

Sayers, Margery

From: Anne Wang <wangyan0818@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 8:05 PM
To: CouncilMail

Members of the County Council,

As residents of District 1 and parents of a freshman at Centennial High School, we are writing to support Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018.

We are fully aware of this past weekend's flooding in Old Ellicott City and the potential budgetary impact this tragic event has. However, one of wealthiest counties in the country such as Howard should not have to choose between assisting flood victims and maintaining a quality education for our children. Increasing class size would be unwise and could compromise instructional quality in the school system, as Dr. Martirano pointed out. Class sizes have already been increased twice in the past four years. Please vote YES on this amendment to avert further increase.

Thank you for your consideration!

Warm regards,

Dr. Shijun Zhu and Dr. Yan Wang

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Gail Bruton <GAIL_MCMILLAN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 7:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Priorities

Council Members ,

Please restore the monies the County Executive cut. The importance of education can be felt across all careers and sooner or later or lack of priority will cause a not so bright future for all of us.

Gail Bruton
GAIL_MCMILLAN@hcpss.org
8908 Footed Ridge
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Sara E. Weiser <Sara_Weiser@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 5:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: THANK YOU for acting to restore the budget!

Dear Councilmembers,

I am one of the teachers who wrote to you to encourage you to act to restore the budget to prevent additional class size increases in the public schools. I am relieved and grateful that the county made the sound decision to keep a high quality education as a foremost priority by fully funding the school budget. Thank you for your hard work and leadership!

Sara Weiser

4th Grade Teacher / Instructional Team Leader
Rockburn Elementary School
(410) 313-5030
Sara_Weiser@hcpss.org
Classroom website: <https://hcpss.instructure.com/courses/59504>

*Empathy * Input * Relator * Intellection * Developer*

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeff Schneider <roadrunner75.jeff@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 4:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

Dear Members of County Council

I am writing on behalf of the PTA Council of Howard County to once again share our deep concerns regarding the proposed increase of class size to mitigate a budgetary shortfall. I have already shared with you highly regarded research on the short and long term educational and socioeconomic impacts of larger class sizes, as well as the dilution of our ability to retain highly qualified educators. While other school systems are experiencing downward trends in student to teacher ratio, Howard County continues to trend in the opposite direction.

Another less obvious ramification of increasing class size is the potential to increase locally rated school capacity. When calculating program capacity, HCPSS uses the number of classrooms model, an approach which is common in Maryland and is used by Maryland State Department of Education. Specifically this model counts the number of grade level classrooms and applies student- to-teacher ratios which vary by elementary grade

Per HCPSS Policy 6010, student-to-teacher ratio is a factor when calculating program capacity. The fact that HCPSS did not increase capacity when student-to-teacher ratio was increased in 2016 should not lull us into believing that this is not a possibility in the future. Our own policy allows it.

From Policy 6010:

Program Capacity – The number of students that can be reasonably accommodated in a school, based on the permanent facility (relocatables are excluded) and the educational program offered. Program capacity is calculated based at the below rates:

1. Elementary schools: the product of the Board-approved student-to-teacher ratio and the number of teaching stations identified in the capital budget.

<http://www.hcpss.org/f/board/policies/6010.pdf>

On behalf of the PTA Council of Howard County, I respectfully ask you to consider the numerous long term ramifications of increasing class size and restore the funding necessary to maintain our current student to teacher ratios.

Sincerely,
The Schneider Family
North Laurel residents since 2007.

--

Sarcasm is a sign of intelligence, while unwillingness to listen is a sign of stupidity.

Sayers, Margery

From: smartyfuss@gmail.com on behalf of M <FLMARKER@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 3:32 PM
To: CouncilMail; Sigaty, Mary Kay
Cc: P N C
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes - Concerned HoCo Resident Parents - APPROVE Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to our attention the upcoming legislative hearing adopting the FY2018-19 Budget is without Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018 where it leads to increased class sizes in our schools.

Three short years ago, we specifically moved to Howard County for the best schools in Maryland. In that short time, we have already been redistricted- from one of the smallest elementary schools to one of the largest. Class size is particularly important for elementary schools; these children are just starting to learn academic pursuits, and the ability to provide adequate assistance and structure is inevitably tied to class size. We believe that it is shortsighted to sacrifice the education of any children in this county when unfortunate budget constraints are experienced. We believe it is essential to invest in our classrooms by approving [Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018](#). We stand together on maintaining class size for all of our students and educators.

Regards,
Mr. & Dr. Martin Muckenfuss
305-525-6077

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Schlossnagle <lisabmrss@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 2:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Approve Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018

Dear Calvin, Jen, John and Mary Kay,

THANK YOU!

All the best,
Lisa

On Wed, May 30, 2018 at 6:03 PM, Lisa Schlossnagle <lisabmrss@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Everyone,

I am so happy to see efforts by council members to provide funding to HCPSS that would maintain class sizes. I urge all of you on the council to vote to approve that funding proposal.

I know the quality of public education in our county is important to all of you. I know you have a lot of difficult choices to make. Approving Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018 might be one of them, but to the families of Howard County students, it's simple. We need our class sizes maintained, not raised for the third time in 6 years. We need it for our kids to have at least the same quality of education they had this year, if not better. We need it for their physical and social well-being and for that of all educators, and for Howard County to live up to its reputation and, more importantly, its obligation to why people live/work/employ people here.

The achievement gap does not get better with larger class sizes. Teacher engagement does not get better with larger class sizes. Student mental health does not get better with larger class sizes. You know this. I'll thank Dr. Ball and Ms. Terrasa now for filing this amendment. I look forward to thanking all of you later for approving this funding.

In community,
Lisa

Sayers, Margery

From: Dottie Siders <luvturkeys@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 12:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB 25-2018

Dear Members,

I have read of your desire to keep the class sizes smaller in our schools,
and I appreciate that.

Thank You!

Dottie Siders
14601 Red Lion Dr.
Woodbine 21797

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/howard/ph-ho-cf-council-worksession-0525-story.html>



Howard council studies ways to avert larger class sizes by bolstering school budget

www.baltimoresun.com

The Howard County Council has the opportunity to not increase school class sizes by shifting around current funds budgets to give the education budget an additional \$5.1 million.

Sayers, Margery

From: Ewa Mianowska-Yil <EWA_MIANOWSKA-YIL@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 12:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding

Council Members ,

Why you don't go after wealthy investors to put up the money. Howard county keeps growing but somehow it doesn't translate into a revenue for education. Stop sacrificing our kids.

Ewa Mianowska-Yil
EWA_MIANOWSKA-YIL@hcpss.org
9218 Grant Avenue
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Gershenson Family <gershensons@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 11:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Dear County Council,

We are most vehemently opposed to increasing class size in Howard County schools.

The classes are already too big. PLEASE do not make them bigger!!

Let's do what's right for the students. Thank you for your time.

Judi and Lou Gershenson

5768 Whistling Winds Walk

Clarksville, MD 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Amber Naden <Amber_Naden@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 11:08 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Thank you

I can't even begin to say thank you to those who voted yes to restore class sizes. As a veteran teacher of 14 years who transferred this year to Howard County, it's truly been a dream. I was devastated to hear I was surplused and completely petrified when I heard that there was a chance I wouldn't get placed at all. It's been an absolute pleasure working here and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for easing my fears of having to leave.

Sincerely,

Amber Naden

Sayers, Margery

From: HES PTA President <president@hespta.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 11:06 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

Dear Members of County Council,

I am writing to share my deep concerns regarding the proposed increase of class size to mitigate a budgetary shortfall. Research shows there are negative short and long term educational and socioeconomic impacts of larger class sizes, as well as the dilution of our ability to retain highly qualified educators. While other school systems are experiencing downward trends in student to teacher ratio, Howard County continues to trend in the opposite direction.

