

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2018 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 5

Resolution No. 53 - 2018

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION setting forth the Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget for the Howard County Board of Education.

Introduced and read first time May 7, 2018.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on May 21, 2018.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted __, Adopted with amendments , Failed __, Withdrawn __, by the County Council on May 31, 2018.

Certified By Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, the County Executive has proposed a Fiscal Year 2019 general fund
2 expense budget for the Board of Education containing:

3 County funding of \$ ~~594,453,881~~ \$600,053,881

4 *County funding includes \$11,423,980* \$11,067,420, *use of prior fund balance, or PAYGO,*
5 *to cover non-recurring costs that will be excluded from the subsequent budget year*
6 *maintenance of effort calculation if approved by the State Department of Education.*

7 State funding of \$ 249,260,671

8 Federal funding of \$ 370,000

9 Other funding of \$ 12,201,454

10 Total general fund expense budget of \$ ~~856,286,006~~ \$861,886,006; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, all restricted funds included in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget for the Board of
13 Education total \$ ~~282,988,771~~ \$268,332,771; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, debt service for the Board of Education is paid directly by the County
16 government and for Fiscal Year 2019 totals \$ 55,198,943; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, OPEB for the Board of Education beyond PAYGO amount is paid directly
19 by the County government and for Fiscal Year 2019 totals \$ 12,500,000; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the major categories set forth in this resolution are the same categories
22 contained in the Board of Education's budget request to the County.

23
24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
25 Maryland this 31st day of May, 2018 that the Fiscal Year 2019 budget of the Board of
26 Education is divided into major categories as attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2019**

Major Categories	General Fund Budget
Administration	\$13,567,320
Mid-Level Administration	\$62,548,494
Instructional Salaries	\$343,482,686
Textbooks & Classroom Instructional Supplies	\$9,823,425
Other Instructional Costs	\$3,128,717
Special Education	\$109,184,782
Student Personnel Services	\$3,641,641
Student Health Services	\$8,966,402
Student Transportation	\$41,216,993
Operation of Plant and Equipment	\$42,593,699
Maintenance of Plant	\$26,217,132
	\$183,877,357
Fixed Charges	\$189,477,357
Community Services	\$7,128,926
Capital Outlay	\$908,432
	\$856,286,006
Subtotal	<u>\$861,886,006</u>

Restricted Funds	
	\$79,725,000
School Construction	\$65,069,000
Food and Nutrition	\$14,990,200
Print Services	\$1,446,646
Information & Network Technology Services	\$15,937,428
Health	\$137,934,065
Workers' Compensation	\$2,602,775
Grants	\$30,000,000
Glenn Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$232,350
Jim Rouse Theatre	\$120,307
	\$282,988,771
Subtotal Restricted Funds	<u>\$268,332,771</u>
Other Expenses Paid By County	
Debt Service	\$55,198,943
OPEB	\$12,500,000
Subtotal Other Expenses Paid By County	\$67,698,943
Total General Fund Expense Budget Plus Restricted Funds Plus Other Expenses	<u>\$1,206,973,720</u> <u>\$1,197,917,720</u>

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 53-2018

BY: Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 6
Date: May 31, 2018

Amendment No. 1

(In order to increase the school system's flexibility to address class size, this amendment adds \$500,000 to the operating budget for the Board of Education. For capital costs related to improvements to enhance school security, this amendment also adds \$1,400,000 to school construction.)

1 On page 1, in line 3, strike "\$594,453,881" and substitute "\$594,953,881".

2
3 On page 1, in line 4, strike "\$11,423,980" and substitute "\$11,067,420".

4
5 On page 1, in line 10, strike "\$ 856,286,006" and substitute "\$856,786,006".

6
7 On page 1, in line 13, strike "\$ 282,988,771" and substitute "~~\$266,962,771~~\$268,332,771".

8
9 On page 2, in the chart:

- 10 1. In the row titled "Fixed Charges", strike "\$183,877,357" and substitute "\$184,377,357";
- 11 2. In the row titled "Subtotal", strike "\$856,286,006" and substitute "\$856,786,006".

12
13 On page 3, in the chart;

- 14 1. In the row titled "School Construction", strike "\$79,725,000" and substitute
- 15 "~~\$65,099,000~~\$65,069,000";
- 16 2. In the row titled "Subtotal Restricted Funds", strike "\$282,988,771" and substitute
- 17 "~~\$268,362,771~~\$268,332,771"; and
- 18 3. In the row titled "Total General Fund Expense Budget Plus Restricted Funds Plus Other
- 19 Expenses", strike "\$1,206,973,720" and substitute "~~\$1,192,847,720~~\$1,192,817,720".

ADOPTED as amended 5/31/18
FAILED _____
SIGNATURE Jessica Feldman

Amendment 1 to Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 53-2018

BY: Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 6
Date: May 31, 2018

Amendment No. 1 to Amendment 1

(This amendment makes a technical correction in the School Construction Restricted Fund to correct a math error.)

- 1 On page 1, in line 7, strike “\$266,962,771” and substitute “\$268,332,771”.
- 2
- 3 On page 1, in line 15, strike “\$65,099,000” and substitute “\$65,069,000”.
- 4
- 5 On page 1, in line 17, strike “\$268,362,771” and substitute “\$268,332,771”.
- 6
- 7 On page 1, in line 19, strike “\$1,192,847,720” and substitute “\$1,192,817,720”.

ADOPTED 5/31/18
FAILED _____
SIGNATURE Jessica Feldman

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 53-2018

BY: Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 10
Date: May 31, 2018

Amendment No. 1

(In order to increase the school system's flexibility to address class size, this amendment adds \$500,000 to the operating budget for the Board of Education. For capital costs related to improvements to enhance school security, this amendment also adds \$1,400,000 to school construction.)

- 1 On page 1, in line 3, strike "\$594,453,881" and substitute "\$594,953,881".
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- 3 On page 1, in line 4, strike "\$11,423,980" and substitute "\$11,067,420".
- 4
- 5 On page 1, in line 10, strike "\$ 856,286,006" and substitute "\$856,786,006".
- 6
- 7 On page 1, in line 13, strike "\$ 282,988,771" and substitute "\$266,962,771".
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- 9 On page 2, in the chart:
- 10 1. In the row titled "Fixed Charges", strike "\$183,877,357" and substitute "\$184,377,357";
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- 18 3. In the row titled "Total General Fund Expense Budget Plus Restricted Funds Plus Other
- 19 Expenses", strike "\$1,206,973,720" and substitute "\$1,192,847,720".



Amendment 4 to Council Resolution No. 53- 2018

**BY: Calvin Ball and
Jennifer Terrasa**

Legislative Day No. 6

Date: May 31, 2018

Amendment No. 4

(This amendment increases appropriations to the Board of Education.)

1 On page 2, in the row labelled "Fixed Charges" strike "188,977,357183,877,357" and
2 substitute "187,001,357188,977,357".

3

4 Correct all subtotals, totals, and other calculated figures accordingly.

5

6 This Amendment shall only take effect if Amendment 6 to CB25-2018 is adopted by the
7 County Council.

8

9

ADOPTED as amended 5/31/18
FAILED _____
SIGNATURE Jessica Feldman

Amendment 1 to Amendment 4 Council Resolution No. 53- 2018

BY: Calvin Ball and
Jennifer Terrasa

Legislative Day No. 6

Date: May 31, 2018

Amendment No. 1 to Amendment 4

(This amendment makes corrections for consistency with Amendment 6 to Council Bill 25.)

- 1 On page 1, in line 1, strike "188,977,357" and substitute "183,877,357" and in line 2 strike
2 "187,001,357" and substitute "188,977,357".

ADOPTED 5/31/18
PASSED _____
SENATOR Jessica Feldman

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Amendment 2 to Council Resolution No. 53- 2018

BY: Jon Weinstein

Legislative Day No. 6

Date: 5/31/18

Amendment No. 2

(This amendment increases appropriations to the Board of Education.)

1 On page 2, in the row labelled "Fixed Charges" strike "183,877,357" and substitute
2 "184,377,357".

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7 County Council.

8

9

ADOPTED _____
FAILED not introduced
SIGNATURE Jessica Feldman

Amendment 3 to Council Resolution No. 53- 2018

BY: Greg Fox

Legislative Day No. 6

Date: 5/31/18

Amendment No. 3

(This amendment increases appropriations to the Board of Education in an amount equal to the reduction in appropriations to FIRN.)

1 On page 2, in the row labelled "Fixed Charges" strike "183,877,357" and substitute
2 "183,977,357".

3

4 Correct all subtotals, totals, and other calculated figures accordingly.

5

6 This Amendment shall only take effect if Amendment 4 to CB25-2018 is adopted by the
7 County Council.

8

9

ADOPTED _____
FAILED not introduced
SIGNATURE Jessica Feldman

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2018 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 5

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Introduced and read first time _____, 2018.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2018.

By order _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted___, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn___, by the County Council on _____, 2018.

Certified By _____
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

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Amendment 1 to Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 53-2018

BY: Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 6
Date: May 31, 2018

Amendment No. 1 to Amendment 1

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- 5 On page 1, in line 17, strike “\$268,362,771” and substitute “\$268,332,771”.
- 6
- 7 On page 1, in line 19, strike “\$1,192,847,720” and substitute “\$1,192,817,720”.

Amendment 1 to Amendment 4 Council Resolution No. 53- 2018

BY: Calvin Ball and

Legislative Day No. 6

Jennifer Terrasa

Date: May 31, 2018

Amendment No. 1 to Amendment 4

(This amendment makes corrections for consistency with Amendment 6 to Council Bill 25.)

- 1 On page 1, in line 1, strike "188,977,357" and substitute "183,877,357" and in line 2 strike
- 2 "187,001,357" and substitute "188,977,357".

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 53-2018

BY: Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 6
Date: May 31, 2018

Amendment No. 1

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6

7 On page 1, in line 13, strike "\$ 282,988,771" and substitute "\$266,962,771".

8

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19 Expenses", strike "\$1,206,973,720" and substitute "\$1,192,847,720".

Amendment 2 to Council Resolution No. 53- 2018

BY: Jon Weinstein

Legislative Day No. 6

Date: 5/31/18

Amendment No. 2

(This amendment increases appropriations to the Board of Education.)

1 On page 2, in the row labelled "Fixed Charges" strike "183,877,357" and substitute
2 "184,377,357".

3

4 Correct all subtotals, totals, and other calculated figures accordingly.

5

6 This Amendment shall only take effect if Amendment 5 to CB25-2018 is adopted by the
7 County Council.

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Amendment 3 to Council Resolution No. 53- 2018

BY: Greg Fox

Legislative Day No. 6

Date: 5/31/18

Amendment No. 3

(This amendment increases appropriations to the Board of Education in an amount equal to the reduction in appropriations to FIRN.)

1 On page 2, in the row labelled "Fixed Charges" strike "183,877,357" and substitute
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3

4 Correct all subtotals, totals, and other calculated figures accordingly.

5

6 This Amendment shall only take effect if Amendment 4 to CB25-2018 is adopted by the
7 County Council.

8

9

Amendment 4 to Council Resolution No. 53- 2018

BY: Calvin Ball and
Jennifer Terrasa

Legislative Day No. 6

Date: 5/31/18

Amendment No. 4

(This amendment increases appropriations to the Board of Education.)

1 On page 2, in the row labelled "Fixed Charges" strike "188,977,357" and substitute
2 "187,001,357".

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4 Correct all subtotals, totals, and other calculated figures accordingly.

5

6 This Amendment shall only take effect if Amendment 6 to CB25-2018 is adopted by the
7 County Council.

8

9

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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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.

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.

Regards,
Cristina Linsenmeyer

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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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Ellicott City, MD. 21043

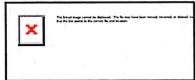
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Authority: Friends For Raj Kathuria; Diane Rudis, Treasurer

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 <sandijeans@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 <christinefritz@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 our 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 than 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 won't 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@hcppss.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

Sayers, Margery

From: Michelle Berry <shelberry@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:06 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Centennial High School Ask that you Please Maintain Class Sizes

In a prior meeting with councilman Weinstein, centennial students were able to explain the impact of larger class sizes on their ability to learn in the classroom.

