

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Jahantab Siddiqui <Jahantab\_Siddiqui@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 21, 2018 2:18 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Sun, Holly  
**Cc:** BoE Email; Chiefs; Michael Martirano  
**Subject:** Fwd: Talbott Springs Elementary School on Track for Replacement

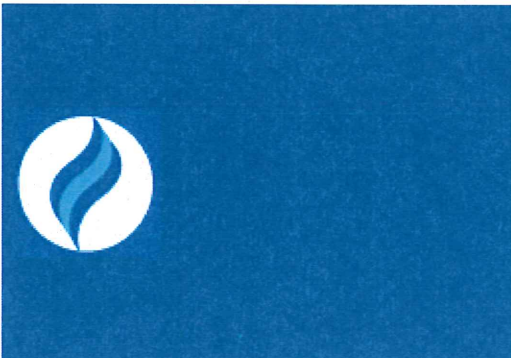
Council members,

Please see the attached press release regarding the Board's decision to replace Talbott Springs Elementary School. In addition, Principal Nancy Thompson will be sending a community message this week and Nessa Brown Dennis, COO, and her team will be meeting with the community over the next several weeks.

Jahantab

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** HCPSS Public Information <[publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org)>  
**Date:** May 21, 2018 at 2:09:16 PM EDT  
**Subject:** Talbott Springs Elementary School on Track for Replacement



**Howard County Public  
School System**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Brian Bassett | [brian\\_bassett@hcpss.org](mailto:brian_bassett@hcpss.org) | 410-313-1505

**May 21, 2018**

**Talbott Springs Elementary School on Track for Replacement**

**Ellicott City, Maryland**—The Howard County Board of Education voted during its May 17, 2018 meeting to move forward with re-evaluating and redesigning a replacement of the Talbott Springs Elementary School (TSES). The new school is scheduled for occupancy in August 2022.

The decision to move forward with a school replacement rather than a renovation/addition was based on several factors, including a review of projected enrollment, the State-rated capacity of the existing and adjacent schools, possible cost savings due to a more efficient design, and the potential for increased State funding participation.

Funding is a critical consideration for the replacement project. The HCPSS is working to resolve the State's concerns in an effort to gain support for increased State funding participation at the

replacement rate. The school system has determined there is \$3.7 million in surplus from other substantially completed capital projects. Howard County government has also also pledged to allocate sufficient funding for the project during its next several annual budget cycles.

As planning for the replacement school proceeds, the HCPSS staff will engage Talbott Springs Elementary School staff and the community as part of the planning process. Updates on the Talbott Springs Elementary School replacement project will be posted to the [Capital Budget](#) page on the HCPSS website.

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**For the latest HCPSS news and information, visit [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org).**

*10910 Clarksville Pike Ellicott City, Maryland 21042 | [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org)*



May 18, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

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

Subject: FY19 Capital Budget Security Related Systemic Priorities

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that following the County Council Budget Work session on May 18, staff reached out to County Executive Kittleman and Budget Director Holly Sun to discuss security related capital needs.

Pursuant to the conversation during the May 18 closed session with the County Council, we discussed the funding needs that may arise as a result of the building assessments expected to be completed this summer. These needs may include but are not limited to additional external and internal cameras, radios, and swipe locks for relocatable units. The County Executive reiterated his commitment to working with the school system to address urgent security vulnerabilities identified through this assessment. As we have during this budget process, we will work collaboratively with the County once these needs are identified.

We also discussed with the County Executive the need for funding building security related projects that have been on the systemic renovation list for several years. As a result of this conversation, staff has identified external security related capital projects at four elementary schools and one middle school. If the County Executive is able to provide any additional funding beyond what is included in his FY19 Proposed Capital Budget, it will be my recommendation to the Board to expedite five school projects, totaling \$1.4 million. I consider these projects to be priority projects due to their impact on building security. Due to the security related aspect of these projects, staff will be able to discuss these projects with the Board in greater detail in a closed session.

Copy to: Executive Staff  
Board of Education Office



May 18, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

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

Subject: FY 2019 Operating Budget Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you, following the County Council Budget Work Session, my recommendation to the Board on the use of potential additional revenue that may be provided by the county.