Another less obvious ramification of increasing class size is the potential to increase locally rated school capacity. When calculating program capacity, HCPSS uses the number of classrooms model, an approach which is common in Maryland and is used by Maryland State Department of Education. Specifically this model counts the number of grade level classrooms and applies student- to-teacher ratios which vary by elementary grade.

Per HCPSS Policy 6010, student-to-teacher ratio is a factor when calculating program capacity. The fact that HCPSS did not increase capacity when student-to-teacher ratio was increased in 2016 should not lull us into believing that this is not a possibility in the future. Our own policy allows it.

From Policy 6010:

Program Capacity – The number of students that can be reasonably accommodated in a school, based on the permanent facility (relocatables are excluded) and the educational program offered. Program capacity is calculated based at the below rates:

1. Elementary schools: the product of the Board-approved student-to-teacher ratio and the number of teaching stations identified in the capital budget.

<http://www.hcpss.org/f/board/policies/6010.pdf>

I respectfully ask you to consider the numerous long term ramifications of increasing class size and restore the funding necessary to maintain our current student to teacher ratios.

Regards,

Jennifer Beaverson
Hammond Elementary PTA
President
www.hespta.org

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[HES PTA Amazon](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Rebecca Pfenninger <Rebecca_Pfenninger@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 10:03 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: full funding and budget restoration

Hello,

I wanted to urge you to vote for full funding and budget restoration. An increase in class size means I will not have enough computers for every student during technology class, and three or more students would need to share computers with other students. That would make at least 6 students who are getting abbreviated technology time. This is assuming all computers are in working order. If some computers are out for repair, that means even more students would need to share.

It is imperative for every student to have the opportunity to practice typing skills, safely search the internet, create multimedia projects to show understanding of content, and work collaboratively using digital tools. In technology class students are learning important skills needed to show their understanding during online testing such as PARCC and MAP. Additionally, they are learning lifelong skills needed for personal and professional growth and success.

I urge to you vote for full funding and restore the budget so ALL our students can have access to the technology they need.

Thank you,

Rebecca Pfenninger
Technology Teacher
Rockburn Elementary School
*positivity*empathy*developer*achiever*harmony*

Sayers, Margery

From: Aggie and Ken Wojdon <kenandaggie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 9:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: APPROVE amendment 6 to CB-25-2018

Please approve this amendment to keep classroom sizes the same as this year.

Most classrooms in my school are not physically equipped to handle the current student load and adding one more student to the classroom does not help.

Thank you,
Aggie Wojdon

Sayers, Margery

From: Tracy Houchins <tracyhouchinsreiki@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 9:12 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018

Dear Representative Weinstein,

Our kids and their teachers need your help. Please support investing in our classrooms by approving Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018. They are our future and deserve the help from those with power to act on their Best behalf.

Thank you for serving our community.

Sincerely,

Tracy M. Houchins
11521 Stardust Lane
Ellicott City, MD. 21042
410-599-3535

Tracy M.Houchins

Sayers, Margery

From: Kate Held <kbheld@alumni.rice.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 9:04 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Dear Council Members,

Our school system needs the funds to keep class sizes smaller. Over the last decade, class sizes in Howard County have been steadily creeping up. With our schools overcrowded, the school system in debt, students being redistricted in awkward ways, the language program so many parents were hoping would expand now being eliminated, and class sizes going up further, the reputation of our school system will not hold up. We'll stay high in rankings because of test scores, but those scores reflect the education levels and commitment of parents as much or more than the quality of the school system. People know that. The quality of classes and programs need to be maintained as well. The school system is the primary selling point of our county, after all.

People around the county were already upset about over development crowding our schools and roads. Now with the flood, anger is palpable. Our county needs some damage control. Protecting class sizes will be one step in that direction.

With respect,

Kate Held
President, Saint Johns Community Association

Sayers, Margery

From: Erin K. Sloan <Erin_Sloan@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 8:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Good evening all- I proudly practice teaching at a Blue Ribbon School. It is imperative that smaller class sizes become a reality for next school year. In order to maintain the quality of teaching and learning that results in Blue Ribbon status, realistic and manageable student/teacher ratios must be observed. In addition to consistently employing best practices in teaching, collaborative planning and instruction, and strong curricular leadership, we invest deeply in establishing positive and nurturing relationships with our students. This last practice is what most strongly correlates with our students' exemplary performance when tackling the academic challenges they are presented with each day. Larger class sizes will minimize the quality of the relationships we can develop with our children, and will negatively impact the level of their learning. If you choose to increase class sizes, please know that you are not choosing to make my job more difficult. I can present curriculum to a group of any size. With larger class sizes, you are choosing to reduce my ability to do more than present information. You are choosing to prevent me from actually teaching. From responding to individual needs. From discovering student interests, concerns, questions, and fears. Larger class sizes mean I am less a teacher, and more a tutorial. Please choose wisely for our children. Thank you.

Erin Sloan
ESOL
Waterloo Elementary/ Bellows Spring Elementary

Sayers, Margery

From: Dana Rose <danamrose@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 7:35 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

Council members,

I am the proud parent of two students at Ellicott Mills MS, one of whom will be starting at Mount Hebron in the fall. I am very concerned about the current level of overcrowding in our schools and the safety issues that overcrowding causes. Increasing class sizes will only exacerbate this problem.

Please support investing in our classrooms by approving [Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018](#).

Thank you,
Dana Rose

Sayers, Margery

From: Nancy Rockel <nancyrockel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 7:05 AM
To: CouncilMail; Fox, Greg
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

As a parent of two children in the Howard County school system, I am writing to voice my support for maintaining current class sizes as stated in the amendment to the HCPSS Operating Budget. Specifically, please preserve class sizes by supporting Amendment 6 to CB25, which will add \$5.1 million to the budget.

Thank you,
Nancy Rockel Pitrone
9601 Hawk Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042
202-641-3246

Sayers, Margery

From: Kerry Tiffin <kerrytiffin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 6:46 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6

Good morning,

I am sending this email to ask you to vote to keep class sizes and not increase them. I have heard from many teachers already what next year will look like. Although I understand the board and superintendent could have done better to avoid this issue am hoping you will vote for this substantial increase in funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kerry Tiffin
5933 Sandy Ridge Ct
Elkridge 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Cristina Marchegiani <crismarch7@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 6:35 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

Dear Members of County Council

I am writing on behalf of the PTA Council of Howard County to once again share our deep concerns regarding the proposed increase of class size to mitigate a budgetary shortfall. I have already shared with you highly regarded research on the short and long term educational and socioeconomic impacts of larger class sizes, as well as the dilution of our ability to retain highly qualified educators. While other school systems are experiencing downward trends in student to teacher ratio, Howard County continues to trend in the opposite direction.

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1. Elementary schools: the product of the Board-approved student-to-teacher ratio and the number of teaching stations identified in the capital budget.

<http://www.hcpss.org/f/board/policies/6010.pdf>

On behalf of the PTA Council of Howard County, I respectfully ask you to consider the numerous long term ramifications of increasing class size and restore the funding necessary to maintain our current student to teacher ratios.

Regards,
Cristina Linsenmeyer

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Raj Kathuria <rajkathuria@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 6:27 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018
Attachments: Testimony for Amendment 6 - CB25-2018 .pdf

Good Morning!
Please see the attached testimony for Amendment 6 - CB25-2018 .
Regards,

--
Raj Kathuria
Candidate for Howard County Council District 1

Friends for Raj Kathuria
8398 Governor Run
Ellicott City, MD. 21043
443-739-6077
www.vote4raj.com
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KW Commercial,
Keller Williams Integrity,
Kathuria, Flynn & Associates, LLC
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Ellicott City, MD. 21043
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Authority: Friends For Raj Kathuria; Diane Rudis, Treasurer

Raj Kathuria
8398 Governor Run
Ellicott City, MD. 21043

Testimony for Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

I would like to present this in Support of the Amendment 6 - CB25-2018.
Council should do every effort of ensuring that HCPSS can keep the current student body size.
Increasing the classroom size is not beneficial for student learning and development.
County Council can find savings of \$5.1M elsewhere in the budget to fund this need.
Thank You!