The purpose of this email is to reiterate our concerns and ask that the council support Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018.

Sincerely,
Michelle Berry
President, Centennial High School PTSA

Sayers, Margery

From: Amanda D. Wadsworth <Amanda_Wadsworth@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fund Smaller Class Sizes

Dear County Council,

As a principal of an elementary school, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of restoring our class sizes to their original numbers. The larger sizes decrease the ability of the teacher to develop deep relationships with her students, which is a critical factor in students' social, emotional and academic success. I believe the PTA president shared all the important facts that align with my beliefs as a principal. We appreciate your consideration. Below is the letter sent from the PTA President of the Howard County Council. I strongly urge you to fund this important factor in a child's educational journey.

Sincerely,

Amanda Wadsworth
Principal, CLES

Dear Members of County Council,

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,

Vicky Cutroneo, President
PTA Council of Howard County

Amanda Wadsworth
Principal
Centennial Lane Elementary



"To teach a child well, you must know a child well."

Sayers, Margery

From: Lauren Milligan <Lauren_Milligan@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:45 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Maintain Class Sizes

Council Members,

I am writing as a very concerned teacher about the potential of increased class sizes. The HCPSS website states that their target class size for grades 1 and 2 is 1:20 – I currently have 24 students, and that may be being increased if the current proposal is passed. The class sizes we currently have are already so large that it can impact student learning – my “small” group size (half of my class to accommodate a two-group model in math class) is 12 students. That is not a small group, it is almost an entire class at another school (in this same county). My guided reading groups often consist of 8 students – again, much larger than an ideal guided reading group size. There isn’t enough room in my classroom to be able to do high-movement activities like I would like to incorporate when teaching six-year-old who shouldn’t be forced to sit still all day. There is barely enough room to have my kids sit on the carpet for story time. With a smaller class size, my students would have room to move. They would have more opportunities to talk, because there aren’t 23 other students to “compete” with to share their ideas. Small groups would actually be small, allowing individuals to get more 1 on 1 time. My students would be positively affected by smaller class sizes, and negatively affected by larger class sizes – and education is about making sure that our students get everything they need. Additionally, this will affect me on a very personal level. I am a new teacher, and unfortunately due to proposed increased class sizes a position at my school has been cut. As I am the newest, I will be the one who will be leaving. I have heard that it is possible I may not even be placed at a different school like we had been promised, because there will not be enough positions in the county. My students mean everything to me. I am the teacher, but they teach me each and every day. I promise them each day that I will be here for them as long as they ever need me – if we increase class sizes and my position is taken, I will not be able to be here when they need me next year.

I took some time to find research on class size, and found a very interesting study. In case you have not heard of the Tennessee STAR experiment, it researched students in kindergarten in small (13-15) and large (22-25) classes. The smaller classes were found to perform better by the end of second grade in testing, grades, and fewer disciplinary referrals. * Additionally, they found that these “gains” lasted through out high school. The students in smaller classes were more likely to graduate on time, and go to college. Even more astounding was that the positive effective was even more influential (twice as large) for poor and minority groups. Narrowing the achievement gap has always been important, but it is something that we as educators in 2018 are working very hard to close. Knowing that smaller class sizes could be a huge piece of this both in first grade, as well as for my students when they get to the high school years, is reason enough to make this change. Another statement resonated with me as well. “Class size is an important determinant of student outcomes, and one that can be directly determined by policy. All else being equal, lowering class sizes will improve student outcomes.”**

The ability to positively impact our students is not just in the hands of teachers, administrators, and school staff. Today, the ability to impact our students is in your hands. Creating smaller class sizes may not be on the table at this time, however, the ability to prevent class sizes from getting larger is in your hands. Please, for our students and their futures, approve Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018.

Thank you for taking the time to take this in to consideration when making your decisions,
Lauren Milligan

Works Cited

*Finn, J.D. & Achilles, C.M. (1999). Tennessee's class size study: Findings, implications, and misconceptions. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 21(2), 97-110.

**Mathis, William J. (2016). Research-based options for education policymaking: The effectiveness of class size reduction. National Education Policy Center, 1-7.

Sayers, Margery

From: Kristi Deiuliis <kdeiuliis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:24 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

Dear County Council,
Please support investing in our classrooms by approving Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018. As a mother of 3 Howard County Students, previous PTA president and board member for two PTAs in Howard County, I believe it is extremely important to maintain class sizes and current student to teacher ratio. I appreciate your consideration of this request.
Thanks,
Kristi Deluliis

Sayers, Margery

From: Kirsten Boswell <queenboz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: John Boswell
Subject: Please Maintain Class Sizes

Dear county council,

I realize the council has a lot to grapple with the EC flooding but children's class sizes should not suffer.

Please vote to maintain the already way too large class sizes - my 3rd grader already has 29 kids in her class at Centennial Lane Elementary School. There is a 5th grade class there with 31 students. Two class size increases in the last 4 years has already been way too much! I will be following who votes against maintaining class sizes and for those who are running for re-election, they will not get my vote.

Best,

Kirsten Boswell
Ellicott City, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: baltimoresun.activehosted.com@s12.acems1.com on behalf of The Baltimore Sun
<customersatisfaction@baltsun.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 10:04 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: What's Up on Sun Insider?

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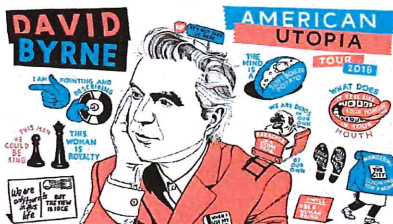
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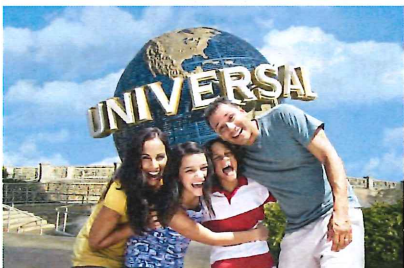
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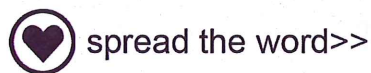
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The Baltimore Sun, 501 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21278, United States

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Colon <CAROLYN_COLON@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size Increase

Council Members ,

Dear Members of the County Council and Mr. Kittleman,

I am writing today regarding the clear and pressing concern of class sizes in Howard County. Not only have class sizes already been increased twice in the last four years, but 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. This is simply unacceptable. As both a teacher and a parent of multiple students within county schools, I can attest to the severe negative impact large class sizes has on student outcomes.

Recent and historical studies have identified the importance of relationships and engagement on student achievement. Having unwieldy class sizes makes it difficult for teachers to form meaningful, healthy relationships with each of the students in their charge. This then affects the teacher's ability to engage and differentiate students appropriately and support each student adequately. As a teacher who has often worked with economically disadvantaged and minority children and children with special needs, and as a parent of a child with special needs, I can attest to how significant the impact of large class sizes is on these unique populations.

As an experienced teacher and highly qualified professional, I can tell you that increasing class sizes has a profound effect on our ability as a county to retain our talented dedicated teachers. High class sizes contribute to workload and teacher stress. 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. In a recent study completed under the U.S. Bureau of the Census, class size was indeed determined to be a clear factor in teacher attrition. Further 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.

Please stop the current status quo of allowing unchecked new development, building and expansion in this county. This has resulted in severe budgetary, personnel, and student concerns and has created a series of reactive decisions that negatively impact our current school system's functioning. There is no greater way to make our county robust and successful than investing time, energy and resources in our current and future students and teachers, providing them with the supports they need to be successful. Class size is one area that can affect a powerful change.

Respectfully,
Carolyn Colón, Ph.D.

Carolyn Colon
CAROLYN_COLON@hcpss.org
11321 Castlewood Court
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: ying matties <ymatties@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: mmatties@gmail.com
Subject: Amendment 6 to CB-25-2018

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. Ying and Dr. Mark Matties

Sayers, Margery

From: Caroline Appel <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 9:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size - please consider reading how this will impact my students' education!

Council Members ,

Good morning- I am sure you are receiving many messages about class size and I wanted to add in my voice.

I want to start by saying that I am more than willing to work hard for my students. In fact, I am an award-winning teacher who has been recognized at the county and state level, regularly presents at national conferences, and I was even selected as teacher of the year by my school's senior class last year. I say this because I need you to know that I am hard-working and caring and passionate - and I am already always exhausted and stressed. I am incredibly worried about how much harder next year will be if we cannot restore the \$5.9 million.

As a teacher who values individualized education, the majority of my assignments involve students setting their own goals and working to challenge themselves to learn any new skills and techniques to accomplish these goals. Students work in a variety of materials and sizes. The addition of another student to each class limits the support I can offer each student, limits the space and materials each student can use, and limits my ability to monitor progress and communicate with students and families.

We are less able to help students take the classes they want to because there are more conflicts with their other classes due to reduced course availability.

I am severely limited in materials and space. I teach a subject in which I need to supervise students in multiple areas of my school during a single class period due to equipment restrictions. This was already almost an insurmountable challenge to meet my curriculum this year with only 27 students. Next year we have classes of 34 in this same subject area and I can't imagine how much less equipment and instructor feedback each student will have access to on a daily basis.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter.

Caro Appel

Caroline Appel

carosturges@gmail.com

5930 Greenhill Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland 21206

Sayers, Margery

From: JENNIFER SPIEGEL <jenallenspiegel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Support for Amendment 6 CB-25 2018

Dear Council members,

I am writing to encourage you to vote YES in support of Amendment 6 in CB-25 2018 as a step to fund class sizes for HCPSS.

Thank you,
Jen Spiegel
12475 Triadelphia Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Robin Bregman <ROBIN_BREGMAN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Students First

Council Members ,

I have serious concerns about the impact on students' learning if class sizes are increased. They are already too large to effectively reach and teach students. Research indicates that the most effective teaching happens in a class of 13 students. The more students you place in a classroom, the less differentiated instruction can be provided by the sheer number of teachers to students. Additionally, crowding more students in a room creates a very distracting atmosphere. More students per class also decreases the amount of individual time and support. There are only so many minutes in a period and the more students we have, the less time each of them will get from us. In summary, increasing class sizes decreases learning because each student will receive significantly less individual attention.

Respectfully,
Robin Bregman

Robin Bregman
ROBIN_BREGMAN@hcpss.org
14540 Dorsey Mill Road
Glenwood, Maryland 21738

Sayers, Margery

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 2:09 PM
To: BoE Email; CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org; Kittleman, Allan
Cc: Karen.Salmon@maryland.gov
Subject: Allocation of Title 1 Funding
Attachments: response to Title 1 designations.pdf; Blog Post- Howard County Appears to Have Been Using Federal Grants Intended for Low-Income Students to Enhance Education in Wealthy Schools – From Data to Knowledge.pdf

This letter pertains to disclosure of possible mis-identification of Title 1 schools, and distribution of Title 1 funding. Also, please find the original blog post at: <https://howardcounty640805081.wordpress.com>

May 27, 2018

From: Richard A. Kohn, Ph.D., email: richardakohn@gmail.com

To: Howard County Board of Education, Howard County Council

Subject: Designation of Title 1 status, and distribution of Title 1 funding

This letter is a response to the letter from Michael J. Martirano to the Members of the Board of Education on May 25, 2018, in which Mr. Martirano disclosed potential mis-identification of Title 1 schools. Mr. Martirano states: "The OCR data reports that in FY15 the HCPSS had 32 Title 1 schools instead of 12. Staff will contact OCR to try to have the data corrected."

There were 12 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 1 high school, and Homewood Center which each had at least 40% of students on Free and Reduced Meals (FARM). The percentage of FARM students is not provided on the OCR website, and it is not clear what percentage was used to declare the school a Title 1 school, but most sources indicate that Title 1 schools have 40% FARM. Thus, there were actually 18 schools that might have been considered Title 1 schools at the time.

