[brittany\\_franckowiak@hcpss.org](mailto:brittany_franckowiak@hcpss.org)

14052 Chestnut Ct

Laurel, Maryland 20707

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Ira Wright <ira\_wright@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:16 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget/Class size

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

I write this to you as a concerned Special Education Teacher in HCPSS. Between the increased class sizes and lack of funds this makes my job much harder. You are wanting me to do more with less. My students already struggle, now we are adding more in each classroom. This is unacceptable, and to top it off no raise and possibly a health care increase. I ask that you and your council find another way to increase HCPSS Funding. This is our future we are talking about here. Howard County needs to keep pace with other counties with pay as well. Teachers continue to turn over because many of us struggle to make ends meet. Anything helps us! Thanks for your time to consider this.

Sincerely, Ira Wright, Special Educator

Ira Wright  
ira\_wright@hcpss.org  
813 Harvest Terrace  
New Market, Maryland 21774

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Heather Gainey <heather\_gainey@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** FY19 HCPSS Budget

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 because our classrooms are not big enough to hold the needed desks for each student.

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 as well as specialized instruction provided for our IEP students.

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible as well as allowing teachers to do there job well!

Heather Gainey  
heather\_gainey@hcpss.org  
202 Stonewall Road  
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Shannon Grieve <shannon\_grieve@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:31 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** MOE- class size

Council Members ,

As a 22 year veteran educator of Howard County Public Schools, I am seeing teachers, administrators, support staff and students being stretched farther than ever before. The number of accountability factors within the educational process, for both educators and learners, is at an all-time high. Raising class sizes will only make our (students and staff) responsibilities harder. Students need attention, from their instructors, counselors and administrators in order to meet the expectations and standards of school. The more students we have, without the necessary staff, the less amount of attention can be given to each student. This is counterproductive! Please do not raise the caps for class size. This would be a terrible decision for our youth.

Sincerely,

Shannon Grieve  
School Counselor  
Howard High School

Shannon Grieve  
shannon\_grieve@hcpss.org  
641 Orpington Rd.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21229

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Leslie Topus <leslie\_topus@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:43 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Class size/ step increases

Council Members ,

How did we ever find the money to give Dr. Foose for mismanaging our school system? I know you must be very sorry, for the mismanagement for the last 4 years and allowing teachers and students are punished (of course WE have been doing our job correctly). Mr. Kittleman, County Council along with our Board of Education should be embarrassed, totally embarrassed. All of you should be ashamed.

Leslie Topus  
River Hill High School  
Teacher for 44 years; 27 of those in Howard County.

Leslie Topus  
leslie\_topus@hcpss.org  
2185 Mount View Rd  
Marriottsville, Maryland 21104



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Susan Ericksen <susan\_ericksen@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:43 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** No increase in salaries ?

Council Members ,

It appears that HCPSS employees will not again be receiving a step increase or even an increase in cost of living for next year. Teachers in our school system are tasked with so much more to do in their role that it is disconcerting to think we are not compensated appropriately. While I truly love, and appreciate my job very much, I find my job much more challenging than ever before due to all the additional responsibilities that I now have, and I wonder why I am still in need of working a part-time job to make ends meet. This is the case even with a number of years as an educator.

My hope is that SOMEHOW we can take a closer look to find some way to better compensate teachers for next year, it would greatly impact staff engagement.

We represent a very important profession in the county and when we are unable to put food on the table, you have to wonder why we stay.

It is simple; our students.

However, sometimes it can be tough to push through, and complete the tremendous number of responsibilities each, and everyday especially when we feel under valued because of no salary increases. Is this why so many teachers take off especially on Fridays and Mondays and the reason we struggle to find substitutes especially at the high school level? Is it related to morale and perhaps a level of frustration by some?

Teacher's salaries-This is also

"The Fierce Urgency of Now"!

Susan Ericksen  
susan\_ericksen@hcpss.org  
2910 Tulip Way  
Manchester, Maryland 21102

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Denis Ahearn <denis\_ahearn@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:49 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Restore \$5.9M to education Budget & Prevent Class Size Increases

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Officials-

Howard County has long prided itself providing a world-class education for its children. Cutting money and increasing class size will absolutely prevent county educators from being able to continue that tradition. Numerous studies have shown that investments in education pay dividends in all other parts of society. Why would a wealthy county like ours look to do anything but increase the funds it provides our schools? These are your children and grand children we are talking about. Do you not want the best for them?

Sincerely,  
Denis Ahearn

Denis Ahearn  
denis\_ahearn@hcpss.org  
15280 Sweetbay Street  
Woodbine, Maryland 21797

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Anne Long <Anne\_Long@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:58 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Another Perspective

Council Members ,

I work at Homewood. Our students are considered "at risk", which is interesting because they are really "at crisis." As we begin each school year, we teachers know that there are future Homewood students out there. There are students attending (or just kind of attending) their home schools, who will soon be shuttled to our program. They will arrive here, not only because they have done something bad in their school or community, but because their home school did not do enough good for them. An increase in class size is directly related to the success of students who are on the edge, who are "at risk", and who will soon be "at crisis". Our students become outliers in part because their home school was unable to meet their needs.

I have been a member of the Ho Co community for many years as an educator, as a parent, and as a special education advocate. Each year, the budget process sees our respective stakeholders tumble through the same gymnastics...BOE submits, Co Exec cuts, and the Co Council restores, at least some of the funding. There is always some concern about what can be spent and how. I resent that HCPSS students and staff, who are always praised as being so hard working/successful/valuable/dedicated/whichever description sounds soothing, are annually subjected to such a disruptive political dance.

Anne Long  
Teacher at Homewood

Anne Long  
Anne\_Long@hcpss.org  
3242 Sykesville Rd  
Westminster, Maryland 21157

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Karen Fernande <karen\_fernande@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 1:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** pleasedo not increase class size

Council Members ,

It is more important than ever to reduce class size. With all the violence in our society, teachers need to be able to get to know each student and meet their individual needs. It is foolish to think that a teacher can successfully handle all the job responsibilities with large number of students.