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Pang <nerakpang@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 12:24 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Maintain class size in schools!!

Dearest County Council Members,

Please, please approve amendment 6 to council bill 25 to maintain class sizes in our schools!! There is no better use of education funding than to keep class sizes small -- it helps everyone!

I have been a teacher, and I have taught classes of 33 students and classes of 24 students and it makes a HUGE difference -- in hours of time spent grading papers, writing comments on report cards, talking to parents, interacting with students during class, answering all students' questions, etc. etc.

In Howard County, since 2014, the percentage of elementary school classes that hold between 26 and 30 students has increased from 18% to a STATE HIGH of 27% -- that is over one-fourth of elementary school classes! Last year my daughter had 28 students in her 4th grade homeroom class and 30 students in her math class. It is not fair to the students, and it is exhausting for the teacher! Please, please, do not increase class sizes!!

Please keep Howard County a strong, forward-thinking school system. Please do not allow class sizes to increase, again!

Karen Pang

Sayers, Margery

From: Kpetty79 <kpetty79@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 12:07 AM
To: Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg; Terrasa, Jen; Weinstein, Jon
Subject: Maintain Class Size - Support amendment 6 to cb25

I write to encourage you to maintain class size. Do not allow our schools to drop in ratings due to increasing class sizes. The classes are already large enough and the teachers struggle to provide an equal education to all of the students. Further, many of the classrooms aren't large enough to comfortably fit as many kids as you are proposing in each class - certainly not in a way that's conducive to learning and as expected in this county's school system. If you continue to increase class size, I would not be surprised if we drop in ratings and become a less desirable county. Between out of control development depleting the green spaces and a county government willing to make class sizes so large we are no longer a competitive school system, you will see people move away from this county. There will be no benefit to paying the high taxes in this county when you take away its perks including a good school environment.

Please Preserve class sizes by supporting Amendment 6 to CB25, which will add \$5.1 mil to the budget.

Thanks

Katy Petty

6935 Newberry Dr Columbia 21044

Sent from Katy's iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Antonia Watts <antonia.b.watts@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

I support the amendment adding \$5.1 million to the budget in order to ensure that class sizes remain the same and do not increase.

Thank you,
Antonia watts
Bellows spring elementary

Sayers, Margery

From: Sandi Jean Berger <sandijean@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes in HoCo

Good afternoon -

I know you have all been busy given the recent flood, but I would like to divert your attention to the funding of of Howard County schools. My husband graduated from Mt. Hebron school. We knew that we wanted our family to grow up here in Howard County and quite frankly, moved here for the schools. We love the diversity, the opportunities and the love that our daughter has experienced at St. John's Lane Elementary School this year. Her younger sister is counting the days until she, too, can attend. From the bus driver, to the front desk staff, administration, lunch staff and after care staff, we have enjoyed things very much.

I am asking you to please fully fund the budget and support Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018. Teachers are what makes Howard County schools as amazing as they are... Plain and simple. My daughter is very sensitive and the relationship she has with her teacher is vital her success. I can't imagine what would happen if her teacher didn't have the time to individually connect and encourage her daily.

I am a working parent and understand first hand budget concerns. I have had to make tough decisions at times that have led to the reduction of headcount. The loss always requires those left to take on more with less. And because of this, things suffer. The work product suffers. In this case, the work product is the kids. The students. The reason so many of us live here in Howard County.

Please support Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018.

Thank you.
Sandi Berger
2630 Thornbrook Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Rebecca Beall <bella358@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Please prioritize children and schools

Investing in education is critical. Our students should not have to absorb the brunt of budgetary decisions that increasing classes would be. Smaller class sizes are directly related to student success. Relationships, which are the foundation of teaching, are stronger with smaller class sizes. Smaller class sizes facilitate more student engagement. We in Howard County take great pride in our exemplary schools, please protect our schools.

Thank you.

Rebecca Beall, proud mother and teacher of students of HCPSS

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: AC Dalwadi <ac_dalwadi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Maintain Class Sizes

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to share my concern regarding the proposed increase of class size to make up for the budgetary shortfall. As a parent of two young children at St. John's Lane Elementary, I am shocked to see how crowded the class sizes are already. The classes are often noisy and it is obvious to me the impact that the already over-crowded school is having on our young pupils. I am also shocked to hear the huge difference in the student-teacher ratio in our county as compared to my friends who have students in Montgomery County. My older son had 28 students in his kindergarten class. My friend who has a son who attended a school in Montgomery County had only 16 students!!! Although I am proud of our wonderful teachers in the Howard County School System, I know that many students are starting to fall behind due to the over-crowding at our elementary school. For instance, I am aware of three students in second grade who were "passing" all their tests but actually did not know how to read at the beginning of the second grade! These fellow neighbors of mine have children who are very bright and had actually just memorized many of the books they were reading. No one had spent the time or attention to realize that these very smart young children could not actually decode. We all know how much harder it is to provide adequate care when we are over-burdened or over-taxed.

I also would like to appeal to your interest in maintaining the reputation of our school system. When I attend birthday parties with children from other counties, people are shocked at our class size. People will not want to move to Howard County if they are concerned about ever-increasing class sizes.

As a member of the community and a parent of two young children in the HCPSS, I respectfully ask that you consider the numerous long-term ramifications of increasing class size and restore the necessary funding to maintain our current student to teacher ratios.

Sincerely,

Achal Dalwadi
Father and community member
3138 Elmmede Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Christine Fritz <christinecfritz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

I am emailing to request that you approve Amendment 6 to Council Bill 25 and maintain our students' class sizes.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Christine Fritz (parent of 4 HCPSS children- CLES and BMMS)

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Ginger Burcham <ginger.burcham@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support of Amendment 6 to CB-2502018

Dear Council,

At Manor Woods are currently slated to lose 14 teachers. They are the youngest and most junior staff members and frankly most of them are the best teachers we have. My children love their teachers and we seem to have a happy faculty at the school. We do not want to lose so many excellent teachers.

We needed the new faculty members we received last year many of them support our special needs students. Both of my children have special needs and receive support during instruction. Our teachers are excellent but teaching thirty children and giving attention to a few special needs students that need extra support is too much to ask. We need smaller class sizes and all of the teachers we have at Manor Woods to give all of the students and faculty the environment they need to succeed.

We also have a large orchestra and were lucky to gain a .5 teacher that we really appreciate. We also have additional .5 teachers in PE and art. We are losing 150 students with redistricting but with so much new construction all around Manor Woods it seems like we will be over crowded again soon. We needed all 14 teachers and they have made the school year run smoothly even with 820 students in a building designed for 630.

On April 9th, the PTA Council of Howard County voted overwhelmingly (3 abstentions, no nays) in support of funding that restores class size. Increased class size is an issue that 74 PTAs came to consensus on as this decision negatively impacts every single student, teacher and classroom in the county. This is especially true given that class sizes have already been increased twice in the last four years. According to the latest Maryland State Department of Education class size report, Howard County has the 5th largest class size average for elementary schools out of 24 school systems; moreover, 27 percent of classes average 26-30 students.