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) website does in fact list 32 Title 1 schools in Howard County. See the attachment. HCPSS may have declared these schools or they may have been incorrectly entered into the database. Mr. Martirano has dutifully disclosed this fact to you, and as he says he informed OCR of the fact. It is not clear if incorrect designations of Title 1 schools could indicate misreporting elsewhere, or that incorrect designation resulted in the wrong funding level received from the program. This new information makes it even more clear that an independent audit of the HCPSS Title 1 budget must be commenced immediately. The Title 1 designation is a different issue than the one I brought forward previously in my blog post.

Please do not be distracted by some of Mr. Martirano's inappropriate comments in his letter. He claimed the blog post which I previously drew to your attention was "inaccurate", and that the CRDC dataset on which the analysis was based was inaccurate. However, he provided no examples that suggest anything was inaccurate regarding either the analysis or the data that were used for the analysis that I published. For example, the designations for Title 1 funding were not relevant to the blog post as those designations were not used. It would be quite simple for HCPSS to look for examples where a particular school did not receive the amount of federal funds published in the CRDC dataset, but he provided no examples. This leads me to conclude that either HCPSS didn't bother to check their own budget, or they did check and found there to be no discrepancies between their budget and the CRDC. In either case, HCPSS must audit the Title 1 funding, and correct the data if it is in error, or explain why the Title 1 funding has been diverted to low-FARM schools. This was the major conclusion from the blog post, and the added information from Mr. Martirano only further supports that conclusion.

Mr. Martirano stated that my conclusions were not correct, but he has offered no evidence to support his case. He assures the Board that the Title 1 Program has been audited again and again, and yet discrepancies remain unexplained. Mr. Martirano has dutifully informed you of the mistakes in the CRDC data in terms of Title 1 designation, but at the same time he is using false and misleading statements and false assurances about the original issue of distribution of federal funding to Howard County schools. These actions seem to be an attempt to sweep the issue under the rug.

The Board must demand that all of these issues be investigated, and falsely reported or falsely published information be corrected. The correct revenue and spending information for each of federal, state, and local sources for each school must be published immediately.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Kohn, Ph.D

Attached: CRDC list of Howard County Title 1 schools, letter from Michael J. Martirano

Listed as Title 1 Elementary Schools on OCR Website

School	FARM %
Bollman Bridge Elem	45.5
Bryant Woods Elem	49.9
Cradlerock Elem	50.7
Deep Run Elem	51.8
Ducketts Lane	39.3
Forest Ridge Elem	29.6
Guiford Elem	48.5
Hammond Elem	21.8
Jeffers Hill Elem	33.3
Laurel Woods Elem	59.3
Longfellow Elem	47.6
Phelps Luck Elem	62.6
Running Brook Elem	48.4
Steevents Forest Elem	64.8
Swansfiled	56.1
Talbott Srpings Elem	53.0
Thomas Viaduct Elem	
Waterloo Elem	27.8

FARM % obtained from MSDE database

Listed as Title 1 Middle Schools on OCR Website

Middle School	FARM %
Bonnie Branch Middle	24.6
Harpers Choice Middle	44.2
Lake Elkhorn Middle	46.9
Mayfield Woods Middle	33.4
Murray Hill Middle	33.4
Oakland Mills Middle	47.3
Patuxent Valley Middle	32.9
Wilde Lake Middle	41.5

Listed as Title 1 High Schools on OCR Website

High School	FARM %
Hammond High	35.5
Long Reach High	34.6
Oakland Mills High	44.9
Reservoir High	26.0
Wilde Lake High	39.2

Listed as Title 1 High Schools on OCR Website

Homewood School

Letter from Michael J. Martirano



May 25, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

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

Subject: Appropriate Use of Title I Funds

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide context to the Board about an inaccurate blog post that insinuated there was misuse of Title I funds in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). The post was published on a WordPress site on May 24, 2018 by R.A. Kohn and is entitled "Howard County Appears to Have Been Using Federal Grants Intended for Low-Income Students to Enhance Education in Wealthy Schools."

The author uses data gathered from the 2015 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) that can be found at <https://ocrdata.ed.gov>. The CRDC is a survey required by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) since 1968. The data is self-reported by all public local education agencies every other year.

In reviewing the FY15 CRDC data to understand the author's calculations, staff discovered discrepancies between figures reported on the website and those reported in HCPSS documents. Most glaringly, the OCR data reports that in FY15 the HCPSS had 32 Title I schools instead of 12. Staff will contact OCR to try to have the data corrected.

In short, because of incorrect data and miscalculation of Title I funding, the author concluded that underperformance at the Title I schools and other schools with higher poverty was most likely due to a diversion of funds from their intended purpose. The Title I Office has been subject to Annual Reviews by the Maryland State Department of Education and federal, state, and private audits. There have never been any findings that suggest misallocation of Title I funds.

For more information regarding Title I grant funds, please contact Caroline Walker, Director Program Innovation.

Copy to: Executive Staff
Board of Education Office

From Data to Knowledge

☰ Menu

Howard County Appears to Have Been Using Federal Grants Intended for Low-Income Students to Enhance Education in Wealthy Schools

☐ R.A. Kohn ☐ Uncategorized ☐ May 24, 2018May 24, 2018 ☐ 6 Minutes

Of the Federal grant money intended to improve education among low-income students in Howard County, \$6.2 million per year was used to support schools with low concentrations of poverty and \$2.9 million was allocated to high-poverty schools.

How Federal Title 1 Funding is Allocated.

Federal funding is provided for every student in a school living near poverty. Students are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) if their family income is less than about twice the poverty level. Therefore, some federal funding is awarded to enhance instruction for every student on FARM in a school. A higher amount of funding per FARM student is allocated to schools with a higher concentration of FARM students, such as greater than 15%, and even more if greater than 38% FARM. The allocation per FARM student increases in dollars per FARM student as the concentration of FARM students in a school increases above these different thresholds. This money is intended to help decrease the gap in school performance between low-income and higher income students. It is intended to help by providing tutoring or more intensive instruction for the at-risk population.

All of the graphs I will present were derived from data posted recently on the US Department of Education website: <https://ocrdata.ed.gov> (<https://ocrdata.ed.gov/>). Individual school data can be looked up, but in the present case, I downloaded the financial data for the entire Howard and Montgomery County districts. The website provides the Federal, State, and Local spending for each school, or the State and Local spending for each school, as reported by the school districts. I subtracted the State and local spending from the Federal, State, and local spending to determine the Federal spending. The results reported herein are only as good as the reporting by the school systems and US government, and these results need to be verified with school budgets. Data were from the most recent year available, 2015.

Figure 1 shows the federal spending per student in Montgomery County, MD. Note the federal spending increases slowly until about 50% FARM per school, after which the funding per student increases from less than \$500 per student to \$3000 per student.

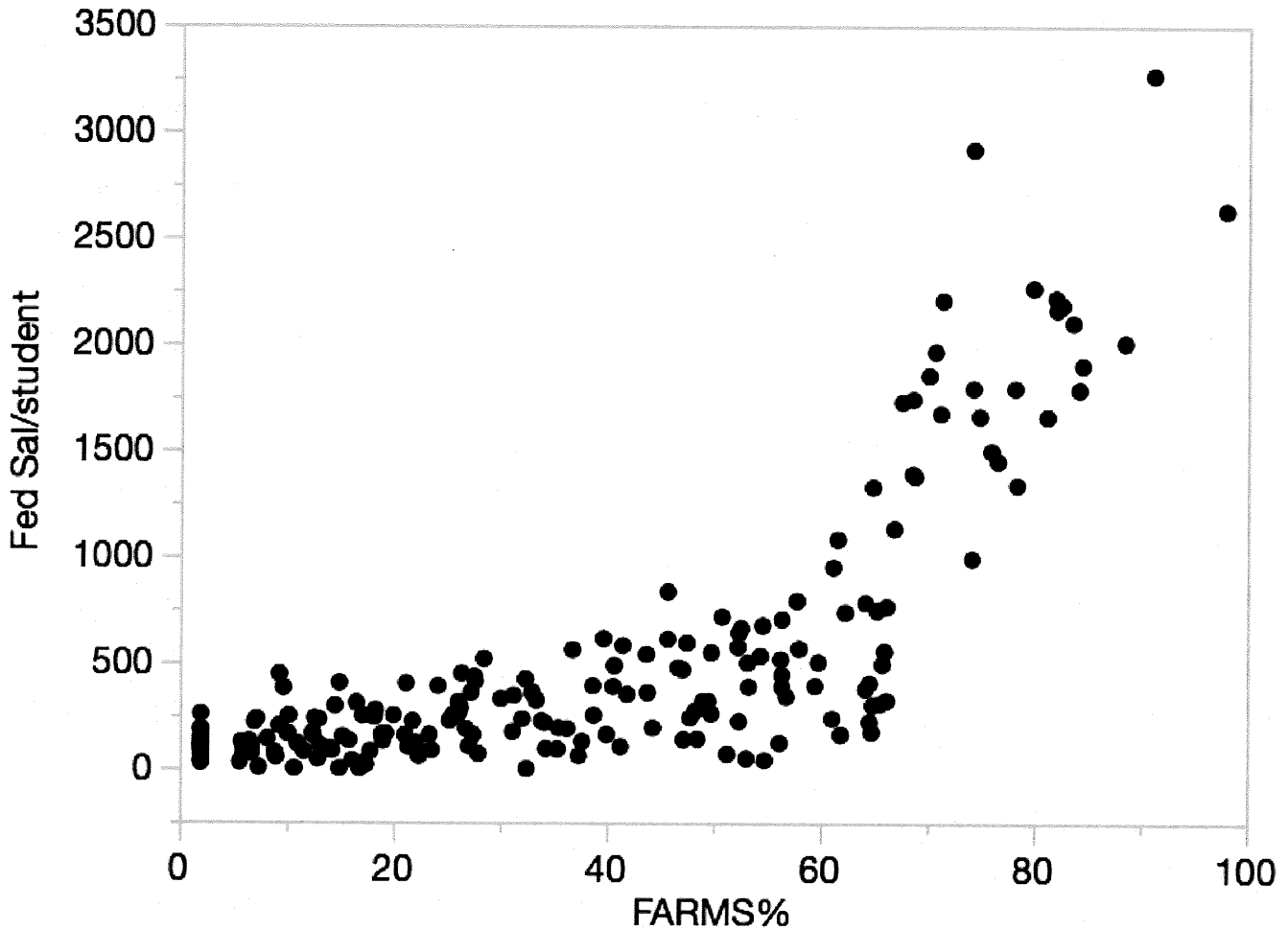


Figure 1. Federal spending on salaries per student by FARM percentage for schools in Montgomery County, MD.

Figure 2 shows the federal spending per FARM student in Montgomery County, MD. Note the federal funding is constant until a threshold at about 60% FARM, after which the funding per FARM student increases to about \$3000/ FARM student. There are some high spending amounts early on in schools with very few FARM students, possibly due to error in number of FARM students or funding, with this error comprising a large effect on a small number.