As stated in my memorandum to you on May 15, 2018, my recommendation is that any additional funding, short of \$5.9 million the HCPSS Operating Budget may receive for FY 2019 be used to add positions to the pool (Program 3201 – Program Support for Schools) and allocated to individual schools based on needs at all three levels. The pool is a group of positions allocated, as needed at the discretion of the Superintendent, to schools which have increased school enrollment or increased class preference enrollment. The flexibility of the pool is crucial to staffing and the extra monies will allow the size of the pool to increase as follows:

\$500,000 – 8 teachers for the pool	\$1,500,000 – 24 teachers for the pool
\$1,000,000 – 16 teachers for the pool	\$2,000,000 – 32 teachers for the pool

Any additional funds provided by the county, including the \$500,000 already committed by the County Executive, will become part of Maintenance of Effort and approved in Category 12 – Fixed Charges and categorically transferred to Category 3 – Instructional Salaries and Wages.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) approved one-time funding of \$11,067,420 to offset employee health care costs. The HCPSS and the County Council assured MSDE prior to this approval that there is a plan to fund this amount in the FY 2020 Operating Budget.

The HCPSS will partner with the county in FY 2020 and beyond to pay down the anticipated \$50.5 million Health Fund deficit over a four-year period. During this time, savings from efficiencies will also be applied to lower the deficit.

cc: Executive Staff  
Board of Education Office

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Peter Greaney <Peter\_Greaney@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 18, 2018 1:43 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Education Budget

Council Members ,

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

In general I approve of the job you are doing, but I believe you should find more money for the education budget. When my wife and I bought our first home we chose Howard County because of the school system. We are still here 27 years later even though our children are grown and moved out of Maryland. We still think the school system is the county's most valuable asset. Please help keep it that way by providing our teachers with better salaries and benefits. Thank you, Peter Greaney

Peter Greaney

Peter\_Greaney@hcpss.org

5441 Hildebrand Court

Columbia, Maryland 21044

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Lasser, Caryn  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 17, 2018 5:08 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Kittleman, Allan; 'boe@hcpss.org'; 'Michael\_Martirano@hcpss.org'; Glendenning, Craig; Feldmark, Jessica; Pruum, Kimberly; 'kevin\_gilbert@hcpss.org'; Sun, Holly; Wilson, B Diane; Robbins, Lonnie  
**Subject:** RE: FY19 Budget Request for Restorative Practices  
**Attachments:** Response Letter - Restorative Practices 051718.pdf

Greetings,

Please find attached a letter from County Executive Allan H. Kittleman in response to the email below.

Thank you.

Caryn D. Lasser  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Howard County Executive Office  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
410-313-4308 Direct Office  
410-313-2013 Main Office  
443-537-3501 Cell

**From:** Ball, Calvin B  
**Sent:** Friday, May 11, 2018 11:53 AM  
**To:** Kittleman, Allan <[AKittleman@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:AKittleman@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Cc:** Pruum, Kimberly <[kprium@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kprium@howardcountymd.gov)>; [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); Dr. Michael J. Martirano <[michael\\_martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:michael_martirano@hcpss.org)>; Glendenning, Craig <[cglendenning@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cglendenning@howardcountymd.gov)>; Feldmark, Jessica <[jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov)>; [kevin\\_gilbert@hcpss.org](mailto:kevin_gilbert@hcpss.org); Sun, Holly <[hsun@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hsun@howardcountymd.gov)>; Wilson, B Diane <[BDWilson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:BDWilson@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** FY19 Budget Request for Restorative Practices

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

In these times where we all want safe schools and places where every child and educator feels welcome, we need to ensure our funding aligns with our priorities. To do so, we must foster an environment for all of our children which embraces diversity, inclusion and restorative practices. I recognize we are still assessing and identifying how to address the school system budget deficit to ensure class sizes do not increase again or compromise valuable teacher positions; however, I ask you to review your budget again to identify approximately \$200,000 to be allocated to Dr. Gilbert, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and his office so that they may oversee and implement these guiding principles in our schools.

There is an urgent need and we must act now. This essential funding will help ensure restorative practices and initiatives are implemented in our schools with urgency as these times require. Our students are watching and waiting for us to answer this call as they seek to the tools to strengthen connections, build strong relationships and help us grow healthier school communities. I know we have a shared goal to see all of our

children succeed and I strongly believe that moving beyond mere rhetoric to fund initiatives, like restorative practices, is essential to truly promoting equity and inclusion in our already diverse school system.

Thank you for your prompt attention. As a committed educator, I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and collaborate with you to ensure we find the much needed funding for this initiative. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

All the best,

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Council, District 2  
Ph: 410-313-2001  
<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Districts/District-2/Bio>

*"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others." —Douglas MacArthur*



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013

Allan H. Kittleman  
Howard County Executive  
akittleman@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov  
FAX 410-313-3051  
TDD 410-313-2323

May 17, 2018

Dr. Ball and Councilmembers:

I received your May 11 letter requesting \$200,000 in additional funding to be allocated to Dr. Gilbert, HCPSS Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion so his office may oversee and implement restorative practices.