Research published by the National Education Policy Center makes it clear that class size is an important determinant of student outcomes and suggests that increased class size harms not only academic performance but decreases student engagement as well. Now more than ever, we realize how important the teacher/student relationship is, how important it is for students to feel engaged and connected. Moreover, the impact of increasing class size is greater for our economically disadvantaged and minority students who have limited resources. Likewise it would also profoundly impact our students with special needs who already struggle to have their accommodations met because of the ever increasing number of students that teachers must manage.

Though it impacts every single student, increasing class size impacts our most vulnerable students the most and we cannot claim that closing the achievement gap is a priority if we continue to use class size increases as a short term remedy for budget woes.

One of the most notable examinations of reduced class size is Tennessee's effort through Project STAR which determined the effects of class size in grades K-3. It showed that smaller class sizes help students learn more and achieve more, especially in reading. Additionally, it proved that gains children made in the early grades, while being taught in smaller class sizes, stayed with them in later years. In addition to the academic improvements, teachers were able to give more individualized attention to students and behavior problems diminished. It indicated that minorities had the greatest achievement gain in small class sizes when compared to their peers; indeed, the benefits of quality preK programming are soon diluted if students are then thrust into classrooms with too many classmates and not enough individualized attention.

In a 2005 analysis of STAR data, it was found that students who had been in smaller classes for all four years of the STAR experiment were 80% more likely to graduate from high school than their peers in larger classes.

They also found that students from low-income families who spent three years in smaller classes in the early grades were 67% more likely to graduate from high school than their peers in larger classes, and this likelihood doubled if they spent a fourth year in smaller classes.

Improving student outcomes is not the only benefit of smaller class sizes. Retention of high quality teachers is another. Recruiting and retaining effective and talented teachers has become increasingly challenging. Increasing class size has an effect on the ability to retain teachers because those with large classes are more likely to feel overburdened and seek other positions in our surrounding counties. Research shows that class size is an important factor in teachers' decisions to leave or stay in their jobs. 54 percent of teachers who leave their school report that large class sizes contributed to their decision.

Our students are already learning in severely overcrowded schools, trailers and makeshift classrooms. Increasing class size will only exacerbate the ramifications of inadequate facilities and overdevelopment without infrastructure. There simply isn't room in many classrooms for another desk. Reasonable class size is a need, not a luxury; it is paramount to the educational experience and well being of our students and to the morale of our educators. It can change the trajectory of a disadvantaged student's life.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ginger Burcham
Manor Woods Elementary

Sayers, Margery

From: Heather Dalwadi <heather.dalwadi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to share my concern regarding the proposed increase of class size to make up for the budgetary shortfall. As a parent of two young children at St. John's Lane Elementary, I am shocked to see how crowded the class sizes are already. The classes are often noisy and it is obvious to me the impact that the already over-crowded school is having on our young pupils. I am also shocked to hear the huge difference in the student-teacher ratio in our county as compared to my friends who have students in Montgomery County. My older son had 28 students in his kindergarten class. My friend who has a son who attended a school in Montgomery County had only 16 students!!! Although I am proud of our wonderful teachers in the Howard County School System, I know that many students are starting to fall behind due to the over-crowding at our elementary school. For instance, I am aware of three students in second grade who were "passing" all their tests but actually did not know how to read at the beginning of the second grade! These fellow neighbors of mine have children who are very bright and had actually just memorized many of the books they were reading. No one had spent the time or attention to realize that these very smart young children could not actually decode. We all know how much harder it is to provide adequate care when we are over-burdened or over-taxed.

I also would like to appeal to your interest in maintaining the reputation of our school system. When I attend birthday parties with children from other counties, people are shocked at our class size. People will not want to move to Howard County if they are concerned about ever-increasing class sizes.

As a member of the community and a parent of two young children in the HCPSS, I respectfully ask that you consider the numerous long-term ramifications of increasing class size and restore the necessary funding to maintain our current student to teacher ratios.

Sincerely,

Heather Dalwadi,
mother and community member
3138 Elmmede Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Clair A. Wise <Clair_Wise@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

As an experienced educator in Howard County, I am writing to you to express my concern over increased class sizes in our schools.

As a young family, we moved to Howard County due to the reputation and integrity of the public schools. Our sons attended school from K-12, and are successful young men who will contribute to society. As a teacher in the system, I have always felt empowered by the environment in which I was teaching, and the support from my administration and staff at the Central Office. Class sizes in my early career never rose above 25 students, and one of the system initiatives was "Know the Learner." When my oldest son came home from college, he often stated that he felt he arrived at UMD ahead of the majority of the other students due to the education he received in our schools. He felt that he was at an advantage, and we felt very lucky to have been able to provide that for him. I knew it was true, our schools are a huge draw to this county, and I was proud to be involved and employed by HCPSS. I still feel that way, but I question our current commitment to what we know as best practices in education.

When the class size increases, teachers do not have the time to "Know the Learner." Students these days have diverse needs and learning styles, and arrive at school needing various levels of emotional and academic support. As educators, we embrace these children and love them as we always have because we are dedicated and feel supported, and we are proud to be teachers in HCPSS. With the consistent class size increase that is happening more frequently, and the increasing need of the children we nurture in our classrooms, we are really struggling to provide the emotional support, or meet the students' individual needs, that we know these children deserve. The level of education that Howard County is known for and has provided for years is in jeopardy, and this is so disappointing. Please consider our children in Howard County, protect the integrity of the schools, and do not increase class size yet again.

Thank you,

Clair Wise, NBCT
Instructional Technology Teacher
Forest Ridge Elementary School (M-W)
Waterloo Elementary School (Th-F)

Sayers, Margery

From: Josh Budich <jbudich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Council Members -

Please vote YES on Amendment 6 - CB25-2018 and support maintaining class sizes.

Voting YES does not just impact our children next year but it also is an investment for the present and future. People move to our county for our schools, and providing the best for our students will in turn provide a smart & capable group of citizens. I am a Howard High grad and my wife and I put down roots here (instead of moving back to her home state of California) after graduating from UMBC to raise our kids in Howard County - FOR THE SCHOOLS!

Please vote YES.

- Joshua Budich
Triadelphia Ridge ES dad

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Victoria <vbudich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Council Members -

Please vote YES on Amendment 6 - CB25-2018 and support maintaining class sizes!

Voting YES does not just impact our children next year but it also is an investment for the present and future. People move to Howard County for our schools, and providing the best for our students will in turn provide a smart & capable group of citizens. My husband is a Howard High grad and we stayed here (instead of moving back to my home state of California) after graduating from UMBC to raise our kids in Howard County - FOR THE SCHOOLS!

Please vote YES.

- Victoria Budich
Triadelphia Ridge ES mom & PTA Treasurer

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Sara Benjamin <saraebenjamin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6B25-2018

I support the above amendment. Please help to avoid class sizes from rising. Everyone can learn better with reasonable size classes. There are so many students that have learning differences and this allows teachers to continue to do the great job they are doing connecting to each individual.

Sara Benjamin

--

Sara

Sayers, Margery

From: Beth Panageotou <bethpan11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

As a teacher and parent in Howard County, I cannot stress strongly enough the need for smaller class sizes. It is imperative to me as an educator to be able to work closely with my young learners in order to learn with them and about them. This is the way I can best serve them!

As a parent, I know my children need and deserve attention from their teachers. They also need to feel safe and to have space to work. Packed classrooms cannot provide these things.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with members of the county to create the best learning environment for ALL students!

Beth Panageotou
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Kendall Bair <kendall.bair@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

I support the amendment adding 5.1 million to the budget in order to ensure that class sizes remain the same and do not increase.

Thank you for your time.