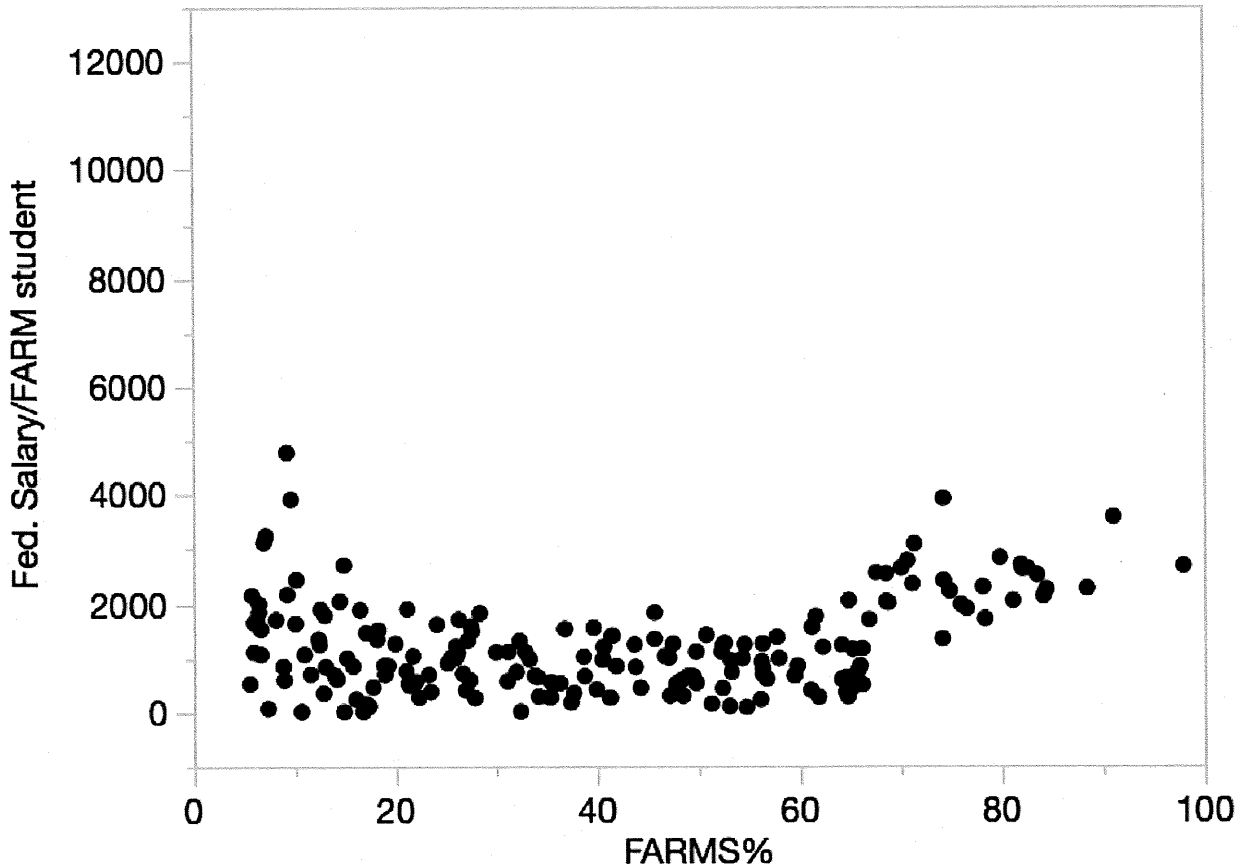


Figure 2. Federal spending on salaries per FARM student by FARM percentage for schools in Montgomery County, MD.

Howard County

In previous posts, I showed that the income performance gap in Howard County is the greatest in Maryland. It is about twice as high as the average for the State. Our high-income students do a little better than the state average, but our low-income students do worse on statewide standardized tests.

I also showed in previous posts that the performance gap is not because our low-income schools underperform. The students from wealthy neighborhoods do well in most Howard County schools even the ones with many low-income students, and the students from low-income neighborhoods do more poorly across Howard County schools.

I have also shown that Howard County is bussing students to maintain or increase segregation by race and income. The most recent redistricting debate centered around the best way to bus students to attempt to distribute students from crowded schools to schools with excess capacity, but the process was stymied because parents from “white” neighborhoods refused to be moved to “inferior” schools. Ironically, those students would have performed just as well or better in the alternative schools, and they would have been exposed to more cultural diversity and been able to attend less

crowded schools. In Howard County, many of our students ride the bus longer to an overcrowded school in order to attend segregated schools. Of course, the lower performance of lower-income students contributes to the fears that drive this segregation and concomitant racism and intolerance.

By now, one should see that Howard County needs to invest more in low-income students across all schools. The budget woes created by the County Executive's plan to divert the county budget away from education have been met with proposals from the School Superintendent to cut programs across the board, and particularly to cut programs serving low-income students such as the World Language Program. Because of the budget cuts, class size will be increased, but studies have shown that performance of low-income students will suffer more than for students in general because of these changes.

How is Howard County Using Federal Grants Allocated for Decreasing the Performance Gap?

In contrast to the graphs for Montgomery County shown above, Howard County does not appear to be using federal funding as it was intended. Similar graphs for Howard County are shown in Figures 3 and 4. There is no federal funding being spent for middle school or high school, and the federal funding for personnel per student increases slightly as the FARM % of schools increases for elementary schools. Note, the county seems to spend about \$300 per student in federal funding in schools with theoretically no FARM students. This amount increases to only about \$450 per student in high-FARM elementary schools.

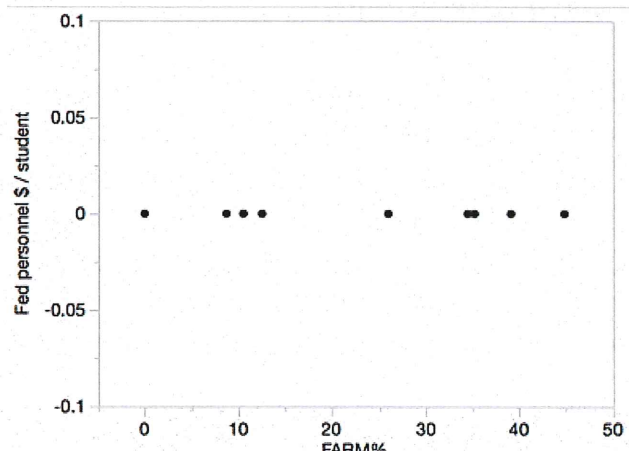
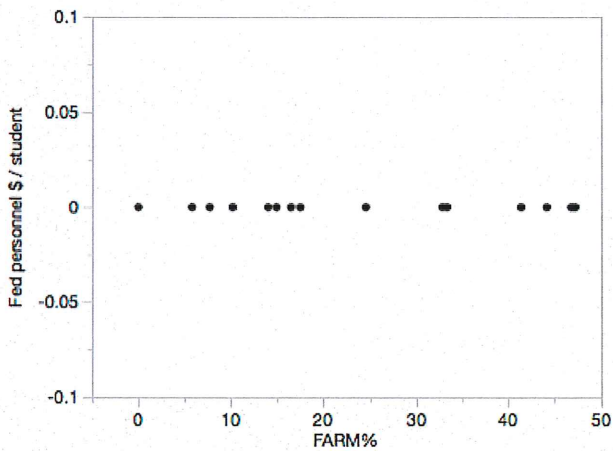
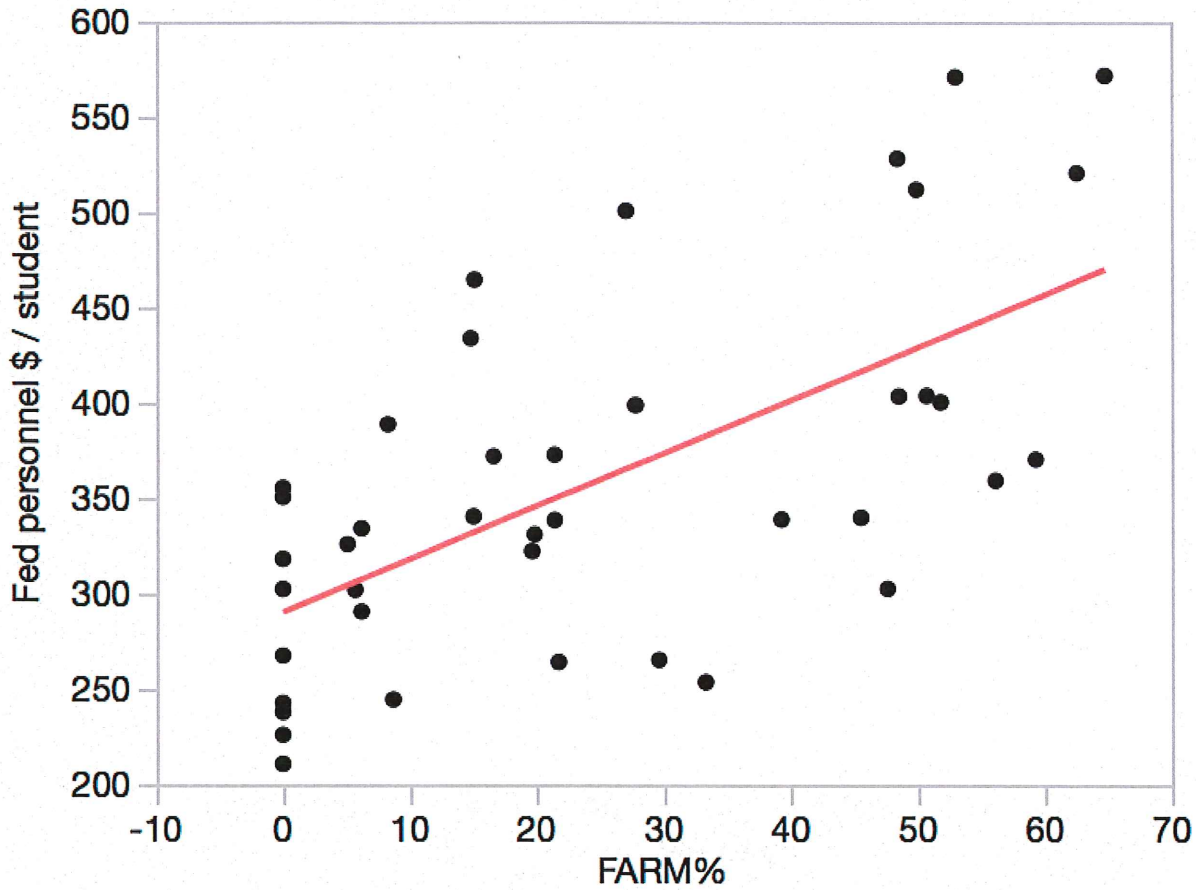


Figure 3. Federal spending on salaries vs. FARM percentage in elementary (top), middle and high schools (bottom) in Howard County, MD.

Federal funding is awarded to each school according to the Title 1 program. The amount awarded is supposed to increase per FARM student as the number of FARM students increases. One would expect the upward increase seen in Figure 2 for Montgomery County. In contrast, in Howard County, the amount spent per FARM student decreased as the FARM percentage increased as seen in Figure 4.