The larger the class, the greater chance a student becomes just a name. Teachers are exhausted trying to maintain order in large classes and get through the curriculum. The more stress and overwhelmed a teacher is, the less chance they will take the extra time to reach out to parents and students and open the lines of communications for the benefit of all.

We can not be expected to use our personal time and sacrifice our families and our own children because the someone has mismanaged finances.

Please consider reducing some of the over the top non educational services that Howard County provides to its residents and put the money toward taking care children and making sure each child feels valued in our school system and in society.

Karen Fernande

Karen Fernande  
karen\_fernande@hcpss.org  
2821 Thornbrook Road  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Lisa Cramer <LISA\_CRAMER@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 1:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** class size impacts everyone

Council Members ,

Budgets are tricky and have a trickle effect. However our youth should never be disposable within this trickle effect. Everyone is preaching to us know the learner and spend time understanding your students. No teacher is a super hero and can meet every students needs if their class size is too big. You find ways to give money to our fire, police, and other county employees. Are you saying that the people that are in charge of shaping our youth are not as worthy of a raise or having funding for their jobs?

Lisa Cramer  
LISA\_CRAMER@hcpss.org  
8705 Cardinal Forest Circle  
Laurel, Maryland 20723

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Anna Gannon <agannon@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 1:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Restore Education Funding

Council Members ,

I cannot begin to express how imperative it is to restore the funding to the Education budget. Not only is there a direct cut to services to students in the way of qualified staff, supplies, extra activities, instruction and technology equipment but it sends a message to our community that our students (and future citizens) are not as important as other priorities in our county. I want my children to experience a quality education experience that provides them a variety of opportunities and a stable and well staffed work-force. It is never prudent to invest less and expect more. It will not serve Howard County well if we treat our future citizens like an organized production line. I also want to be able to provide instruction to my students that can be tailored to their diverse needs. However, I struggle to provide for my family and be an active participant in our school community. I invest in subscriptions for my students monthly to ensure that they leave my classroom better prepared for their future endeavors. The responsibility to ensure our classrooms are better falls with our elected officials. Restore the funds to OUR education system. It is an investment that can never be measured.

Sincerely,  
Anna Gannon

Anna Gannon  
agannon@hcpss.org  
8851 Mission Road  
Jessup, Maryland 20794

## **Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Margaret Danaher <margaret\_danaher@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 1:28 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Let's create schools meant for learning

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Kittleman,

I have worked in the HCPSS schools for the past 11 years. During that time, I have watched the expectations on staff grow and the ability to provide quality instruction, care and concern to students decline, significantly. Attempting to provide adequate services to my special education students this year has been discouraging to say the least.

While rationalizations can be made to justify anything, we either have concern to meet student and teachers needs (they are linked) or we don't. I am wishing that those in charge of the budget will have an awareness and concern that their priority should be to create environments where learning can really occur.

Fund students, teachers and real instructional opportunities.

Sincerely,

Margaret Danaher

Margaret Danaher  
margaret\_danaher@hcpss.org  
4725 Dorsey Hall Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Joshua Rettenmayer <JOSHUA\_RETTENMAYER@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 1:31 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget cuts

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to tell you how dismayed I am that the class sizes will increase this coming school year. I grew up in Howard County, but spent 2 years going to high school in Montgomery County before returning to Howard. One of the many things that helps set Howard County apart from other counties is its smaller class size. This allows for more personal instruction which leads to better grades, fewer discipline problems and just overall happier students and teachers. It's bad enough that so many teachers are being surplusd this year. Now, there are bigger class sizes to deal with as well. Teaching is a wonderful profession and is extremely rewarding but it is disheartening when a teacher has to worry about getting a step raise because of budget cuts. It's also disheartening to find out that the disparity in salaries between what most teachers make and the salaries that other people who work for the county make is as big as it is. In short, the 5.9M taken out of the budget should be unacceptable to everyone who cares about providing quality education to our students and compensating our teachers properly. Please restore the 5.9M so we can be a county that says we do both.

Joshua Rettenmayer  
JOSHUA\_RETTENMAYER@hcpss.org  
9067 Northfield Road  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Meghan Kasten <meghan\_kasten@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 1:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS budget

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

I am a proud HCPSS teacher, finishing my 11th year with the system. I am proud of the work I do for one of the best school systems in the nation. However, I am disappointed that this year's proposed budget does not put students and the staff that serve them at the forefront. Did you know HCPSS was ranked by Forbes as the 29th best place to work in the country?! We beat out Montgomery County in the rankings! I do believe in order to keep that status, the amazing teachers and staff need to be paid to reflect their hard work and dedication to our schools and community. Competitive pay will also bring the best graduates our way. In addition, increasing class sizes across the board is sure to have a detrimental effect on both students and teachers alike.

I am confident we can work together to ensure Howard County stays a world-class education system.

Meghan Kasten  
meghan\_kasten@hcpss.org  
111 Hopkins rd  
Baltimore , Maryland 21212

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Robin Balimtas <ROBIN\_BALIMTAS@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 1:37 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

I implore you to fully fund our necessary budget! I am most concerned about receiving the monies to ensure that the teachers receive their earned steps and salary increases. If salary steps/increases are not granted than we cannot keep up with inflation and cost of living. Those nearest retirement will be greatly affected as the last three years of salary are taken into account with earned pension. I am certain politicians earn their COLA and EDUCATION is the backbone of Howard County and the reason people are drawn to this county and the reason that the amount of money gathered from taxes is great enough to support our successful, popular county. By cutting our budget, increasing our class sizes, and cutting our salary increases, you are sending a message to educators that you do not value their efforts. Please, find the funds to fully ensure we receive our salary increases. Show us you respect us and our profession.