Kendall Bair
Lifelong resident of Howard County

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Melissa I. Berger <Melissa_Berger@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6-CB25-2018

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you as a teacher with Howard County Public Schools and asking you to please support amendment 6 to CB25. Our students need smaller class sizes in order to learn. By adding another \$5.1 million to the budget, this bill will help preserve class-size. Currently, classes in most schools are overcrowded, placing additional burdens on teachers and causing students to fall through the cracks. Increased class size is not the answer if the county council intends to help maintain the reputation and effectiveness of our school system.

Sincerely,

Melissa Berger
Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Orientation and Mobility Specialist
Ascend One Building
410-313-7022

Ideation. Intellection. Strategic. Adaptability. Learner

Sayers, Margery

From: Meredith Schwartz <meredithschwartz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:38 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

As an HCPSS teacher, I know first-hand the problems of increased class size. Larger class size means: not enough desks/chairs in a classroom; more students "left behind" because the teacher is spread too thin; increase in off-task behaviors; fewer textbooks available; etc.

Please fund Amendment 6 to CB25, which will add \$5.1 mil to the budget.

--

Meredith W Schwartz

Sayers, Margery

From: Maureen L. Stewart <Maureen_Stewart@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Good evening all,

I proudly practice teaching at a Blue Ribbon School. It is imperative that smaller class sizes become a reality for next school year. In order to maintain the quality of teaching and learning that results in Blue Ribbon status, realistic and manageable student/teacher ratios must be observed. In addition to consistently employing best practices in teaching, collaborative planning and instruction, and strong curricular leadership, we invest deeply in establishing positive and nurturing relationships with our students. This last practice is what most strongly correlates with our students' exemplary performance when tackling the academic challenges they are presented with each day. Larger class sizes will minimize the quality of the relationships we can develop with our children, and will negatively impact the level of their learning. If you choose to increase class sizes, please know that you are not choosing to make my job more difficult. I can present curriculum to a group of any size. With larger class sizes, you are choosing to reduce my ability to do more than present information. You are choosing to prevent me from actually teaching. From responding to individual needs. From discovering student interests, concerns, questions, and fears. Larger class sizes mean I am less a teacher, and more a tutorial. Please choose wisely for our children. Thank you

Maureen Stewart
Media Specialist
Waterloo Elementary

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference!"

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan <susanalter812@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

Dear Council Members,

Please do whatever you can to avoid increasing class sizes in HCPSS schools!

The class sizes seem almost unmanageable as it is. I honestly don't know how the teachers manage.

Title One schools rightly get a lot of support- the rest of the county schools should be supported and protected as well!

Please put a moratorium on ALL development until the county has a plan to deal with all the additional students and the impact on our environment!!

Thank you,
Susan Alter

Sayers, Margery

From: Julia McCready <jamccready@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please approve amendment 6 to Council Bill 25

Dear members of the County Council,

During the administration of the former Superintendent of HCPSS I wrote to you on more than one occasion to ask you to step in when things in our schools were going amiss on a number of fronts. I was told that the Council doesn't interfere.

Our schools are now facing enormous challenges because no one interfered when money was being misappropriated, faculty and staff were being mistreated, no-bid contracts became the rule, mold-contaminated buildings were making people sick, poorly-constructed, wildly expensive programs were rolled out, and the pursuit of the almighty test score took precedence over the mental health and well-being of our students.

The Council surely heard from many constituents during these years. What a difficult time that was for many of us who care about Howard County's Children, teachers, staff, and families.

Today you have an opportunity to step in. Today, as you consider the budget, you have before you a clear way to intervene on behalf of our students and their futures. Please vote to approve amendment 6 to Council Bill 25.

It's your turn. Please don't let us down.

Sincerely,

Julia McCready
5745 Thunder Hill Road
Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Karyn J. Bitzel <Karyn_Bitzel@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:53 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6- CB25-2018

Good evening all-

I proudly practice teaching at a Blue Ribbon School. It is imperative that smaller class sizes become a reality for next school year. In order to maintain the quality of teaching and learning that results in Blue Ribbon status, realistic and manageable student/teacher ratios must be observed. In addition to consistently employing best practices in teaching, collaborative planning and instruction, and strong curricular leadership, we invest deeply in establishing positive and nurturing relationships with our students. This last practice is what most strongly correlates with our students' exemplary performance when tackling the academic challenges they are presented with each day. Larger class sizes will minimize the quality of the relationships we can develop with our children, and will negatively impact the level of their learning. If you choose to increase class sizes, please know that you are not choosing to make my job more difficult. I can present curriculum to a group of any size. With larger class sizes, you are choosing to reduce my ability to do more than present information. You are choosing to prevent me from actually teaching. From responding to individual needs. From discovering student interests, concerns, questions, and fears. Larger class sizes mean I am less a teacher, and more a tutorial. Please choose wisely for our children. Thank you.

Karyn Bitzel
Grade Three
Waterloo Elementary-A Blue Ribbon School

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Shea <jkshea2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:32 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Cc: Terrasa, Jen; Ball, Calvin B; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Fox, Greg; Weinstein, Jon
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

As a parent of 4 Howard County students, I respectfully ask you to consider the numerous long term ramifications of increasing class size and restore the funding necessary to maintain our current student to teacher ratios.

Increasing class size is an abomination and should be avoided at all costs. Howard County is known for its amazing public schools, however, in order to continue the excellent standards that we have come to expect, class size MUST NOT be allowed to be increased. My local elementary school is losing approximately 150 students next year in the redistricting process. The redistricting was necessary due to extreme overcrowding. (We had over 800 students in a school that should hold approximately 650. Over capacity of 20+ PERCENT!) While the overcrowding will improve some aspects of our school, we are also losing approximately 7 teachers. SO, our classrooms will continue to be just as crowded as they were before the redistricting.

Increasing class size beyond the current guidelines is totally unacceptable. You are placing an extreme burden on our teachers, staff and especially on our students. How can the educators possibly give proper time and attention to each student? Increasing class sizes is simply setting the teachers and the students up for failure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer M. Shea
jkshea2@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Bade, Darby A <Darby.Chellis@csra.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

Council –

I am emailing to express my sincere concern with raising class sizes. My elementary school aged children have often had over 25 kids in their classes (one year one had 29 and one had 28!) and that is TOO MUCH!!! Such huge class sizes affect effective learning and the ability of teachers to get to know and work with their students. It is not fair to the students and certainly not fair to the teachers. Often, with class sizes that large, the smartest or the most needy get attention while everyone in the middle get ignored. To raise class sizes again, in a county that puts education as such a priority, is unconscionable. PLEASE maintain class sizes (and I even believe maintain doesn't do enough to solve the problem).

Thank you.

Darby Chellis Bade

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Sayers, Margery

From: DEEBA Jafri <deebajafri@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: amendment 6 CB25-2018

Dear Chairwoman Sigaty and County Council Members,

I urge you to vote in favor of Amendment 6 to keep our HCPSS class sizes where they are.

My son came home today, a 10th grader at Howard High and told me that for 11th grade he will have to choose between wind ensemble (he is a bassoonist) and Project Lead The Way (he wants to be an engineer). He told me that one of his PLTW teachers has been "fired." I said you probably mean "surplused," and he said, "I just know she won't be here next year and I think we have fewer sections for PLTW."

Tell me why in a county as affluent as ours is my child having to choose between his bassoon (his destressor in a heavy class load) and engineering, his future? It makes zero sense. Especially when the math/music connection has been shown to exist over and over.

This isn't a choice I expected I would have to make when I moved to Howard County, when we decided that we would settle here rather than in Montgomery County where the rest of my husband's family is.

Please don't make me regret the choice I made. Please vote for amendment 6 to keep HCPSS class sizes where they are across all grade levels in all schools.

And yes the flood has happened. In our county we should be able to do both. Keep class sizes where they are and deal with the flood. This isn't an either/or option.

Yours sincerely,

Deeba Jafri

Elkridge, MD.