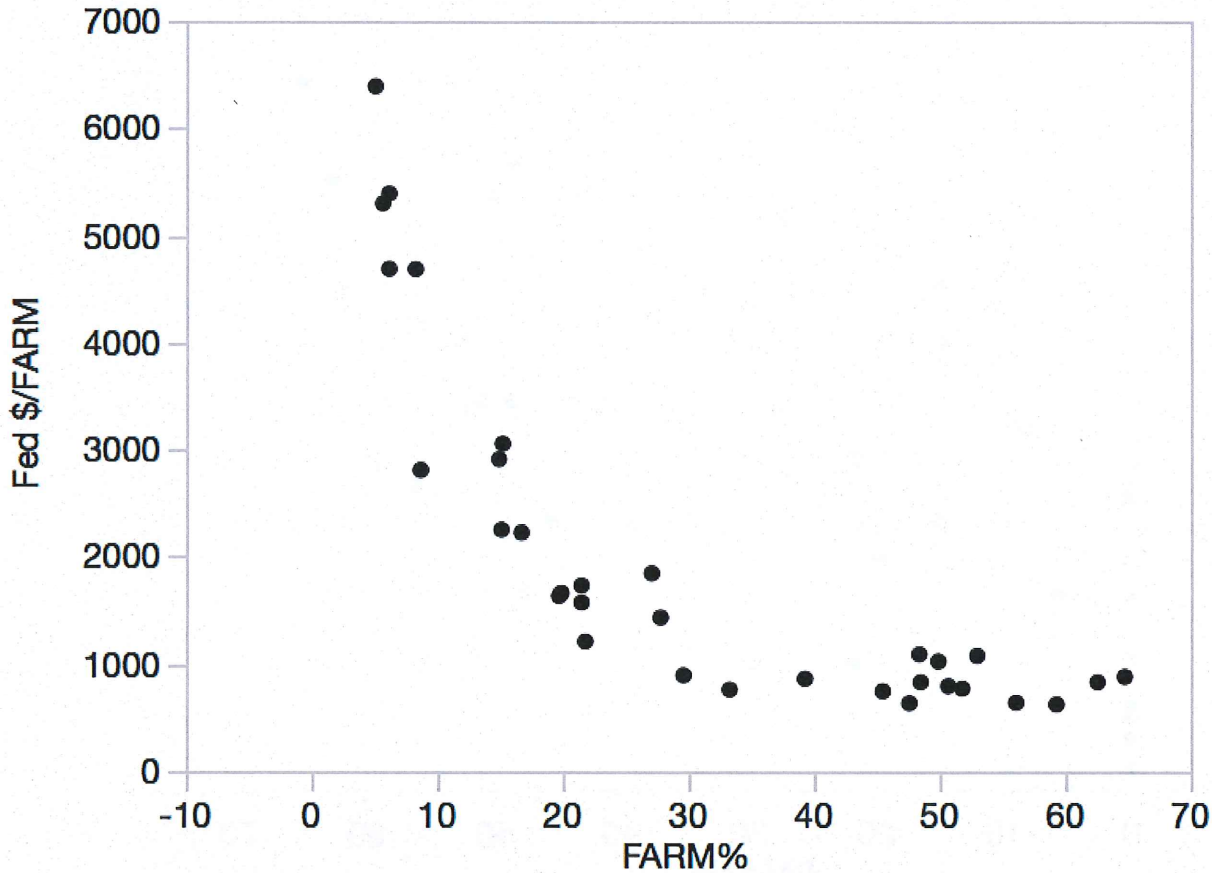
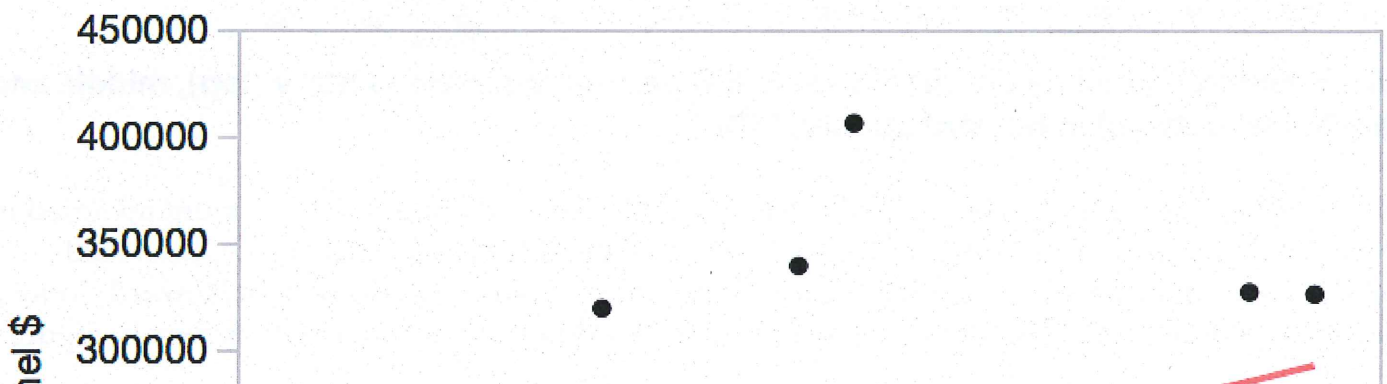
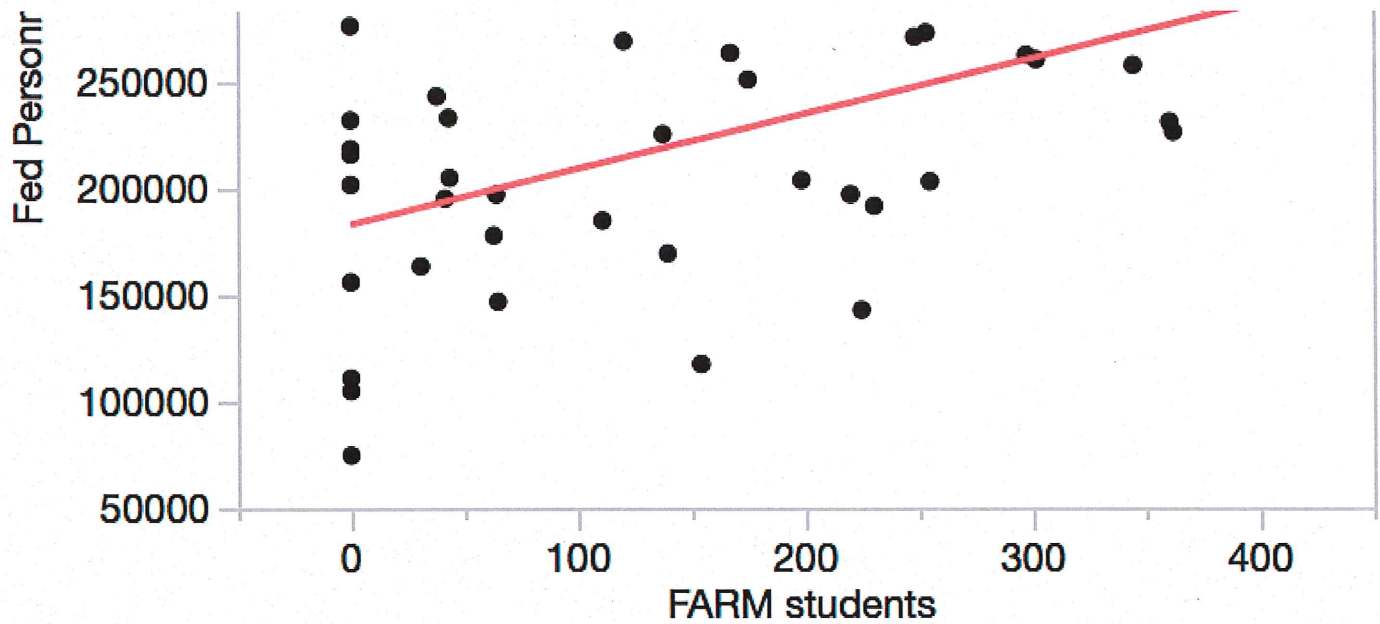


Figure 4. Federal spending on salaries per FARM student by FARM percentage for elementary schools in Howard County, MD.

The next graph shows how the money was spent in each school. On average, each elementary school gets \$183,000 + \$260 times FARM students. Most is used for teachers’ salaries, and some is used for teaching aides. Although the funding for elementary schools increases slightly when the school has more FARM students, the slope is far lower than was intended by the Federal program. Furthermore, is this funding really being used to improve the performance of low-income students? As it was distributed across schools, including schools with less than reportable percentages (<5%) FARM students, it was likely used to support salaries for students in general.





Linear Fit

Linear Fit

$$\text{Fed Personnel \$} = 182943.96 + 259.95909 * \text{FARM students}$$

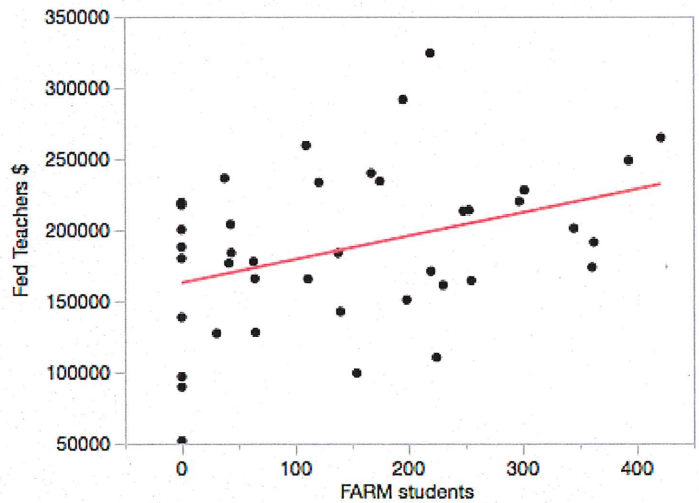
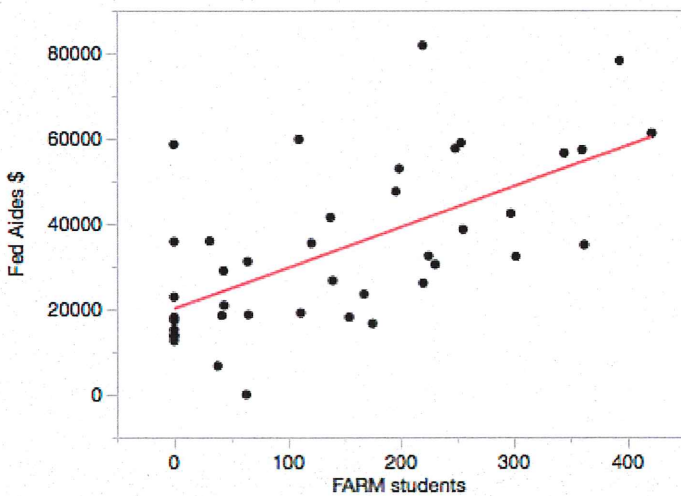


Figure 5. Federal funding per school by number of FARM students per school.

Table 1 shows how much Federal money was spent on each elementary school in Howard County. Remember, no Federal money was spent for middle schools or high schools, although money was received from the Federal government for each FARM student in those schools as well. The Federal government provides funding for schools based on the number of students in the school receiving

FARM. The Title 1 schools receive the most funding per FARM student, and certainly should receive the most funding of all schools. However, how the money appears to have been spent is another story. It looks as though the County used that money evenly across all schools.

Table 1. Federal funding for each Howard County elementary school. Shading indicates Title 1 schools which are supposed to receive most funding.

School	% FARM	Federal Support FY 2015			
		AIDES, \$	AIDES, #	Teachers	TOTAL
Atholton Elementary	15.2	\$31,160	3	\$165,817	\$196,978
Bellows Spring Elementary	14.9	\$59,788	6	\$259,502	\$319,289
Bollman Bridge Elementary	45.5	\$56,515	4	\$201,135	\$257,650
Bryant Woods Elementary	49.9	\$52,888	3	\$150,874	\$203,763
Bushy Park Elementary	0	\$18,095	1	\$200,330	\$218,425
Centennial Lane Elementary	0	\$12,560	1	\$219,423	\$231,981
Clarksville Elementary	0	\$15,194	1	\$89,685	\$104,880
Clemens Crossing Elementary	8.3	\$18,502	1	\$176,637	\$195,140
Cradlerock Elementary	50.7	\$38,643	2	\$164,446	\$203,089
Dayton Oaks	0	\$17,318	1	\$138,682	\$156,000
Deep Run Elementary	51.8	\$61,148	4	\$264,811	\$325,959
Ducketts Lane	39.3	\$32,293	2	\$228,048	\$260,341
Elkridge Elementary	27.1	\$81,767	6	\$324,315	\$406,083
Forest Ridge Elementary	29.6	\$26,088	2	\$170,985	\$197,073
Fulton Elementary	0	\$13,635	2	\$188,094	\$201,728
Gorman Crossing Elementary	19.7	\$41,513	3	\$183,720	\$225,233
Guilford Elementary	48.5	\$30,442	2	\$161,224	\$191,667
Hammond Elementary	21.8	\$26,676	2	\$142,592	\$169,268
Hollifield Station Elementary	21.5	\$23,489	2	\$239,895	\$263,383
Ilchester Elementary	0	\$35,805	2	\$180,098	\$215,904
Jeffers Hill Elementary	33.3	\$18,094	1	\$99,347	\$117,441
Laurel Woods Elementary	59.3	\$34,997	2	\$191,359	\$226,357
Lisbon Elementary	15.1	\$18,699	1	\$128,034	\$146,732
Longfellow Elementary	47.6	\$32,406	2	\$110,414	\$142,821
Manor Woods Elementary	6.2	\$20,863	1	\$183,998	\$204,860
Northfield Elementary	6.2	\$29,000	3	\$203,944	\$232,944
Phelps Luck Elementary	62.6	\$78,188	5	\$248,808	\$326,997
Pointers Run Elementary	5.1	\$6,688	1	\$236,445	\$243,132
Rockburn Elementary	16.7	\$35,444	3	\$233,454	\$268,899
Running Brook Elementary	48.4	\$57,612	4	\$213,326	\$270,938
St. Johns Lane Elementary	8.7	\$0	0	\$177,729	\$177,729
Stevens Forest Elementary	64.8	\$42,375	3	\$220,047	\$262,422
Swansfield Elementary	56.1	\$57,279	4	\$173,809	\$231,088
Talbott Springs Elementary	53	\$58,972	3	\$213,949	\$272,922
Thunder Hill Elementary	19.9	\$19,114	1	\$165,596	\$184,710

Triadelphia Ridge Elementary	0	\$13,947	1	\$96,932	\$110,879
Veterans Elementary	21.5	\$47,553	4	\$291,650	\$339,204
Waterloo Elementary	27.8	\$16,590	1	\$234,259	\$250,848
Waverly Elementary	0	\$58,620	5	\$217,581	\$276,201
West Friendship Elementary	0	\$22,850	2	\$51,872	\$74,721
Worthington Elementary	5.7	\$35,969	2	\$127,410	\$163,378
Total Title 1 schools		\$601,465	38	\$2,314,202	\$2,915,673
Total non-Title 1 schools		\$797,314	61	\$5,356,074	\$6,153,384
Total Federal Funds		\$1,398,779	99	\$7,670,276	\$9,069,057

Counter Arguments

Some will likely argue that what the County did was completely legal by some available loopholes. I don't know if that is true or not, but even if it is legal, is it wise? The income performance gap is the single most important problem facing our school district. It is affecting the education of all of our students, harming our schools' reputations, and even affecting our real estate values.