Sincerely,

Robin M. Balimtas

Reading Specialist/OMMS

Robin Balimtas

ROBIN\_BALIMTAS@hcpss.org

14041 Big Branch Drive

Dayton, Maryland 21036

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Lesli Ancona <lesli\_ancona@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 2:21 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** effect of increased clas size on students

Council Members ,

As a Howard County elementary school educator I can guarantee an increase in class size will have a devastating effect on my ability to meet my students needs. Our school system was built on a student's first philosophy, supporting and empowering teachers to differentiate so that each child's potential is met, unlike many school systems whose students receive a one size fits all education. With changes in standards and curriculum it is even more important for class sizes to be caped at 20 for primary grades. It is physically impossible to fit a larger number of desks and bodies safely in our classrooms (many of which lost much needed space when "safety walls" were constructed a few years ago.

The bottom line is you can't have a strong, highly regarded school system that contributes to Howard County's economic growth without paying for it. The quality of our children's education is directly dependent on class size. It is the single most important factor in a teacher's ability to meet her student's needs.

Lesli Ancona  
lesli\_ancona@hcpss.org  
6640 Towering Oak Path  
Columbia, Maryland 21044

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Lizabeth Smull <Lizabeth\_Smull@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 3:56 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget in Relation to class size.

Council Members ,

To whom it May Concern,

I am hoping that you listen to the teachers of the county that they have given more than there 100% effort with the children in Howard County. And now with the class sizes possibly increasing again do you have enough teachers in the classroom?

Some of the children in the county need more than one teacher in there room to meet the learning needs of today.

And with no increase in salary with teachers already spending more than 40

Hours a week working. How can you rectify this situation?

I am currently a Paraeducator in the county and see the day to day pull

Of teachers in the classroom.

So, I ask why?

Sincerely,

Liz Smull, MS NCBTMB

Lizabeth Smull

Lizabeth\_Smull@hcpss.org

9465 Catfeet court

Columbia, Maryland 21045

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Helene Tyler <helene\_tyler@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 5:14 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Total Funding of HCPSS

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

As you know education is what drives a community and nation. Howard County has been continually praised in NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES to be a favorable place to live. One of the main reasons it is considered a terrific place to live is its EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. Because of Howard County's present reputation, BUSINESSES do desire to be here. To have Howard County thrive its educational system has to be COMPLETELY FUNDED on all fronts, and not just minimally. This includes recurring funds, non-recurring funds, OPEB, and debt service. Let's RETAIN OUR PRESENT TEACHERS, NOT FORGET OUR RETIRED TEACHERS, , and be the school system where FUTURE TEACHERS want to be employed.

Helene Tyler

Helene Tyler  
helene\_tyler@hcpss.org  
10947 Harmel Dr  
Columbia, Maryland 21044

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Albert Packan <ALBERT\_PACKAN@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 7:23 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support FY 19 Budget

Council Members ,

Dear County Council and Executive Kittleman,

I have been a Howard County Educator for 27 years. Throughout my tenure the challenges in a classroom continue to increase. Manor Woods Elementary School has been overcrowded for years with extremely large classes. My first area of concern is the space allotted for students in an elementary school. My class is very full students and support personnel. It is difficult to walk around without tripping over a chair leg, students' belongings and classroom materials. In fact, it is very dangerous and adding more students does not make the classroom does not make it a safe place for daily travel. With that said, elementary teachers need to assess and teach small groups. I have found that each year that it is more difficult to meet with all the students daily. I propose that a longer school day be mandated in order to accommodate these large groups or actually lower class sizes, not raise. Another area of concern is me as a teacher having enough time to communicate with the parents in our county. Students require support from home. Often parents ask for me to just send an e-mail. There is not enough time for that to happen now. It is impossible to teach and compose e-mails of communication to the parents of our students while teaching. I do not sit behind a desk all day. I am constantly moving while attempting to meet the needs of the kids. There is simply no time allotted for this to happen in a school day now. I recommend building more time in the teacher contract to allot for this to happen. Certainly, adding more students is not the answer to this serious problem! During the 2016-17 school year, I kept a record of all of my unpaid time that I did after school and at home. The amount of unpaid time that I spent last year was 218 hours. That equates to 31.14 additional days that I worked without compensation from HCPSS. That is a ridiculous amount of extra time spent just to be able to do my job in a satisfactory manner. My question is; When and where does this madness stop? The only people who can help make the madness stop is the County Council and County Executive Kittleman. With that said, I am pleading with each and every one of you to restore the 5.9 million dollars in the 2019 Budget. This will surely benefit the residence of Howard County. I welcome any responses and would love for any of you to shadow me for

one week. I really think that experience would enlighten you on what the classroom environment is really like.

Sincerely,  
Albert T. Packan

10406 A Baltimore National Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
apackan1@aol.com  
240 674-4300

Howard County Resident  
Howard County Teacher

Albert Packan  
ALBERT\_PACKAN@hcpss.org  
10406 A Baltimore Nat Pike  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Karen Cole <karen\_cole@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 7:36 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** What is more important?

Council Members ,

These children we work with every day deserve the best we can give. They don't need a new building. They need the kindness and knowledge we have to give them. Life experiences, consequences, and knowledge of learning I truly believe that is what is needed. Please understand I do not want to be a babysitter. I want to have that light bulb go off in that child's eyes and know I made a difference. Larger classes will make it very difficult to be able to give that help on an individual basis. As a Paraeducator I am very frustrated because I don't get payed very much. I realize we aren't classroom teachers, but we are the glue that makes our team run smoothly. Please don't take away our increases or steps. Walk in my shoes for a month or more and you will understand what we do every day.

Thank you for your time  
Karen L. Cole

Karen Cole  
karen\_cole@hcpss.org  
437 Madingley Rd  
Linthicum Heights, Maryland 21090



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Michaeline Van Reenan <michaeline\_van\_reenan@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 06, 2018 10:18 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Class Size

Council Members ,

Class size is very important as a teacher and as a parent. The demands of teaching are high enough without adding the pressure of more students in one class. It is our responsibility to help each student be successful but if the class sizes are increased, this will be much more challenging and unfair to the student who will hurt in the long run. Even with high achieving students, class sizes should not be more than 25 to be more effective as teachers. Please consider how this will impact our students rather than impact the budget.

Thank you for your time.