Sayers, Margery

From: Thompsons <mandkthompson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 6:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

I am in support of the bill to maintain class sizes. As a county teacher and parent of two students in Oakland Mills, class size is very important to me.

My son has a 504 plan for ADHD, is GT/LD and is taking a regular level earth science class at Oakland Mills High School. The teacher has a very difficult time maintaining order. He is doing very well in his honors courses, but struggling in this regular level class because of the distractions. This environment would be even worse if classes were any bigger.

Kelly Thompson
5499 Bluecoat Lane
Columbia, MD. 21045
301-873-8223

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan K. Toler <Susan_Toler@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 6:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Full Funding Request

Having been a teacher in Howard County Schools for over 25 years I implore our council to restore our budget and fully fund smaller class sizes. HCPSS used to be system that I was proud to work for. I was proud that our schools truly did what was best for the greater good of children. As you all know, HCPSS has lost it's way. Under the mismanagement of the previous superintendent, programs were disintegrated, support was taken away, and special needs children have been thrown in classrooms without support. All the while, we teachers, being on the frontline were the ones that had to deal with the repercussions of others poor decisions. Please show us your support to get our school system back on track. Let's make "children" our priority again.
Sincerely,

Susan Toler
Rockburn Elementary
Kindergarten Teacher

Sayers, Margery

From: Kate <kmbaesch1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 6:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

I am in support of maintaining current class size!

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Schlossnagle <lisabmrss@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 6:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Approve Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018

Dear Everyone,

I am so happy to see efforts by council members to provide funding to HCPSS that would maintain class sizes. I urge all of you on the council to vote to approve that funding proposal.

I know the quality of public education in our county is important to all of you. I know you have a lot of difficult choices to make. Approving Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018 might be one of them, but to the families of Howard County students, it's simple. We need our class sizes maintained, not raised for the third time in 6 years. We need it for our kids to have at least the same quality of education they had this year, if not better. We need it for their physical and social well-being and for that of all educators, and for Howard County to live up to its reputation and, more importantly, its obligation to why people live/work/employ people here.

The achievement gap does not get better with larger class sizes. Teacher engagement does not get better with larger class sizes. Student mental health does not get better with larger class sizes. You know this. I'll thank Dr. Ball and Ms. Terrasa now for filing this amendment. I look forward to thanking all of you later for approving this funding.

In community,
Lisa

Sayers, Margery

From: April <aprilsv@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 5:43 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Subject: Funding to restore class size

I'm writing briefly to tell you how vital it is to fund the HCPSS request to restore the class size. Students and teachers will pay the price for something they had no control over. Howard County Schools has a great reputation, but having to RIF over 200 employees will have a backlash. Who is going to want to come teach in HoCo when MoCo will hire you and pay you more? Students will be in crowded classrooms but still will be expected to not just pass but earn top scores on standardized tests. Teachers' work loads will greatly increase and they will still have to pick up the slack for the staff that were "let go." Please provide the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Regards,
April Valdesuso
11868 Tall Timber Dr
Clarksville, MD 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Zsuzsana Mason <Zsuzsana_Mason@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 5:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 16 year veteran teacher in Howard County and am proud to say that I am an educator as well as a parent of 3 children in the public school system. Over the years, we have seen things in schools slowly progress in a direction that has not only made it difficult for teachers to feel successful, but also our students and my own children are also losing out by increasing standards with no additional supports put in place. The thought of having just a "few" more to a large increase to class sizes seems almost insurmountable with the amount of paperwork, data, meetings and constant changes to curriculum, not to mention planning. This thought also makes me worried for my own children who are all at the beginning of their learning lives and I know as a former early education teacher, need those supports and availability to learning in a meaningful, individualized way now more then ever in their lives.

While I understand budget constraints, I do not understand how we can go down a path that will harm one of the best school systems in the world. The quality of life in Howard County is par none, and that has A LOT to do with our school system. I know we have always prided ourselves in keeping class sizes down, and because of that, I believe there is a direct correlation with the success of our schools. As is apparent, housing values in Howard County are what they in part to the phenomenal school district. This small "changes" to class size will cause the quality of education to lessen-I know that first hand. It will much more difficult for teachers to continue the quality of instruction if there are even a few more students in their classes. This will in turn, most likely impact the quality of Howard County's esteemed schools, therefore, pushing house values down and then negatively impacted tax revenue, and the cycle of not having enough money will be compounded.

The fact that we are willing to essentially lay off teachers in this, of all school districts seems almost obscene, but that seems to be what we are facing.

I implore you to fund this and allow our teachers to continue to give the quality of education that Howard County has consistently done and foster our young people in an environment where they will receive the necessary social, emotional and educational support they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to a vote to fund this budget.

Sincerely,

Suzi Tamasi Mason

Suzi Mason
2nd Grade Teacher
Rockburn Elementary School
Zsuzsana_Mason@hcpss.org
410 313 5030

"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." Christopher Reeve

Sayers, Margery

From: April <aprilsv@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 5:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding to restore class size

I'm writing briefly to tell you how vital it is to fund the HCPSS request to restore the class size. Students and teachers will pay the price for something they had no control over. Howard County Schools has a great reputation, but having to RIF over 200 employees will have a backlash. Who is going to want to come teach in HoCo when MoCo will hire you and pay you more? Students will be in crowded classrooms but still will be expected to not just pass but earn top scores on standardized tests. Teachers' work loads will greatly increase and they will still have to pick up the slack for the staff that were "let go." Please provide the necessary funding to HCPSS.

Regards,
April Valdesuso
11868 Tall Timber Dr
Clarksville, MD 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Aparna <ms.aparna@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 4:52 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan; Fox, Greg; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Ball, Calvin B; Terrasa, Jen
Subject: Please maintain class size/teacher ratio

Please DO NOT PUNISH the children for the county's mismanagement of the dental and health funds, by increasing class sizes. Children are the most vulnerable citizens of our county, and they need all the attention that they can get in class to succeed and start off on the same foot as their privileged, private funded peers.

My daughters' kindergarten class sizes were around 25, and even that size was really stretching it. Had I not volunteered on a weekly basis (by taking leave from work) to assist the teacher, groups/tables of children would not have received the attention that they needed to complete their work. I saw how the teacher would scramble from table to table to help with the assignments; it is simply not feasible. Increasing class sizes is a great DISSERVICE to our children. Please do not punish them for the administration's mistakes. That is unconscionable.

Find another way to recoup the money.

Thanks,
Aparna V. Sri
U.S. Attorney
Howard County Parent

Sayers, Margery

From: Kris Maciorowski <komaciorowski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 4:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Please keep our class sizes where they are or smaller. Bigger class sizes cannot be an option! Thank you.

Concerned HoCo parent and citizen,
Kris Maciorowski
3708 Mesa Ct
21042

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Karina Fisher <kf321jump@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 4:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Support for Amendment 6 - CB-2018

Afternoon,

I could include links to hundreds of articles and research about so many topics relating to the importance of smaller class sizes but you should already know the impacts on students, teacher stress and burnout, level of quality instruction, student behavior and much more while deliberating. This is not just a money matter. This is a basic tenet of education.

This is not even about maintaining quality, this is about maintaining a decline in it as this is the 3rd increase to be in the works.

Many testimonies from business owners during APFO and during the Budget Hearing with the County Executive stated how easy it was for them to market properties for businesses to occupy because of what.....our schools. But what has come to light to thousands of parents is the truth behind our great schools. The overcrowding ----- and before you - Mr. Fox, Ms. Sigaty and Mr. Weinstein say anything about capacity ----- we are at 100.3% countywide.....that is .03% beyond what the school buildings and classrooms were designed for.