Some will say I should have used a more recent year or more years of data. These are the most recent data available. The County and the school system should make the school-by-school data available now, before approving the budget, but so far they haven't.

Some will say that it isn't fair to provide more resources to low-income students. We should continue to focus resources on the wealthy students and the wealthy school districts. Unfortunately, the County is accepting money from the Federal government to support additional instruction for low-income students, but it does not appear to be spending the money as it was intended. If you don't think this money should be allocated for this purpose, take it up with the Federal government.

Conclusions and Good News

The most serious problem with Howard County schools is the poor performance of low-income students. Now, we have a glimpse as to why. The County Council must get to the bottom of this budget before approving the next school budget. If in fact the current budget also disproportionately used Title 1 funding for teaching in low-poverty schools, this must be corrected. Redistribution of this funding might enable the County to decrease class size in low-income schools, especially for grade-level and below grade-level students. I am more than confident that the vocal affluent parents in the County will see to it that the money will be found to support their children's GT classrooms as well.

One thought on “Howard County Appears to Have Been Using Federal Grants Intended for Low-Income Students to Enhance Education in Wealthy Schools”

R.A. Kohn says:

May 25, 2018 at 4:34 pm | [Edit](#)

Letter from the HCPSS Superintendent claims the data reported on the US government website is inconsistent with the data in the HCPSS budget, but they have not reported those data.

[Reply](#)

[Blog at WordPress.com.](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Helen Barnatny <helen_barnatny@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:30 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Limiting class size is essential!

Council Members ,

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

This class size increase will impact my educational space because...

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

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

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

Helen Barnatny
helen_barnatny@hcpss.org
4961 Bonnie Branch Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Lynn Freedman-Higgins <lynn_freedman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:23 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: restoe our money

Council Members ,

i want to know where the money from the casino that was to be used for schools is going

Lynn Freedman-Higgins
lynn_freedman@hcpss.org
6417 Woodland Forest Drive
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Tina <scrt17.nw17@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:24 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: More funding for buses, stops, and office location

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I was livid with the proposed funding for bus stop improvements was hugely reduced by the County Executive and urge the County Council to reinstate funding. Improvements must be made to maintain and attract customers, who are not happy at:

- Standing in mud when it rains or snows as there is not even a concrete pad to stand on at some stops
- Standing when there are no benches
- Sitting on whatever is available, including dangerous electrical transformers
- Braving sun, wind, rain, and snow when there are no shelters
- Carrying their trash when there are no trash receptacles at stops
- Waiting in the dark when there is no street light at the stop.
- Traveling to Jessup (rather than a location at the Columbia Mall 'hub' bus stop) to get to the RTA office to purchase tickets, etc.

Columbia's vision of a busy 'downtown' and Howard County's goal to be an attractive place to work and play cannot become reality without bus stops (or bus service) that add as much rider comfort and convenience as possible.

Please help,

Regards,
Tina

Sayers, Margery

From: Robert Kennedy <ROBERT_KENNEDY@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 7:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size

Council Members ,

By now I am sure you have heard why it is imperative to reduce class size from an educational perspective. Let me speak from a parental perspective. My wife and I have stretched our finances so our daughters can attend HCPSS. Increased class size affects their education; therefore, if the Howard County Council does not vote to restore the requested funds then I will work diligently to vote out all the members that vote "No" for the sake of my children's education.

Robert Kennedy
ROBERT_KENNEDY@hcpss.org
2110 Harrow Dr.
Woodstock, Maryland 21163

Sayers, Margery

From: Ross J. Chakrian <Ross_Chakrian@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 7:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: A Letter in Support of Amending the HCPSS Operating Budget

Dear County Council,

My name is Ross Chakrian. I am one of the physical education teachers at Waverly Elementary School in Ellicott City and I am emailing you today in support of the amendment introduced by Councilwoman Terrasa and Councilman Ball to invest an additional \$5.1M in the HCPSS Operating Budget.

The content area of physical education, as well as the content areas of art, music and media, have the unique perspective of seeing all of the grade levels/students within any given elementary school in Howard County. With this unique perspective comes unique teaching situations to make daily/weekly schedules within our elementary school buildings feasible. Having multiple classes within the gym, music room and media center simultaneously is common place in most of our overcrowding schools. Huge class sizes in the related arts content area classes are also common place; a process called "sprinkling," (designed as a way combat understaffed related arts positions to make the daily schedule feasible) takes one class in a particular grade level and divides the students in that class up amongst the other classes in that grade, leaving related arts teachers with even larger classes than their classroom-teaching coworkers.

As you know, the tough budget decisions made by our Board of Education earlier this year resulted in an increase of 1 student per class. Despite the plethora of peer reviewed research that shows increasing class size has been known to decrease student achievement, this increase in class size has also had domino effect on our staffing to related arts teaching positions at Waverly. Originally, we were scheduled to increase to 2.0 music teachers, 2.0 art teachers, 2.0 media teachers and 2.6 physical education teachers for next school year. When the tough decisions were made, we were told that our related arts positions will remain at current staffing levels, despite the increase in class size, our school enrollment increasing by 90 students due to the elementary redistricting plan and what is likely to be further enrollment increases as the new townhomes on Route 99 become occupied.

While keeping these realities at Waverly in mind, I have been trying to come up with a feasible related arts schedule for next school year. After countless hours, restarts and trial and error attempts, I still have not been able to find a solution to a suitable schedule, that is in compliance with HCPSS policies and negotiated contract agreements, at current related arts staffing levels for the 2018-2019 school year.

This amendment of investing an additional \$5.1M in the HCPSS Operating Budget would be able to restore class sizes to a more manageable number as well as restore staffing positions back to levels that allow us as teachers deliver much needed child development programs to our students in the best way possible.

Howard County has a strong reputation, both regionally and nationally, as being a very desirable place to live. A lot of this reputation can be attributed to our high quality school system. Even though the county council played no direct role in the budget mishaps of past HCPSS leadership, you now have an opportunity to show the residents and constituents of Howard County that our education system is the backbone of our

county. I implore you to think long and hard about the positive effect that passing this amendment could have on all of the students and teachers of our great county.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please feel free to reach out to me via email or phone to talk further.

Sincerely,

Ross Chakrian
Physical Education Teacher
Waverly Elementary School
(410) 313-2819

"In our department, we CREATE the brain cells...it's up to the other teachers to fill them."
Paul Zientarski, SPARK

Sayers, Margery

From: Daniel Han <daniel_han@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 5:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: The Best Investment

Council Members ,

Budgeting is kind of like investing in the future of a governed body. As far as investments go, an investment in education is always solid. An investment in education is an investment in lower crime rates, reduced poverty, and upward mobility. As Victor Hugo so aptly puts it: "He who opens a school door, closes a prison."

It is plenty tough doing this job with the current class size. Before drifting off to sleep, I'm usually kicking myself about how I could have been more attentive to the needs of one particular student, or how I might have overlooked what another student really needed. What is more troubling is how I am not alone in this frustration; that every teacher I speak to, veterans or otherwise, are constantly telling me that there is only so much I can do. There is a finite amount of time in the day to budget per child and while I try my best to meet the individual needs of students every single day, I also know that I fall short every single day.

As classroom sizes increase, I fear that this issue will be exacerbated. As teachers have less and less time to spend per individual student, gaps in student achievement will become more and more profound.

To save money now only to set the stage for costlier problems down the road is the very definition of shortsightedness. I urge you to make an investment in education so that class sizes decrease and teachers can provide more time per child. Make the best investment - an investment in our collective future.

Daniel Han
daniel_han@hcpss.org
8621 Georgia Avenue Apt 909
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Sayers, Margery

From: Thomas Brandel <thomas_brandel@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 4:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Economy is doing great!

Council Members ,

Good Afternoon:

The economy is doing great!

Please explain:

Why we have to increase class sizes and only give teachers 1/2 a step.

Don't balance budgets on students and teachers backs.

Thank you,

Tom Brandel

Thomas Brandel
thomas_brandel@hcpss.org
2107 Stillwater Court
Eldersburg, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Kaleigh Thomas <Kaleigh_Thomas@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 3:38 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Increasing Class Size

Council Members ,

Good Afternoon,

I am a special educator at Phelps Luck Elementary, which is a Title I school. Phelps Luck has significant academic and behavior needs. At our articulation meetings, separating the students into 3 classes is causing class sizes to be really large. At this moment, there are going to be roughly 30 students in each class. This population is very transient, but also has a lot of barriers that inhibit them from learning. There is a high population of special education students and ESOL students at our school. These students make it more difficult for their academic needs to be addressed with a class size so large that instruction cannot be customized to meet their instructional needs. It is imperative for special educators to follow their IEPs providing accommodations, supplementary aids and differentiating instruction in order for these students to access the general education curriculum. With funding being cut, we're losing staff. It is almost impossible for one teacher to serve more than 120 special education hours in a week. The growing class sizes and surplussed staff for the upcoming 2018-2019 causes me great anxiety as an educator and as a parent.

Kaleigh Thomas

Kaleigh Thomas
Kaleigh_Thomas@hcpss.org
5636 Waterloo Rd
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Sokolow <cynthia_sokolow@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 3:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the monies the County Executive cut

Council Members ,

Prevent staff layoffs and larger class sizes. Larger class sizes and fewer staff members threaten the safety of our children. Thank you

Cynthia Sokolow
cynthia_sokolow@hcpss.org
9610 Susie'S Way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Rose Collins <ROSE_COLLINS@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 2:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Invest in the Present and the Future of our Students Now

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members,

Each individual student in the Howard County Public Schools System truly needs and deserves our complete support in the following areas:

- Class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to appropriately provide our students.
- There will be challenges in course offerings due to class size increase.
- Class size increase will effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county.

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

Thank you in advance for your time, attention and help regarding this matter.

Yours truly,

Rose Collins

Rose Collins
ROSE_COLLINS@hcpss.org
6711 Iron Ore
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jaimie Shirokobrod <JAIMIE_SHIROKOBROD@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 2:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the monies!

Council Members ,

HCPSS Chair Vaillancourt stated, "We had intended to place everyone but, as it stands today, we may not be able to do that. We may be letting people go." She further commented that we have "significantly limited course offerings and have crowded classrooms- to the point where teachers are feeling the stress of not being able to provide the service." (County Budget Work Session, May 24, 2018).

This is not okay! County Executive has already cut so much and now there is a chance that teachers that were surplusd may not have a job at all?! Not only are you ruining student's chances at differentiated instruction because of increased class sizes, but now those teachers may not have a job next year? This is our livelihood! Unfortunately, too, some of these teachers are among the best and most qualified. Why would they want to come back to HCPSS in the future? It's unbelievable that class size increase is going to be possibly brought to the table for a third time. HCPSS is supposedly one of the best school districts in the county...let's treat our students and teachers better then.