Michaeline Van Reenan  
HCPSS Teacher

Michaeline Van Reenan  
michaeline\_van\_reenan@hcpss.org  
6012 Kennard Court  
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Patricia Cummings <Patricia\_Cummings@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2018 6:46 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Paraeducators vs Substitutes Raises

Council Members ,

I hope that the Board has taken into consideration that Para's are valuable and should be treated as such. There is no reason why Para's should be paid below poverty. Para's work hard and without them teachers would not be able to get the work done that is needed to teach students.

Most para's are capable of running classroom alone (that's what we do most times). Para's are ask to sit in when teachers are out and subs do not pick up on various leaves. My question is why aren't para's paid for this? Teachers are paid to fill in for teachers who are out.

No matter what para's deserve an increase in pay. Most para's are working two or three jobs to make ends meet in Howard County. Most para's have degrees and love what they do but are not appreciated. HCPSS should be ashamed to pay para's below \$29,000 a year. Para's should get a raise at least to \$35,000 a year or it should be based on the level of education he/she has.

Patricia Cummings  
Patricia\_Cummings@hcpss.org  
9324 Kenbrooke Ct.  
Laurel, Maryland 20723

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Lois Han <lois\_han@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2018 9:38 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Negative Impact of Increase in Class Size

Council Members ,

Hello,

It is imperative for the success of all students to keep class sizes low. Smaller class sizes are an important factor for creating meaningful and trusting relationships between adults and students. The smaller class sizes allow for teachers to know their students' needs more deeply and provide learning opportunities that are tailored to helping them truly comprehend skills that will help them to become strong lifelong learners.

Lois Han

lois\_han@hcpss.org

10200 Wetherburn Rd

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jason Fahie <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 6:09 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Hello Howard County Council Members

Council Members ,

My name is Jason Fahie and I am a new teacher to the County. I spent the last 10 years in Anne Arundel County and left because of the years of steps I was behind. It seems that the current budget is going to begin this trend in Howard County. Please restore money in BOE budget to fully fund keeping class sizes smaller and employee benefits.

I was amazed coming to HCPSS to find out that class sizes were truly considered when making schedules at the secondary level. Please continue to make the best decisions for our students today and in the future.

Counting on you,

Jason Fahie  
Health and Physical Education Teacher  
Harper's Choice Middle School

Jason Fahie  
jafahie@hotmail.com  
319 Eagle Harbor South  
Laurel, Maryland 20724

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Susan Cochran <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 6:12 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget

Council Members ,

The class size increase resulting from the proposed budget will negatively impact my students and my ability to provide the level of instructional differentiation they need.

Please restore the 5.9M to the budget to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Thanks in advance.

Susan Cochran  
susancochran5@gmail.com  
17308 Old Frederick Road  
Mt Airy, Maryland 21771

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Ronica Johnson <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 6:13 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget with Salary Increase

Council Members ,

Please increase the budget to include salary increases! Our jobs are so difficult as is. We work ourselves to exhaustion, please let us have our salary increases. We value our work, please value us!

Ronica Johnson  
rosasderonica@yahoo.com  
5943-1 Logans Way  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Donna Hayman <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 6:25 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Funding for HCPSS

Council Members ,

It is critical that full funding be restored to the HCPSS budget in order to maintain and grow our school system. Without technology, appropriate class sizes and competitive salaries, this school system will no longer be the high quality system Howard County residents expect and demand.

Donna Hayman

Donna Hayman

Donnanhayman@yahoo.com

6228 Tamar Drive

Columbia, Maryland 21045

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Meredith Schwartz <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 6:25 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** School budget

Council Members ,

The bottom line is this: HCPSS is the reason our county grows, and the reason it attracts families who want the services provided and teaching quality by HCPSS. Not fully funding the budget request will "cut off the nose despite the face."

Meredith Schwartz  
meredithschwartz@gmail.com  
2812 St John'S Lane  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042



## **Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Patricia Parra Garcia <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 6:54 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Class sizes and salaries

Council Members ,

If you really want to keep the best teachers you cannot force them to have overcrowded classes, no raise, closed language programs and go on. If you want a world class education, that has a cost and you need to pay for it.

Patricia Parra Garcia  
patriciaparra1@gmail.com  
7555 Rain Flower Way  
Columbia, Maryland 21046

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Eric Soskil <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 7:02 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Maintain excellence

Council Members ,

Please fund the school budget in order to provide the earned salary increases and benefits of its employees. In order to continue to be that county's business engine we need to keep and retain the best employees which can only be done if we're properly providing their compensation. Ask yourself if you would be okay having your child in a class with 30 or more children? Do you really think a teacher can meet the needs of all his or her students in those large classes and can continue to achieve the academic excellence the school system has previously obtained? All the research shows that class size is a major factor in supporting student achievement.

Please ensure our students are treated like our future leaders and provided a superior education.

Eric Soskil

Eric Soskil  
eric Soskil@yahoo.com  
6158 Tower Top  
Columbia, Maryland 21045

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Donna Tafuri <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 7:26 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

I implore that you fully fund the HCPSS budget, please restore that 5.9 M that was cut!  
I have worked for HCPSS for 10 years as a para educator. Last year I transferred from special ed to general ed as I just couldn't take it any more. Which is sad as Special Ed is SO understaffed, especially with people who care and are good workers! It was just too hectic, being thrown here and there to work with a student for a period here and another period there. These students with IEP's need stability and people who know them! So now class size will be increased? It's crazy. I work in K where these little minds are formed and the class size now is WAY TOO MUCH for one teacher and sometimes a para! Each year the US falls behind other countries. Something has to change!

Donna Tafuri  
donna tafuri@gmail.com  
6336 Woodcrest Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Steven Lewis <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 7:31 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please Fully Fund the Budget

Council Members ,

Dear Allan Kittleman and County Council Members,  
Please fully fund the 2018-2019 budget request for the HCPSS.

Sincerely,

Mr Steven Lewis

Steven Lewis  
slewisdietcoke@yahoo.com  
7638-A Stony Creek Lane  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Alexander Livieratos <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 7:38 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please fund our schools!

Council Members ,

Please fund our schools!

This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students. This class size increase will impact my educational space because we are already overcrowded and underfunded.