At this exact moment we are .03% over capacity and years away from any school being built but yet resales, infill and the projects that the developers are scrambling to jam in before APFO capacity kicks in next year will take that .03% up in no time. We will see just how much on June 7th when the Feasibility Report comes out. And since the community exposed the many errors in projections and formulas used, that we know is understated.

So we have crowded schools, less teachers, children in hundreds of portables with no fire protection, access to water or the bathroom for younger grades that do not have the staff to escort them and our ratios for guidance teachers to students is horrendous. And I will not touch on lack of safety with portables, if God forbid, we have an active shooter. I can point out so much more.

.....and now we add on to that pile by increasing class sizes?

And let's face it, it's a goal. We have many teachers coming forward saying that they have 30+ kids in their classes for Middle School classes when the student teacher ratio is 1:21 for that age group. Can you imagine 30+ adult sized bodies jammed into classrooms? And sometimes not even classrooms but large closet spaces. In my Elementary School all six classes for 1st grade class are well over the 1:20 ratio. As a matter of fact, some are over the High School ratio of 1:28.

I am asking that you support Amendment 3 tomorrow. I am asking for you to support our children.

Karina Fisher
4053 High Point Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Ann Wacha <annraewacha@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 4:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Approve Amendment 6 to CB25

Dear County Council members,

Regarding your upcoming legislative session to adopt FY2019 capital and operating budget bills.

Please approve amendment 6 to Council Bill 25 and maintain our class sizes!

As a parent and PTA board member at a Title I school, I can attest to the immense importance of smaller class sizes in the emotional, social and academic development of our children. Not only does it keep our dedicated teachers from burning out, it makes the overall school experience much healthier for our youth. Setting them on a stable and structured course for success.

Thank you for listening!

Ann Wacha
5468 Wild Lilac
Columbia MD 21045
annraewacha@gmail.com
301-787-5896

Email: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Tucker <jifaner13@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 4:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: class sizes

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am a HoCo parent of three kids- elementary, middle, and high school. I'm writing to urge you not to raise the class size limits. My 3rd grader is in a class of 28. There are multiple children in his class on the autism spectrum. There are several with behavior plans. In a smaller class all of those things would be manageable without too much disruption from the rest of the class, but with 28 kids it's not nearly so simple. There are many days when my son complains that they couldn't finish something he was really interested in because of all the interruptions.

I am also a substitute teacher in Howard County. I know the difference it makes with just 4- 5 kids more or less in a classroom. It's the difference between engaging conversations and instruction and in just trying to manage the clock and get everything in. Classrooms are crowded and noisy and everyone suffers for it. I cannot imagine classes even larger.

Please, there must be a way to maintain the current, already quite large classroom size limits. For the sake of our children and their educations, it has to be done.

Thank you,
Jennifer Tucker
Owen Brown, Columbia

Sayers, Margery

From: B Illum <buffy.illum@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Dear Jon Weinstein, Allan Kittelman and the larger Council,

I am a mother to elementary school-aged children writing from District 1, Dorsey Hall in support of maintaining class sizes. My 3rd grader's class grew from 22 at the beginning of the year to 28 by the end of the year. Howard County has some of the biggest elementary school class sizes in the state. The children can barely move around in the classroom. This is wrong to do to elementary schoolers. Teachers are using more and more time on discipline and less on engaging children. While this trend of larger and larger class sizes might reap benefits for developers (I hate to be that cynical) and maybe even the county budget short-term, long-term you are really undermining the quality and attractiveness of HCPSS which is, as you know, the number 1 reason young tax-paying families choose to move here. I urge you to be good stewards of our public schools as a shared, valuable resource and vote to maintain class size.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Buffy Illum
4606 Smokey Wreath Way

Sayers, Margery

From: kim Marrah <kim305@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Impact of Increased Classroom Sizes in Elementary Schools

Dear Counsel Members,

I am writing to you as a parent and a teacher in Howard County. I chose to work and raise my children in Howard County because of the support and high caliber education we would receive. In my dual roles in Howard County, I have an deeper understanding of the impact that an increased classroom size is going to have in the elementary schools for my children and myself. My children are students in Centennial Lane ES, and I teach at Rockburn ES.

As a teacher, I experience the challenges of a larger class size in multiple ways. Each year there is an increase in the demand on our instruction. We are reminded each professional development session, that it is best practices to have 6-8 students for small group instruction in both math and reading. The demands of best practices also require that we meet with our below level students each day, on grade level students at least 4 times a week, and our above grade level students at least 3 times a week. Increased class sizes makes these practices virtually impossible, given the time we have in our school day.

As a teacher, I make it a point to have a strong relationship with my students and their families. I often have to reach out to parents via email, or phone calls each day. I have put in countless hours to these two areas because I know that it is valuable and necessary. Increasing our class sizes to up to what sounds like 34 (based on using averages not actual numbers) increases the time I need to put into my relationships, and less time that I can plan for my lessons.

Behavior management also becomes an issue in a larger class size. Limiting a whole class to only 3 classrooms (using fourth grade at RES as an example) limits the ways that you can separate behaviors. We always get requests from parents to separate their children from others based on a variety of reasons. A classroom can quickly unravel when you have even one child who is disruptive. Looking at a classroom of 32 students, will likely have more than one disruptive child. This year we had several children enter school mid-year who had IEPs and were a major draw on the staff in all areas based on behaviors. Those students put a stress on our whole community of learners, staff and children alike. The impact on one of those students in a larger classroom effects an even larger percent of our learners.

As a parent I am concerned that my children, who are active boys will not receive the attention that they need as scholars in their classrooms. My Kindergartner is already in a huge class of 25 students, 25 5 years olds!!! One teacher can no be expected to meet the needs of each of these students in a manner that they could had there been another teacher in that grade. My child was put on a chart because he couldn't get his seat work done in a quiet and focused manner. That classroom had entirely too much activity for him to focus on his work as a 5 year old. Mind you, he has learned to, but it likely would not have come to a chart had his teacher had a reasonable amount of children in her class.

I love Howard County. I didn't move here so that my children could get a watered down education, or choose to work here for was to be part of a staff that is spread so thin that I feel like I'm not doing right by my students. I realize that money is tight, and that something's got to give. I do wish that we (employees) had been given a choice to furlough a day or two rather than increase class sizes.

Thank you for your time, and consideration of my points.

--

Kim Dean

Sayers, Margery

From: Rajneet <rajneet.sawhney@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:10 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

I support maintaining current class sizes and not increasing the class size. Increase in class size and student to teacher ratio will hurt the learning abilities for students and is does not help the class environment.

Regards,
Rajneet Sawhney

Sayers, Margery

From: Julie Whittaker <juliewhittaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018
Attachments: letter of support to fund lower classroom size.docx

Please see the attached letter for support for increasing funding to decrease classroom size limits.

Dear Council-

Please add my voice to the plea to adequately staff HCPSS classrooms. As a parent of two students, one of whom is in special education, it is imperative to stop this creeping classroom size and begin to reverse this trend. My special needs child has to share his hours of service with increasingly more special needs children in an increasingly large class size.

The overcrowded conditions of our school, means that many of its "classrooms" weren't designed to be classrooms. And yet, we keep squeezing more students into them. Please stop this. This is no way to support our children's learning

I understand there are funding shortfalls. I do not understand why the youth in our community are the ones who have to pay the price.

Sincerely, Julie Whittaker

Sayers, Margery

From: Dava Smith <Dava_Smith@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 1:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Sizes

Council Members ,

Please be aware that teaching and building relationships with middle schoolers is best done when reasonable class sizes are maintained. If we are pushing 30, 32, 34, 36 students, it is impossible to reach every student every day. Please think of the teachers and the students. Think about the day in and day out repercussions of the decisions that you are making.

Please!!