Jaimie Shirokobrod
JAIMIE_SHIROKOBROD@hcpss.org
722 East Watersville Rd.
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: Kimberly Sheibley <kimberly_sheibley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 1:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Invest in Students with Smaller Class Sizes

Council Members ,

Please invest the additional monies so that class sizes are NOT increased again this year.

Kimberly Sheibley
Media Specialist
Elkridge Landing MS

Kimberly Sheibley
kimberly_sheibley@hcpss.org
10400 Swift Stream Place
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Carla D. Connor <Carla_Connor@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 1:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Carla D Connor

Hello Council Members,

I am writing to you to implore that you approve the amendment that was introduced by Councilman Ball and Councilwoman Terrasa (CR-53) that would provide 5.1 million dollars in order to reduce class sizes for Howard County schools. As a teacher who works in a Title One school and has become surplusd i cannot begin to tell you how concerned I am about increasing our class sizes for any school but especially our Title One Schools. Please consider the importance of being able to really know our students and to be able to tailor lessons plans that really works for every individual child. Whether the children are from ESOL, or have an IEP, or behavior issues, or on the GT track, teachers are able to do more if our class sizes stay small. I do understand we have a budget problem but making our class sizes bigger will not make us a better school system. We must do what is best for our children first and larger class sizes is not the correct way.

On May 31st please consider voting for CR-53 that would place 5.1 millions dollars back into our budget and allows for our class sizes to become smaller again. As a surplusd tenured teacher waiting to see where i am going to be placed for next year, i am concerned not only for me and my non-tenured teacher friends, but for our students who should receive the best learning possible. Please again I implore you to vote yes for CR-53.

Thank-you,
Carla D Connor
Kindergarten Teacher
Stevens Forest Elementary School

Sayers, Margery

From: Katarzyna Brodka <katarzyna_brodka@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 12:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size

Council Members ,

Hello,

I teach elementary physical education, K-5. Increasing the class size will tremendously affect my students in so many ways.

Because we have 900 students at school and only one gymnasium, we have to teach double classes. Our gym is small (build 27+ years ago)!and having more students in class will limit our instruction, it will affect our differentiation of instruction, not being able to provide enough help and equipment for every child, etc. Please consider not increasing the class sizes. It's already hard enough to teach close 60 kids at a time plus lots of students with severe special needs who can not control themselves and often with frustration, end up hitting other students. Increasing the class size will add extra stress on those students. If I could add, my voice has been increasingly getting worse because of the class size being so large and the added noise level of large classes.

Please reconsider the large class sizes. It is getting very difficult to do my job. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kasia Brodka

Katarzyna Brodka
katarzyna_brodka@hcpss.org
541 Allegheny Ave
Towson, Maryland 21204

Sayers, Margery

From: Jacqueline Bates <Jacqueline_Bates@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 12:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Our Communities Future

Council Members ,

To Whom It May Concern,

As a teacher and parent, I know first hand the effect large class sizes have on our students' education. I purposefully moved here so that my children and I could be a part of the famous HC education system. Please do allow that reputation to change, fund our children's education.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Bates

Jacqueline Bates
Jacqueline_Bates@hcpss.org
10826 Braeburn Road
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Sara Crisera <sara_few@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 12:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: There is no way....

Council Members ,

that I can provide individualized attention and differentiated instruction for EVERY SINGLE child in my classroom now... how am I going to make it work with 2 or more students added to my class? In one class this year, I have 10 students with IEPs, 4 with 504s, 2 that are ALS (non-diploma bound special needs) 8 that are AP level students, and then 9 that don't fall into the above categories. Would you be happy if your child was in a class like this? Teachers make magic happen every day with next to nothing, I'm not sure what we can do when actually given nothing. Fund the schools in one the richest counties in the state. We have the BEST school system in the state! This is the reason people move here... It's not for the low taxes and affordable housing that's for sure! It's because their children will get the best public education around!

Sincerely,

Sara Crisera

Sara Crisera

sara_few@hcpss.org

613 Lynn Way

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Joan M. Tellish <Joan_Tellish@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 11:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Increased Class Size

Dear County Council Members:

I am writing to advocate for the passing of an amendment to lower class size in elementary schools. I have always been proud of HCPSS but lately, I am in disbelief.

Teaching over 30 students in a classroom will add much stress to the teacher's already increased workload. First of all, elementary teachers are required to be experts in all subject areas. They are asked to differentiate instruction, work in small groups, do grading, prepare for lessons, and get to know each student well. This may be possible if the class was made up of 30 well behaved focused students. But - let's get real! More than likely, there will be behavior issues, ELL students, and Special Education students to name a few.

I understand there are limited funds, but class size must be a priority. I commend you eliminating the World Language programs in elementary schools. This was unnecessary from the start. Does HCPSS really need Pre-K? The priority in elementary schools should be class size, Mathematics and ELA. Please help our schools and teachers!

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Joan Tellish
Mathematics Support Teacher
Howard County Public School System
Bushy Park, Clemens Crossing, St. John's Lane, Worthington

Relator, Discipline, Harmony, Significance, Maximizer

Sayers, Margery

From: Rita Allan <rita_allan@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 11:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY 19 Budget

Council Members ,

Please do increase our class sizes any further. This past year, I had to teach 2 AP Science classes in a classroom with resources for 28. As science teachers, we are using our lab space on a regular basis. It does the students a disservice when we do not have enough materials to go around. Please support restoring the 5.9 M to ensure our students get the best education possible.

Rita Allan

Rita Allan
rita_allan@hcpss.org
4625 Huntley Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Allyson Glassband <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 11:09 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS needs more money!

Council Members ,

Please restore the monies that were cut the county budget. Larger classes presents challenges to both students and teachers.

Allyson Glassband
ahglassband@gmail.com
5312 Winter Moss Court
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Michael White <michael_white@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 10:15 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: current school budget concerns

Council Members ,

To All Concerned:

I did not "do the right thing" and trust my district by voluntarily surplussing myself to help a younger staff person with daycare concerns to be now told I may have to be let go. Supporting my staff and my district only to face this uncertainty is extremely stressful. We were told during the surplus meeting before the job fair that we would have positions next year. The current state of affairs with the budget seems to clearly break that promise. The county and the district must do everything possible to create the funding necessary to make sure that no current staff member, through no fault of their own or who has made the decision to help their school and district by surplussing themselves, be left hanging in employment and financial uncertainty. While I do not have daycare concerns, I am putting my life back together after a divorce with a wonderful relationship that would face severe financial strain if I were to be simply "let go". We are the middle of and remodeling our home and need both of our incomes to continue the work. If I lost my position, that would place an enormous strain on her as a fellow HCPSS teacher in trying to complete the work on her own. She did not ask for this to happen to her. The county and the district need to do "the right thing" and take care of those who have given of themselves in this situation. Find the necessary funding to take care of those who work so hard to continually make Howard County one of the best places to educate children in Maryland, as well as in the country. That is what we hear from our officials and our board. Please back up the words with actions now to take care of those who have helped make this district one the of best.

With kind regards and great concern,

Michael White

Michael White
michael_white@hcpss.org

5832 Diggers Lane
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Swann <LAURA_SWANN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 9:35 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Restore Class Sizes!

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

While it might not seem like a big deal to raise class sizes "by one," this is something that will impact every person in the school system. From administrators to teachers, parents, to students. I'm sure there is room elsewhere in the budget, rather than raising class sizes for the third time in recent years.

My classroom is overcrowded as it is, and it is difficult to deliver quality, one-on-one instruction to a room full of growing 13 year olds, much less if I add more desks and cram more students into a room. The amount of time I spend grading essays is astronomical as it is, and the burden of papers will just continue to increase.

Howard County is touted as the best of the best, and one of the only things you need as a county that prides itself in excellent teaching are excellent teachers and teaching practices. I can teach without technology, I can teach without bells and whistles, but in order to teach, I need a manageable class size. I need to get to know my students, understand their strengths and weaknesses, deliver quality instruction to them, and provide them feedback in a timely manner.

Please reconsider. Given the enormity of the Howard County budget, this item is small, but I would argue it is the most necessary. We are in the business of teaching and molding minds and shaping character. This is the most important issue.

Thank you,
Laura Swann

Laura Swann
LAURA_SWANN@hcpss.org

10806 Beech Creek Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jonathan Phillips <jonathan_phillips@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 9:24 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore monies

Council Members ,

Increasing class sizes will have a detrimental effect on student achievement. In my view disruptive behaviors will increase drawing attention away for providing instruction. The increased work load will have a negative effect on teacher moral in my opinion leading to more sick days and personal days being taken which will have a negative impact on classroom routines and in turn impact classroom instruction.

Jonathan Phillips
jonathan_phillips@hcpss.org
8408 High Ridge Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Miranda <JENNIFER_HARVEY@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 9:03 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore funds for education

Council Members ,

Dear Council members,

My name is Jennifer Miranda and I have been an elementary English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher in Howard County Public Schools for the past seven years. I have the joy and privilege of working with some of the most hardworking and inspiring children in our county, our students who are learning English for the first time.

I love working with these students and giving them my best as a teacher, but unfortunately, due to an increase in the student to teacher ratio this year, it has been a challenge to provide them with the same quality services I have been able to in the past. Prior to this school year, the student to teacher ratio for ESOL was 30 to 1 and I typically had 20-25 students that I was responsible for at my school, about the same as an elementary classroom teacher. Including myself, there were three ESOL teachers at my school, along with one full time and one part-time para-educator. This year, the ratio was increased to 40 to 1, and because of this we lost one ESOL teacher as well as our part-time para-educator. I am currently managing a caseload of 94 English learners in Kindergarten through fifth grade with the help of only one other ESOL teacher and one para-educator.

It has been difficult being spread so thin and feeling that I cannot dedicate the time I would like to each of my students in so many different grades. I want to be able to differentiate and spend as much time as possible with each one, but my colleague and I have had to cut back on co-teaching and other services this year in order to accommodate our growing student population while also having fewer staff members than in the past. I have seen firsthand the impact of budget cuts on my school's ability to provide the best education to students, and I urge the Council to restore the 5.9 million dollars to the budget in order to provide for more staff and to reduce class size.

Thank you very much for reading my letter and for your service to Howard County.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Miranda

Jennifer Miranda

JENNIFER_HARVEY@hcpss.org

8604 Calypso Lane

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

Sayers, Margery

From: Tracy Stansbury <tracy_stansbury@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:58 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Students & Staff in the FY19 Budget!

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible! Howard County is one of the best places to live in the entire country and a huge part of that is our school system. Increasing class sizes have been proven to have a negative effect on student learning. This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide the students as I won't have the time to give students what they need in order to learn. INVEST in the future of our county by INVESTING in the children. Every child needs the opportunity to learn and increasing class sizes will have a detrimental effect on that opportunity.

As a tax payer and an educator, I implore you to restore the 5.9M to the budget to fully fund education!

Thank you,
Tracy Stansbury

Tracy Stansbury
tracy_stansbury@hcpss.org
4612 E. Leisure Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Erika Benton <erika_benton@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:42 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Act

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Our students need to continue to get the stellar education that has always been available in Howard County. The changes that are being proposed are not beneficial to students, teachers and staff. We are known for our educational practices and amazing opportunities. Let's continue to be known for giving our children the best.

Erika Benton
erika_benton@hcpss.org
1617 Bluffdale Rd
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244

Sayers, Margery

From: Linda Nachenberg <LINDA_NACHENBERG@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:37 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Sizes

Council Members ,

Last year (2016/2017 school year) Geometry Class (regular level), 32 kids, one in a wheel chair. 3 adults (a teacher, a para educator, and an assistant for the boy in the wheel chair. That's incredibly crowded and not conducive to learning. These are students in the lowest level so therefore very needy.