There will be challenges in course offerings due to this class size increase- we have already had to cancel electives in our school so we can run the core required classes. This class size increase will affect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county. It is already so difficult to give meaningful feedback to our students based on this year's class sizes. We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Please support our schools!

Thank you!

Alexander Livieratos  
aleclivi@gmail.com  
3250 Saint Johns Lane  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Robert Kennedy <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 8:04 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS Funding

Council Members ,

When my family returned from living in England for 8 years, we did so to work for HCPSS and extended our finances in order to live in Howard County so our children could attend the best public school system in MD. If the county council does not work to restore funding for HCPSS I will vote for and work to elect council members that will.

Robert Kennedy  
betweenbeats@hotmail.com  
2110 Harrow Dr.  
Woodstock, Maryland 21163

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** LAURA COMETA <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 8:12 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Concerns

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

I am an HCPSS teacher, a graduate of HCPSS schools, and my own children will be old enough to attend HCPSS schools soon. I began my teaching career in California, but I moved back to Howard County when my children were born so that they could have an outstanding education like I did.

As an HCPSS teacher, I am disappointed that our salaries are lower than neighboring counties, such as Montgomery. We want to attract the best teaching talent for our kids, and we need to reflect that in our compensation. I can also tell you that it is very hard to find substitute teachers, which also reflects our low sub salaries compared to other counties. Our secretaries are scrambling every morning to try to piece together coverage for teachers who are out. This chaos affects our whole school building, as para-educators are pulled in daily as subs and students in need of para-educator services are left without the service they are legally entitled to.

I am very worried about rumors that our class sizes will be going up. This will lead to lower achievement and will leave our most vulnerable students behind. Our new superintendent has promoted equity as our system-wide goal, but we have so many students who have IEPs, BIPS, and 504 plans in our already-large classes, that I can tell you it's impossible to meet all their needs. Trust me, I am an overachiever and a workaholic, and I am telling you that even the most hard-working teachers cannot meet the diverse needs of all of our students right now - what we really need is SMALLER class sizes and more para-educators to serve as student assistants, not the other way around.

Lastly, I am heartbroken by the sudden dismantling of the World Language pilot program in elementary schools. I have seen the data from that program and it was outstanding! Our elementary students were becoming bilingual so quickly, and now that has been cut off.

Everyone knows it is much easier to form those brain connections and learn a second language at a young age; it only gets harder the longer you wait. With our elementary World Language program, we would have really set our county apart as the gold standard in education. Being bilingual has so many research-based benefits for our kids' critical thinking skills and career prospects. Imagine if all HCPSS seniors could have graduated with Maryland's new Seal of Biliteracy on their diplomas. I was hoping my own children would get to have that experience in elementary school. Moreover, the way the program was cut off so suddenly, without regard to the current teachers and children in the program was disgraceful and appalling. It's not surprising that now our most talented elementary World Language teachers are signing contracts with Montgomery County - the resources and training we put into developing this talent will now directly benefit Montgomery County's elementary Spanish program instead.

I would like you to stop worrying about politics and put Howard County's children first. No matter what political party, we can all agree that education is what makes our county great. I understand that you may need to cut other areas or raise taxes, but the sacrifices are worth it if we know that all of our students are getting the best education.

Thank you for your time,  
Laura Cometa  
Harper's Choice Middle School Teacher

LAURA COMETA  
cometa.laura@gmail.com  
11626 Sun Circle Way  
COLUMBIA, Maryland 21044



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Molly Michaelson <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 8:35 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Restore the Education Budget

Council Members ,

I am a teacher and a parent in Howard County. Maintaining current class sizes or making them even smaller must be our priority. Raising class sizes only hurts our students and teachers. We are constantly dealing with the challenges of growing populations and shrinking resources. The budget must be restored to allow Howard County students and teachers to have the very best opportunities through smaller class sizes and necessary resources.

Molly Michaelson  
molly815@gmail.com  
8466 Kings Meade Way  
Columbia, Maryland 21046

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Katherine Rolfe <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 8:38 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Restore the Funds

Council Members ,

I am sure you have gotten many letters from teachers just like myself asking for funding. There are studies that support smaller class sizes increase student performance and do we really want to let Howard County to continue to drop in its student performance in the state. We once had a top rated school system and in the past few years we have been dropping mostly due to budget cuts. We all want full inclusion of students, but then due to budget cuts we have had staff positions cut. Combine that with larger class sizes, you are now having general educators getting paid to manage and teach 25+ students and at least 3 with IEP's that typically include some form of social emotional goal. Really is cutting the budget more going to help the students. Teachers do not even get paid enough to live in the county. So here is what I ask, before saying no to restoring our funds, come into our classes and see what we, teachers, have in front of us. I teach inclusion where typically I have at least 1 student with a behavior plan due to violent behaviors. I have been threatened by students and parents while at work, but yet I am being told that there is no money to offer more support. Take a hard look at what our society is now and realize that taking support from children and their teachers is not the answer.

Katherine Rolfe  
kschwa82@gmail.com  
707 Chessie Crossing Way  
Woodbine, Maryland 21797

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Melissa Kiehl <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 9:05 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** I'm tired...

Council Members ,

I'm tired of being asked to do the most important work and seeing my budget cut year after year.

I'm tired of having to fight for my salary, despite earning a doctorate in education and watching my peers in other professions awarded raises on an annual basis.

I'm tired of being asked to learn new programs, new mantras, and new expectations every year without proper time or training.

I'm tired of watching enrollment grow as resources dwindle.

I'm tired of being asked to prepare kids for the future when you give no thought to how to fund it.

I'm tired of allowing people to think that we are a world-class school system because of anything other than teacher dedication.

I'm tired of watching this same fight play out year after year with no end in sight until I retire.

Stop talking about equity when you have no plans to meet the needs of teachers and students. Words without action and funding are useless.

Melissa Kiehl

melissa.kiehl@gmail.com

700 HUNTER WAY

CATONSVILLE, Maryland 21228

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Sally Ebare <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 9:37 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget

Council Members ,

The class size increase has had a devastating effect on my overall morale for teaching. As class sizes increase, I have to take more time away from my personal children to plan, grade papers, complete report cards, and many other various tasks. While I love working for Howard County, it frustrates me that my workload continues to increase but my pay stays the same. Please restore the 5.9M to help continue to ensure that our students will receive the best education possible.