Dava Smith
Middle School English

Dava Smith
Dava_Smith@hcpss.org
511 Kingston Rd
Baltimore, Maryland 21229

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Fernande <karen_fernande@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 1:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: restore the 5.9M

Council Members ,

Please do not increase class size. The larger the class the less differentiation can occur. Teachers are not magicians. It wont be happening. Communication between students, parents, and teachers will decline. There is no way a teacher can take care of the basic responsibilities and then have time to communicate with families. We are not magicians. You need to be realistic. A few extra students in each class dramatically changes the dynamics of the class.

Please make this hard choice and help teachers and students do more than just survive the next school year.

Karen Fernande

Karen Fernande
karen_fernande@hcpss.org
2821 Thornbrook Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: MWES PTA President <mwesptapres@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 1:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: APPROVE AMENDMENT 6 CB-25-2018

Good Afternoon Council Members,

I implore you to vote to approve amendment 6 to CB-25-2018. Our county's stellar reputation is built on our schools. If you do not fight to maintain our kids' class sizes, you are robbing our students. As an educator, parent of four boys in the district, and PTA president, I see the impact of overcrowded classrooms. My 3rd grader has 31 students in his class! If you are looking for data to back up the need for small class sizes, I invite you to read about PROJECT STAR. It was a study conducted on the impact of class size on student achievement. This study's efficacy has been well-documented, and it clearly shows that students in large classes achieve fewer academic successes than students in smaller classes. Our county cannot continue to solve its budget issues by robbing the schools. Eventually, we will see the long term price of not protecting our students' needs, and our entire county will suffer when that happens. Please vote to approve amendment 6.

Regards,
Wendy Williams-Abrams
PTA President 2017-2018

Sayers, Margery

From: Rachael Gross <rkbrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

As an educator, I believe the most important thing we can do to help our students succeed is to keep class sizes small. I was devastated the last time class sizes were increased and shocked to see it even being considered for them to increase again. Please maintain or reduce class sizes to ensure that our students are able to succeed.

Sincerely,
Rachael Gross

Sayers, Margery

From: Kim Walker <chipkim99@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

I have 4 children in Howard county schools. I will have 2 in Glenelg, 2 in Glenwood and 1 in Lisbon next year. I feel it is important to keep classes the way they are now, if not try to make them smaller. I do not want class does to increase. Classrooms are over crowded and teachers are over worked. It is impossible to move around the classrooms. So many people in small spaces makes it difficult for children to work and concentrate. Please vote to keep class sizes small, do not increase the sizes.

Kim Walker

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Sayers, Margery
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Beverly Riling - support of Amendment 6 to CB25-2018

Would like the council to support Amendment 6 to CB25-2018.

She is a substitute math teacher for HCPSS and the classrooms are already overcrowded.

410-799-3071

*Margery Sayers
Executive Assistant
Howard County Council
410-313-0832*

Sayers, Margery

From: Rebecca Cullen <rebecca_cullen@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore class sizes

Council Members ,

Hello,

I'm writing today in support of restoring class sizes. I've taught in four states where I've dealt with a variety of class size limits. What I have found is that quality instruction demands appropriate class size. When my classes were upwards of 32 or 33 students, my ability to connect with my students and provide differentiated lessons was severely impacted in a negative way.

Now that I am in Howard County, which is touted as one of the best in the nation, I would expect decisions to be made based solely on what was best to enable teachers to deliver quality, data-driven instruction. More students would inhibit my ability to analyze student data and provide quality feedback to my students, fellow teachers, and parents.

As a result of the class size limits, a teacher has been surplusd from our building. This teacher has been instrumental in providing professional development for our staff and in pioneering new ways to utilize Canvas in our classrooms. She is now split between two buildings which means neither school will be able to truly benefit from everything she has to offer. Her students will suffer because she won't have the time to devote to the school community. She will be unable to take advantage of study hall-type classes to provide reteaching to her students. Her colleagues will suffer because she won't be able to spend enough time in either building to collaborate. She herself will suffer from having to spend time in her school day to travel and will, therefore, have to devote more time outside of contract hours to grade and plan.

Please restore class sizes. We cannot provide an equitable education for all without this.

Thank you,
Rebecca Cullen

Rebecca Cullen
rebecca_cullen@hcpss.org
9291 Upwoods Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: The Roeslers <padesjar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: class size

Please restore funding to maintain class sizes to the minimum of the current levels.

Class size matters.

Carey Roesler

Sayers, Margery

From: Shari Orszula <shariorszula@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 - CB25-2018

Dear County Council Members,

Please consider the negative consequences of increasing class sizes for both students and teachers as communicated by the PTA Council of Howard County.

I am requesting that you approve Amendment 6 - CB25-2018 to restore funding necessary to maintain our current student to teacher ratios.

Sincerely,

Shari Orszula

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Haniffee <jenhaniffee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Approve Amendment 6

To whom it may concern,

I'm asking you to please vote in favor of Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018 to maintain our current classroom sizes. I am a parent of students at Manor Woods Elementary School and have seen first hand the negative effects increased classroom sizes has on student learning. Other counties are reducing class sizes to improve their education, and yet Howard County continues to move in the opposite direction of increasing the number of students in classrooms. It will take it's toll. We need to value our children and their education. Howard County needs to make better decisions in regards to education, as we all know this is supporting the residential boom. Please make a good decision for the students and the county and support the amendment.

Thank you for your time,
Jennifer Flury

Sayers, Margery

From: Jacquelin Mccoy <JACQUELIN_MCCOY@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: restore funds to HCPSS budget to reduce class size

Council Members ,

Increasing class size negatively impacts the level of communication between my students and me during class. Students with deficits need small class sizes just as much as students who are considered advanced benefit from small class sizes. Perhaps looking at eliminating some of the positions at central office at the Board of Ed would help. Teachers in this county our losing out in the salary arena as well. Surrounding counties are paying teachers more. We will start to lose good teachers as a result of the budget.

Jacquelin Mccoy
JACQUELIN_MCCOY@hcpss.org
6224 April Brook Circle
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Rachel Tarp <rachel.tarp@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:42 AM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Amendment 6 CB 25-2018

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing to ask for your support in passing Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018. Class size directly affects the success of our students. Teachers and students thrive when we as a community keep class sizes at an appropriate ratio. Pushing our educators beyond will negatively impact our entire county. We want to keep our outstanding teachers here in Howard County and we want to see our students excel at each and every school, which stems directly from appropriate class size. As a Howard County parent, I am counting on the county council to pass this amendment so that appropriate class sizes are maintained. Please make education the first priority today so that we can continue to be one of the most successful school districts in the country.

Thank you,

Rachel Tarp
Dayton, Md

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Joel Trumper <joel_trumper@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Villages vs Cities

Council Members ,

Our schools and class sizes are already too large. The analogy of village vs city applies to class size. We are trying to give every student personal attention and form true relationships. Honestly, we are struggling as is to achieve this worthy goal. Please fund smaller class sizes.

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Hu, Hong (Michelle) <hhu002@umaryland.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jeffrey Blanchette
Subject: support Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018

Dear members of the County Council,

As residents of District 1 and parents of a junior at Mt. Hebron High School and a 6th grader in Ellicott Mills Middle School, we are writing to support Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018.

We are fully aware of this past weekend's flooding in Old Ellicott City and the potential budgetary impact this tragic event has. However, one of wealthiest counties in the country such as Howard should not have to choose between assisting flood victims and maintaining a quality education for our children. Increasing class size would be unwise and could compromise instructional quality in the school system, as Dr. Martirano pointed out. Class sizes have already been increased twice in the past four years. Please vote YES on this amendment to avert further increase.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Hong Hu and Jeffrey Blanchette
8108 Alloway Court
Ellicott City MD 21043