As you know, I have proposed funding in the FY19 Operating Budget that includes \$11.4 million above Maintenance of Effort (MOE), and fully funded the Board of Education request in all categories, including instructional salaries and special education, with the lone exception of being able to fully fund fixed charges and eliminate their over \$50 million structural deficit in their Health Fund. I have requested that the school system develop a feasible, multi-year plan to address the deficit.

HCPSS has identified reducing class size as their highest priority for any additional funding and asked me to focus efforts here. I do not recall HCPSS requesting additional funding for restorative practices. I certainly do not recall, nor believe it would be under my purview to direct HCPSS budget decisions to a specific staff member or office. I fully support the autonomy HCPSS has to designate funding and allocate staffing in their budget once the Council approves total categorical appropriations.

To address the HCPSS priority funding request, on April 30, I proposed adding an additional \$500,000 to be used for reduction in class sizes.

Education is my top priority and I will continue to work with the Council and HCPSS to ensure funding to provide a high level of education for all students.

Sincerely,

Allan H. Kittleman  
County Executive

cc: B. Diane Wilson  
Lonnie Robbins  
Caryn Lasser  
Holly Sun



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Lasser, Caryn  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 17, 2018 5:07 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Kittleman, Allan; Wilson, B Diane; Robbins, Lonnie; Sun, Holly; Feldmark, Jessica; Glendenning, Craig; Pruim, Kimberly  
**Subject:** RE: FY19 Proposed Operating Budget Funding Inquiry  
**Attachments:** Response Letter -Class Sizes 051718.pdf

Greetings,

Please find attached a letter from County Executive Allan H. Kittleman in response to the email below.

Thank you.

Caryn D. Lasser  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Howard County Executive Office  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
410-313-4308 Direct Office  
410-313-2013 Main Office  
443-537-3501 Cell

**From:** Ball, Calvin B  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 10:42 AM  
**To:** Kittleman, Allan <[AKittleman@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:AKittleman@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Cc:** Pruim, Kimberly <[kpruim@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kpruim@howardcountymd.gov)>; Feldmark, Jessica <[jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov)>; Robbins, Lonnie <[lrobbins@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lrobbins@howardcountymd.gov)>; Wilson, B Diane <[BDWilson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:BDWilson@howardcountymd.gov)>; Glendenning, Craig <[cglendenning@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cglendenning@howardcountymd.gov)>; Sun, Holly <[hsun@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hsun@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** FY19 Proposed Operating Budget Funding Inquiry

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

As you know, your FY19 Proposed Operating Budget for education has led many teachers, parents and students to submit testimony regarding the impact the budget will have to our schools. Specifically, the Council received concerning testimony about the amount of teacher positions that may be eliminated and a proposed increase to targeted class ratio, which as you know, is the third increase under your Administration.

In 2015-2016, there was a class size increase for grades 6-12. In 2016-2017, there was an increase for Grades 1-5. Lastly, under your current proposed budget, there will be another increase for Grades 1-5 and 9-12 which will also lead to significant teacher cuts.

As we all know, class size can have a significant impact on our students' academic success. Smaller class sizes can enhance test scores, increase student engagement, ensure smaller reading groups and allow our teachers to better assess and assist students struggling with course materials or meet the needs of those with IEP's. Students are also more likely to interact and be engaged learners, less likely to be disruptive and respond more positively to our teachers in smaller classes. Collectively, these benefits gained from smaller class sizes will put them on a pathway to academic success. Conversely, teacher quality, retention and recruitment are all at risk when we continue to eliminate positions and increase class sizes.

At our budget work session earlier this week, I was pleased to learn from Budget Director Dr. Holly Sun that you and your team are working to identify funding that will help address these issues so we can help retain our teacher workforce and hold the line on our class size ratios. In advancement of our educational goals, I ask that you do all that is possible to ensure adequate funding is added to the HCPSS budget so there are no more class size increases in any schools this year.

I hope we can both agree that any increase in class size adversely impacts a teacher's ability to teach and our students learning environment. This is especially true for our Title 1 schools, children with special needs, on free and reduced meals (FARM), or with limited English proficiency in all of our schools.

I trust we have a shared goal to create the best learning environment for all of our children and I welcome the opportunity to learn more about your plan to stop the class size increases this year, especially as the Council continues its budget deliberations.