Sally Ebare  
iluvtheos@yahoo.com  
6740 Monroe Ave  
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Leray Blanding <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 10:41 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** School System Budget Request

Council Members ,

Please restore the 5.9 million to the budget request to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Leray Blanding  
lblanding75@gmail.com  
9738 Summer Park Court  
Columbia, Maryland 21046

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Sandra Berger <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 10:44 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** students and teachers

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

Please reconsider class size when completing your budget this year. My daughter's teachers work hard enough. Kids need to know they are special and important. Teachers can barely do that now to kids now let alone more kids in their classrooms. Further, I would like to see more appreciation and respect given to teachers. No other profession does the public weigh in so much in such rude ways. We ask our teachers to be more educated than many other professions. Let's give them the respect they deserve.

Sandra Berger  
sandijeans@yahoo.com  
2630 Thornbrook Road  
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jackie Kern <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 11:34 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget

Council Members ,

Dear Executive Allan Kittleman,

Please reconsider restoring the 5.9M to the HCPSS budget. This will ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Increasing class size is not the answer. HPCSS has a reputation of setting and attaining high standards for both students and teachers. An increase to class size would put this in danger. Also, with the diversity in our classrooms instructional differentiation is needed now more than ever. As you know HCPSS makes building community in our classrooms a top priority. Increase in class size will have a negative impact. In this time in our nation where division is rampant HCPSS's priority of building community in the classroom is imperative.

Thank you for allowing me to express my thoughts to you.

Jacqueline Kern,  
HCPSS Reading Specialist

Jackie Kern  
Jacquekern@gmail.com  
4815 Rim Rock Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20853

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Evan Gallena <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 11:46 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please Restore the Funding

Council Members ,

Hello,

As a school psychologist for the county, I provide both indirect and direct support to students and staff. The county has continued to experience a strong trending increase in suicide intervention and students with significant social, emotional, and behavioral needs. By increasing class sizes, teachers who are often the first line of defense in identifying mental health needs will be stretched further and will have a harder time developing connections and trust with students in order to identify needs, provide supports, and make referrals to special educators and student services to support these children. I urge you to reconsider the funding changes so we can continue to keep up with the growing needs of our county.

Thank you,

Evan Gallena

Evan Gallena  
egallena@gmail.com  
1835 South Hanover Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230



**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Jennie Hill <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 12:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING

Council Members ,

Enough is enough with this power struggle between the County Executive and BOE. If you want a world-class educational system, you will do the right thing and fund the HCPSS budget in its entirety. If you do not, you will continue to lose teachers to Montgomery County and elsewhere. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING - FUND HCPSS IN ITS ENTIRETY!!!!!!!

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

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Irene Williams <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 6:25 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please restore the monies the County Executive cut!

Council Members ,

Please restore the monies the County Executive cut for the following reasons:

1. This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students.
2. This class size increase will impact my educational space because I currently have 31 students in a class room that can accommodate 29.
3. This class size increase will effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county.
4. We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Irene Williams  
iw31957@gmail.com  
8354 Silver Trumpet Drive  
Columbia, Maryland 21045

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Matt Gresick <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 6:08 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Dear County Executive and County Council

Council Members ,

Class size and teacher student ratios influence quality of education. I have always been proud to be a teacher for HCPSS as we put our kids above profit and politics. Please continue to do so by increasing funding to decrease the student to teacher ratio that has risen in recent years.

Thank you

Matt Gresick  
mrgresick@gmail.com  
9 Sharonwood Ct  
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Joseph Quirk <Joseph\_Quirk@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 05, 2018 9:59 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Increase in class size will be detrimental and under paid

Council Members ,

Good Morning,

I am a PE teacher at Hammond Elementary School in Howard County. I have been teaching for 10 years now and I truly enjoy the school I'm at. We have the principal of the year, we have a great staff and fantastic students. We need to fix the fund and supply the schools for what is needed.

Currently, we have 2 fifth grade classes in our gym at one time with 64 kids. Our gym is not a big space, and it is too crowded. We already are at a size where my coworker and I feel uncomfortable letting each student do an activity at the same time. If we increase the sizes of the classes, we are going to be giving each student less opportunity to develop their physical, cognitive, and affective goals. Also, my co-worker and I will not be able to provide the necessary feedback to help our students develop into life long learners for physical activity. With obesity being such a huge national epidemic, we should be making this a priority. Another topic I would like to briefly discuss is how underpaid our teachers are in our county. Montgomery county would be paying me close to \$10,000 more every year. That is just ridiculous. We are going to start losing some very qualified and outstanding teachers because resources are not being used correctly.

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible in terms of class size. We need additional funds to make sure the students keep being instructed by the most outstanding teachers.

Do what is right, and what you would want your children to have. Please remember, not every student is as fortunate enough to have parents that care, and that is where these loving, caring, superhero teachers and staff raise, mentor, teach and supply support to our next generation of young adults.

Best Wishes,

Joe Quirk

Joseph Quirk  
Joseph\_Quirk@hcpss.org  
8554 Black Star Circle  
Columbia, Maryland 21045

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Deborah Vo <deborah\_vo@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 05, 2018 6:43 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** RESTORE the \$

Council Members ,

I am writing to urge you to restore the money that the County executive cut. We know that you, our elected officials, recognize that our school system is the engine that drives Howard County. If we all want to maintain the high-quality school system we all strive for, more funding is required. If all HCPSS receives from the County is Maintenance of Effort, or slightly beyond, (as in past years) we will not be able to meet the needs of our growing population as well as the salary and benefits our employees deserve.