Thank you for working in collaboration with the Council and our school system on this important issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

All the best,

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Council, District 2  
Ph: 410-313-2001  
<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Districts/District-2/Bio>

*"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others." —Douglas MacArthur*



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013

Allan H. Kittleman  
Howard County Executive  
akittleman@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov  
FAX 410-313-3051  
TDD 410-313-2323

May 17, 2018

Dr. Ball and Councilmembers:

I received your May 4 letter requesting additional funding to be allocated to reduce HCPSS class sizes.

HCPSS has identified reducing class size as their highest priority for any additional funding and asked me to focus efforts here. As you know, I have proposed funding in the FY19 Operating Budget that includes \$11.4 million above Maintenance of Effort (MOE), and fully funded the Board of Education request in all categories, including instructional salaries and special education, with the lone exception of being able to fully fund fixed charges and eliminate their over \$50 million structural deficit in their Health Fund. I have requested that the school system develop a feasible, multi-year plan to address the deficit.

The proposed FY19 Operating Budget includes a \$594.4 million direct appropriation for HCPSS. This amount is \$21.5 million, or 3.8 percent, more than FY18 and marks the fourth consecutive year that I have provided more than the state-required MOE amount. In addition, the county will provide \$58.1 million for debt service payments for HCPSS capital projects and roughly two-thirds of the county's OPEB contribution to fund long-term liabilities supports retirees from the school system.

The full funding of the HCPSS request supports 128.8 new positions, and includes \$8.1 million for HCPSS staff salary increases and \$27.1 million for additional funding for employee benefits. Sustaining the excellence of our school system continues to be my top priority.

To address the HCPSS priority funding request, on April 30, I proposed adding an additional \$500,000 to be used for reduction in class sizes. I fully support the autonomy HCPSS has to designate funding and allocate staffing in their budget once the Council approves total categorical appropriations.

Education is my top priority and I will continue to work with the Council and HCPSS to ensure funding to provide a high level of education for all students.

Sincerely,

Allan H. Kittleman  
County Executive

cc: B. Diane Wilson  
Lonnie Robbins  
Caryn Lasser  
Holly Sun

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** mlmurda@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 16, 2018 6:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Talbott Springs Elementary School Rebuild

To: Interagency Committee on School Construction  
Re: Talbott Springs Elementary School

In response to your letter to Bruce Gist, Executive Director Capital Planning and Operations, dated April 25, 2018, I wish to respectfully express my concern with your conclusions as listed in that letter that a renovation, not a replacement, would be a preferable use of taxpayer funds on this school facility.

1. I question the reasoning that high ceilings are considered a "positive architectural feature." It is like teaching in an echo chamber, with staff having to compete with noise from other classrooms and the dissipation of our own voices. The Gilbert Feasibility Report in 2008 reported that the high ceilings were a noise factor. The HVAC system was originally designed to function in an open classroom environment. Due to earlier renovations, this has been disrupted and led to variances in temperature up to 20 degrees from one area of the building to another. The system has never worked properly to clear the air. The "solid finish materials" have allowed for the entrance of rodents, snakes, and ants.
2. The renovations in 2000 and 2008 were 18 and 10 years ago, respectively. Since then we have added full-day kindergarten, full-day prekindergarten classes, technology classes, additional ESOL services, and various new staff positions, which have a direct impact on the major educational program requirements. Those renovations neither increased classroom space or adjusted the already faulty building systems. They allowed for mandated full day Kindergarten space, added a gym and put up partial walls. Although appreciated, these 'renovations' did not heal the existing building concerns. Essentially, the building has not changed much since 1973.
3. The 10-year old facility appraisal (2008 Gilbert) study is out-of-date and does not meet current, and future, educational requirements. The reality of curriculum and instructional space requirements has changed. Our students are trying to learn in overcrowded, undersized spaces that do not promote achievement towards the current accountability standards.
4. It may be possible that a more efficient layout could be developed for a replacement, however it is important to meet the likelihood of a growing population. The Talbott Springs Elementary School enrollment varies according to unpredictable availability of the transient housing in both the immediate neighborhood and the attendance area. A one time snapshot of the enrollment does not reflect reality. TSES enrollment can range from 485 to 520 students in a school year. Allowing for additional programming to meet the reality of changes in the Howard County Public Schools student population can encompass an immersion program thus easing overcrowding in neighboring schools with similar student populations.
5. Even though our existing boundaries are unusual, changing those boundaries would only send students to schools that are already overcrowded. No matter what students would come to Talbott Springs Elementary, the facility is inadequate and unsafe for children and teaching staff.

Please reconsider your position. Thank you.

A concerned parent,  
Mindy Gaines