Deborah Vo  
deborah\_vo@hcpss.org  
2800 Stansway Ct  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Debbie Costley <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 05, 2018 6:23 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Hcpss funding

Council Members ,

everyone says and Howard County Public Schools are a fantastic place to send your students which is true. However we get all the funding that is needed you're going to have families withdrawing student because a lot of us work here who has students in the system and we need to live on. I'm asking you to fully fun Howard County Public School and their employees so we can continue to do a job that we love to do

Debbie Costley  
costleydebbie@yahoo.com  
3294 CORPORATE CT  
ELLCOTT CITY, Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Julie Kastner <Julie\_Kastner@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 06, 2018 4:05 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Class size Reduction

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

PLEASE RECONSIDER raising class sizes! PLEASE look elsewhere in the budget for money. Howard County needs to continue to be a great school district. Raising class sizes is the number one WORST thing that can be done to HCPSS. I represent Kindergarten and many of our teachers have 24 students. How did that happen? We also have a large amount of students who require extra assistance coming to Kindergarten because of the loss of some of our RECC programs. This year we have 2 children who throw chairs on a weekly basis, along with at least 2 more who disrupt teaching with loud abusive language. It's not right ask the other children to ignore these students every day. We are also seeing significantly more students with attention deficit disorders and high anxiety issues due to rising academic demands. In kindergarten the IEP process takes almost the entire year. This means the responsibility is on the classroom teacher to manage these extreme behaviors without much extra help. We have an instructional assistant for 1-2 days per week. That is not enough. One of our students has misused the computer so many times it had to be removed from the classroom. Why do 23 need to suffer for one? We also have a growing number of children who have a variety of emotional difficulties, and it is becoming harder and harder to juggle the demands of the district, the wide range of academic readiness, the social and emotional needs of the children all while responding to emails, attending professional development and planning engaging lessons. Please help us!!!

K-1 need class sizes with caps of NO MORE than 22. It is becoming impossible to teach under these conditions. We need the 5.9 million restored to ensure our students receive the best education possible.

Thank you for considering these important issues!

Julie Kastner

Julie\_Kastner@hcpss.org



6129 Downs Ridge Court  
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Linda Ferrara <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 06, 2018 12:13 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Restore budget cuts

Council Members ,

Mr. Kittleman,

Due to the budget cuts and increased class sizes, my teaching assignment will change next year. I will be assigned to 2 schools, rather than only my current one (THES.) The number of students in our GT program will not drop, but this decision was made based on general student population numbers. It's affect will mean I can't teach math and that our 40 plus grade 5 GT students will not all have a GT teacher since a general education teacher will have to take my place along with our remaining GT teacher. Our gr 4 GT class will start w 31 plus students on day one, surely to grow over time with flexible grouping. Other services I provide will be cut back as well.

After 16 years at THES, as you know through our STEAM Day meetings, I am an integral member of our team. This change brought on my budget cuts is a detriment to me, but also and most sadly and important to note, to our students. PLEASE reinstate money from budget cuts.

Linda Ferrara

Linda Ferrara  
peony36331@aol.com  
8754 Sage Brush Way  
Columbia, Maryland 21045

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jahantab Siddiqui <Jahantab\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 03, 2018 5:44 PM  
**To:** Kittleman, Allan; Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail; Fox, Greg; Terrasa, Jen; Weinstein, Jon; Sigaty, Mary Kay; clarence.lam@house.state.md.us; edward.kasemeyer@senate.state.md.us; eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us; frank.turner@house.state.md.us; gail.bates@senate.state.md.us; guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us; robert.flanagan@house.state.md.us; shane.pendergrass@house.state.md.us; terri.hill@house.state.md.us; trent.kittleman@house.state.md.us; vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us; warren.miller@house.state.md.us  
**Cc:** BoE Email; Anissa Brown Dennis; Michael Martirano; Karalee Turner-Little  
**Subject:** FW: 5/8 IAC Meeting Rescheduled for 5/31

Elected officials,

We know that many of you are interested in keeping up with the IAC's deliberation of the Talbott Springs Elementary School Replacement Project. We received notice about an hour ago that the IAC meeting scheduled for May 8 has been rescheduled to May 31. Additional information can be found on the IAC's website, linked in the message below. We'll provide additional information as it becomes available.

Jahantab

Jahantab Siddiqui  
Chief Communication, Community & Workforce Engagement Officer  
Howard County Public School System  
Office: 410-313-6680  
Cell: 443-355-7562



## Public School Construction Program

Hello Scott

### **The 5/8 IAC meeting has been rescheduled for 5/31**

The Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) meeting originally scheduled for May 8, 2018 has been rescheduled for May 31, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

The agenda will become available on the PSCP website prior to the meeting at <http://www.pscp.state.md.us/Minutes/2018/2018minutes.cfm>

Some regular business items scheduled for the IAC meeting will be approved via the memorandum scheduled for May 16, 2018. Action of the FY 2019 CIP will be postponed until the May 31 meeting.

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jaimie Shirokobrod <JAIMIE\_SHIROKOBROD@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 29, 2018 10:20 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Class sizes already maxed

Council Members ,

I am discouraged by the increase in class sizes due to budget cuts. We already had high numbers in our elementary school and this has cost us one of our incredible new teachers to be surplused. At an elementary level, class sizes need to be small to ensure that each child's needs are met. Best practices indicate that guided reading groups be 6 students (8 for intermediate). I rarely see these numbers now when I look at reading groups. An increase to class size means increase to guided reading group sizes, which means teachers will be forced to group students with different reading need together in order to fit in the instructional block. This is already a struggle with our large class sizes. Additionally, research shows that classrooms need to have a vast library with books at multiple levels, genres, themes etc... having a large and appealing library increases reading fluency, levels, and ultimately reading interest. Unfortunately, I have teachers telling me that they have had to decrease their libraries in order to accommodate more student desks. This is the exact opposite of what these kids need. In too many classrooms it's a jumbled mess of desks without much room for small groups.

Jaimie Shirokobrod  
JAIMIE\_SHIROKOBROD@hcpss.org  
722 East Watersville Rd.  
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Chelsie Hockenberry <CHELSIE\_HOCKENBERRY@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 27, 2018 2:27 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget Reconsideration

Council Members ,

Mr. Kittleman,

You have done an excellent job as county executive even when faced with hard decisions. I believe that your decision regarding the Howard County Schools' budget was another tough choice to make. However, I urge you to reconsider this choice and see if there is another way to manage funds instead of raising class sizes.

I have been a teacher in Howard County for the past five years. Each year, the responsibilities for teachers have grown causing less and less time available to focus on what matters: the students and the instruction. Raising class sizes would be an awful disservice to our students and the quality education they deserve.

With increased class sizes, it will become more difficult to differentiate instruction meeting students on the varied levels that they perform. It will be close to impossible to effectively implement IEP and 504 plans. Although an IEP is for one student, a lot of times these students require the effort and attention that three to four of his peers do.

Heightened class sizes also keep me from the favorite part of my job which is getting to know each student as an individual as well as the families. With higher numbers, I will be forced to spend my time grading more papers, in more meetings for students with IEPs/504s, and planning lessons to fit the diversity in my classroom instead of designing lessons to fit the interests and skill levels of my students. Communication with parents will be more rushed or only occur when a problem happens rather than sending home positive messages weekly.

I cannot emphasize enough the need to reconsider the budget allocated to HCPSS. We are known as one of the best school systems in the country; in order to keep it that way, we have to be able to reach each student as an individual and not fill classrooms like sardine cans.

Please restore the 5.9 M budget to maintain our current class sizes. The quality of education depends on it.

All the best,  
Chelsie Hockenberry

Chelsie Hockenberry  
CHELSIE\_HOCKENBERRY@hcpss.org  
7977 Brightmeadow Ct.  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Deborah Vo <deborah\_vo@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 27, 2018 12:47 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** FY19 Budget!

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. We really need funds restored for Special Education teachers and para-educators. Our students are already suffering due to the lack of appropriate staff and if the class size increases the negative impact will be significant.

Deborah Vo  
deborah\_vo@hcpss.org  
2800 Stansway Ct  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Natalie Pretzello <NATALIE\_HOGG@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 27, 2018 11:56 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please Restore the FY19 HCPSS budget!

Council Members ,

Study after study shows that smaller class sizes are extremely beneficial to student success. We here in Howard County pride ourselves on our high-achieving, progressive schools that are constantly ranked in the top in the nation. Many parents who would otherwise choose private schools are happy to send their students to our fantastic public schools. How long will that continue if our class sizes increase to levels associated with an earlier, less effective time period of our country's educational history? How long will we continue to be ranked as a top county for education if we cannot even provide what is considered a standard of a modern, progressive public education system? How long will we be ranked a top place to live if our schools cannot keep the same high standards that define all aspects of our community?

I grew up in HCPSS schools and now live and teach here. I am extremely passionate about bringing the great experiences that I received to my students. With larger class sizes, that will be much more difficult. Larger class sizes do not mean we will have larger classrooms and teaching spaces - I know many teachers who simply cannot fit another desk in their cramped rooms (and they have a bare minimum of things in their rooms besides student desks). Our gyms, music rooms, art rooms, and computer labs are not getting any bigger and many of these spaces are already full to the brim. This presents several safety issues, not to mention instructional difficulties and potential trouble finding enough equipment in good condition to use.

Our class sizes are already large. In many areas of the country, a class larger than 20 students in grades 3-5 is unthinkable. I have cousins who teach 3rd grade in Dallas ISD and 4th grade in Richardson ISD (Texas) respectively; their class sizes are 16 and 19 students and they are appalled that we have classes of about 30 for the same grades here. We can do better and we must to ensure that our children receive the best there is to offer. They are our future and they are the ones who will take care of us when we are elderly... we should treat them with the respect they deserve and give them all of the opportunities we can. We should never settle for second best.

I hope you will consider funding education fully. Education should always be the number one



funding priority. Children are our most vulnerable population (even more than the elderly) because they cannot care for themselves; we need them to develop into strong, honest, independent adults and therefore they deserve the very best resources from our public schools. Funding education fully now will have benefits for decades to come as we will have to spend less on preventative care in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best wishes,

Natalie Pretzello

HCPSS teacher, former student, and long-time community member

Natalie Pretzello

NATALIE\_HOGG@hcpss.org

6932 South Carlinda Avenue

Columbia, Maryland 21046

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Joanne Topping <info@actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 10:33 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts

Council Members ,

I understand that there are limits and constraints to funding in government. But I also know that education is a major driver of real estate values and the economy in Howard County. When we were transferred to Maryland from Hawaii, my husband and I moved to Howard County, even though it meant a longer commute, because the education our children would receive made it worth it.

A shortage of funding for HCPSS will result in increases in class sizes. This is not the best place for budget cuts. Larger class sizes mean that teachers, who already are overworked dealing with 25 or 28 students at a time, will have more students and more parents who want their child to get individualized attention to meet their needs.

How do I teach more students while I also differentiate for more reading levels as well as more IEP /504 accommodations? I have already had 1 period with so many students who have IEPs or 504s requiring that they get front row seats, that there are not enough seats in the front row to make that possible. And that is BEFORE you increase class sizes!

The fact is that good kids, the ones who don't get into trouble, who do follow directions, and who are exactly the kids we use as role models, are the very students who will get less attention, because there aren't enough minutes in a period (50) to give 28+ students one on one time while still covering the curriculum with the whole class. So how would you feel if your wonderful, well-behaved child came home from school every day without having had a single teacher speak to them individually? Because that is where we are headed if we stay the course and keep increasing class sizes rather than reallocating funds. I don't think it's worth it. All the HoCo parents I know also don't think it's worth it. I hope you don't think so either.

Please help us get back to smaller classes sizes. Studies have shown that it has a positive influence on educational outcomes. There are so many factors that we, as teachers or policy makers, cannot overcome quickly, from racial issues to poverty. This funding is something that we can control, and it will have immediate benefits to all children.

Please allocate the funds that HCPSS has requested, so we can serve our students, and they can be successful in school and in life.

Respectfully and hopefully yours,

Joanne Topping

Joanne Topping

[jrtopping@gmail.com](mailto:jrtopping@gmail.com)

8094 Woodloo Dr

Ellicott City , Maryland 21043