Linda Nachenberg
LINDA_NACHENBERG@hcpss.org
6919 Mystic Woods Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Meikrantz <jennifer_white@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:22 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size Increase's Negative Impact on Neediest Students

Council Members ,

Dear Executive Kittleman & County Council Members,

I am a teacher at Patapsco Middle School. I am writing to ask that you restore the 5.9M in funding. As the budget stands now, Patapsco will not be able to offer math seminars due to the class size increase requiring us to surplus a math teacher. This changes my current position from 0.5 math and 0.5 reading to be 1.0 math, but ultimately leaves us 3 classes short - exactly what is needed to be able to offer 6th, 7th, & 8th grade math seminars. I currently teach two co-taught on-grade level classes and can attest to the positive impact that math seminar has had on my students' skills and confidence. I am seriously concerned about the rigor of 8th grade math for my most struggling students without the benefit of this extra instruction.

Please look out for our neediest math students by restoring funding so Patapsco can continue to offer math seminars.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Meikrantz

Jennifer Meikrantz
jennifer_white@hcpss.org
7898 Mayfair Circle
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Donna Kelley <donna_kelley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Education for Howard CO.Students

Council Members ,

Howard County Public Schools used to be the best in the state and recognized throughout the country. Now we are sliding backward and our children are not getting the attention needed, and therefore, not the best education possible.

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Smaller classes are crucial, especially at the elementary level, to provide the needed attention to each individual student. This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students. It also impacts how often and how well I can communicate to parents.

I am also truly concerned about the number of qualified teachers that Howard County is losing and the programs that were cut. How does this happen in a county known for the best schools? What has changed? The attitude of elected official?. Can't be just money! Not in this county

Donna Kelley
Fifth-grade teacher

Donna Kelley
donna_kelley@hcpss.org
3599 Scheel Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Deborah Halperin <dhalperin@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 12:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore education funds!

Council Members ,

I am a voter in Howard County, and education is a priority when I vote. I am proud that Howard County public schools are the best in the state, and they could stay that way if the 5.9 million dollars are restored to the education budget. Increased class sizes will negatively impact the whole school system and must be avoided.

A concerned citizen

Deborah Halperin
dhalperin@comcast.net
5324 Dunteachin Dr
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Cindy Anderson <cindyanderson21042@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 11:28 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fund our schools adequately

Council Members ,

One of the richest counties in this country. We should not have to increase class size. Find out schools.

Keep class size where it is. Find the money

Cindy Anderson
cindyanderson21042@comcast.net
3039 Greenhaven Ct
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Diane Cohen <hcohen3@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 10:09 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fund smaller class size

Council Members ,

I ask you to please fill the gap in the HCPSS budget to support smaller class sizes and retain our our excellent teaching staff. As an HCPSS support staff member, I can see first hand how large class sizes limits individual attention students receive and greatly impacts our teachers' ability to keep up with extra grading while also planning engaging and effective lessons. Dr Martinaro's call for staff to build trusting relationships with our students is much more difficult to attain with the extra stress of heavier workloads and more students to teach and reach. Please fund the HCPSS budget deficit to restore smaller class sizes and course offerings, which are not possible with fewer teachers on staff.

Thank you.

Diane Cohen
hcohen3@comcast.net
10671 Quarterstaff Rd
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Nicholas Johnson <n.johnson@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 9:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Don't Let Us Down

Council Members ,

Hi!

I'm writing you due to my extreme concern over the FY 2019 HCPSS budget. Howard County is one of the wealthiest counties in the US. How is it possible that we are even proposing a budget that would severely harm our students and teachers? All for what -- not wanting to raise tax income? This budget shows the priorities of our executive and council, and it is clear they are NOT what's good for the community as a whole. Rest assured, neither the executive or council members will be receiving my vote come November unless additional funding is approved.

As a special education teacher, the proposed class size would affect the attention level I am able to provide to students. Larger classes mean less time for individual needs, and more time classroom managing, less providing instruction. It means less time communicating one-on-one with students and their parents. Everyone is well aware this would happen, and the fact that we are rolling ahead with cuts anyways is unconscionable. Please consider increasing the funding -- at a MINIMUM of the \$5.9 million requested -- to keep our schools out of the gutter.

Nicholas Johnson
n.johnson@me.com
11410 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Apt. 1006
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Bernadette Bechta <bbechta@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 5:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Loss of teachers

Council Members ,

Why is this happening? The quality of HCPSS is in danger. High level classes are cut and good teachers are leaving. Every effort should be made to preserve teachers and reduce class size.

NO new programs should be implemented for 2018-2019.

I am a teacher and I am considering leave the county as a place of residence. Please stop this nonsense.

Bernadette Bechta

Bernadette Bechta
bbechta@comcast.net
10206 Silverstone Place
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Cindi Croft <iccroft@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 9:29 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class sizes and lack of resources

Council Members ,

Every year teachers in Howard County have been asked to do more with less and less resources. Class sizes go up, the individual needs of our students increase, the expectations for data collection increase, the curriculum demands increase. Yet the resources to meet these needs decrease. We do not have the staffing or training to meet the increasingly intense needs of our inclusion students. We do not have the staffing to meet the needs of our ELL learners. Our computers and technology are drastically outdated and are often unavailable due to testing schedules. We use ripped and torn books with missing pages in our reading groups, or do not have enough copies for all students as our group and class sizes grow. We lack enough math manipulative for all students to access them. We are one of the richest counties in the county. People move here for our educational system. Yet we are increasing unable to live up to the expectations or provide the world class educational experience we hope to for lack of funding and resources. Please fully fund the 2019 budget and help us do the job we were hired to do and want to do for our students.

Cindi Croft
iccroft@verizon.net
2857 Deerfield drive
Ellicott city , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Corp <susan@simplys.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:30 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reduce class sizes, increase school budget

Council Members ,

This year's school budget does not with the needs of the students in Howard County. Increasing the school population and cutting the number of teachers in the school does not make any sense. Please fix this immediately. Our students will suffer the consequences.

Susan Corp
susan@simplys.com
11211 Old Hopkins Rd
Clarksville MD , Maryland 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Tiana Seldon <tiana_seldon@hcps.orb>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 11:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Help our education community

Council Members ,

Please find funds to help our youth and educators for these reasons:

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

This class size increase will impact my educational space because...

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

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

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

Thanks

Tiana Seldon

Educator and parent

Tiana Seldon

tiana_seldon@hcps.orb

9004 Ina ct

Columbia , Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Laurie Stinebaugh <laurienchris@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 8:43 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reduce class sizes!

Council Members ,

Please reduce class sizes in HCPSS! Our class sizes have drowned out many kids who don't have the means for supplemental educational resources like Kumon and the like. Isn't it the goal of our amazing county to offer up fair education opportunities? My kid should be able to be heard and known by his teacher and I have already seen the impact of this directly on MY children.

Additionally, these class sizes stress out and crush our teachers. They are clearly overwhelmed and rely heavily on the families in the community to evaluate students on basic facts, organize lessons, help children struggling, etc... These are GOOD teachers, but they are at their wits end trying to make it around to each student.

Please find a way to reduce class sizes, not increase them. There has to be a line

Laurie Stinebaugh
laurienchris@verizon.net
10616 Ashford Way
Woodstock , Maryland 21163

Sayers, Margery

From: Laurie Bulka <Lbulka@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 2:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Our kids deserve and need better

Council Members ,

Hi, I am very concerned about another potential increase in class size. As a school psychologist I work with students who need extra assistance and differentiated instruction on a daily, all-day basis. this is difficult enough when a reasonable class size is maintained but nearly impossible when class sizes increase. This is an investment in the future of Howard County and nothing is as important than ensuring we have educated, responsible adults coming up behind us to lead into a positive future for HC.

Thank you in advance for protecting our children's learning opportunities and making sure that they are equitable.

Laurie Bulka

Laurie Bulka

Lbulka@verizon.net

10924 Battersea Lane,

Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Hanauer <jhanauer@live.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 8:29 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 5.9M Restored

Council Members ,

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

Jessica Hanauer
jhanauer@live.com
10718 Folkestone Way
Woodstock , Maryland 21163

Sayers, Margery

From: Lauren Grant <lauren_grant@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 7:49 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School Funding

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students.

This class size increase will impact my educational space because my classroom is already full and difficult to arrange and navigate for students with physical disabilities.

There will be challenges in course offerings due to this class size increase as we have to cut electives in order to provide core classes while running less of those core classes with more students per class. Would you want your child to be one of 34 in an AP class?

This class size increase will effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county. It is illogical to thing we can support individual students and families when we have so many on our rosters--especially in secondary education.

Again, we need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Lauren Grant
English Teacher
Howard County Public School System

Lauren Grant
lauren_grant@hcpss.org
1614 Loch Ness Rd
Towson, Maryland 21286

Sayers, Margery

From: Leeann Sanna <leeann_sanna@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 7:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore class size and 5.9M

Council Members ,

Please restore the class size to levels that help me provide support and communication to the students. Also, restore the 5.9M to ensure students receive what they need.

Thank you.

Lee Ann Sanna

Howard County Public School Teacher

Leeann Sanna

leeann_sanna@hcpss.org

19109 Alpenglow Lane

Brookeville, Maryland 20833

Sayers, Margery

From: Crystal Swann <crystal_swann@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 6:07 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 2019 Budget to stop Student Crowding

Council Members ,

Our students will not effectively learn with an class size of 28 - 30 plus! Please restore the 5.9M to educate our children in a proper way! Our teachers and students need the proper climate to be able teach and learn.

Thank You

Crystal Swann
crystal_swann@hcpss.org
8324 Fall Chill Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Michael Mitchell <michael_mitchell@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 5:58 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size

Council Members ,

Class size significantly affects the quality of education children receive. Please restore the 5.9m

Michael Mitchell
michael_mitchell@hcpss.org
1213 Malbay Drive
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

Sayers, Margery

From: Lucille Butler <lbwhb7@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 9:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size~Keeping Teachers

May 28, 2018

Dear Council Members,

Hello. My name is Lucille Butler. I am a retired HCPSS teacher of thirty years. I love the school system so much that I am back in the system tutoring via Title 1 two days per week. When time permits, I substitute teach and help with assessments. As stated before, I love HCPSS! I am writing you because I am very concerned about the rising class sizes and the reduction of teachers for the upcoming school year. I keep hearing the worst! As a former full time teacher and a part-time teacher now, I know the students benefit from having smaller class sizes. Bigger class sizes can produce all sorts of problems and this is not good for the students or the teachers. I also hope that those teachers who are non-tenured get the opportunity to continue to teach for HCPSS. I pray they do not have to be cut from the school system! I want what is best for the students. Also, I feel that teaching is such a very demanding profession! All the teachers who are willing to choose such a profession should be able to keep their jobs. Please consider keeping the class sizes smaller and keeping all the current teachers. Thank you so much for your time.

Lucille E. Butler

Sayers, Margery

From: Dawn Tache <dawn_tache@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 8:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the funding for classrooms

Council Members ,

I am not just a teacher, I am a Howard County resident and I am urging you restore the \$5.9M to the HCPSS budget. We can not achieve the Dr. Martirano's vision with larger classes. We can not maintain our reputation of world class schools with larger classes and fewer courses. These changes will impact our students for years to come. Please restore the budget.

Dawn Tache
dawn_tache@hcpss.org
9421 Clocktower Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Loughry <carrie_loughry@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 8:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore \$5.9M to HCPSS budget

Council Members ,

The increased class sizes are already impacting the amount of individual attention we can give students, especially in our more crowded schools. Increasing them again is a step in the wrong direction and does not meet the educational or social/emotional needs of our students.

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

Carolyn Loughry
carrie_loughry@hcpss.org
9088 Lambskin Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Taffie Clark <Taffie_Clark@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 8:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: County Resident and Teacher

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and Mr. Kittleman,

I am a resident and a teacher of Howard County. I like to be involved and vote on the issues at hand. I am very much into the political scene and I vote on the best plan that will better the community and our future. I really look at all the candidates and value my vote and my voice to be heard. With that being said, I am advocate for small class sizes. I have been teaching for 10 years; two counties (Anne Arundel and Howard) in Maryland. The class size WILL impact the instructional differentiation and needs of the students. Between a Title-1 and a non- title 1, we are setting our teachers and students up for failure. When we are competing against other counties for the best education, we need to make sure our teachers can give our students the best attention and instruction. I came to Howard County this year because I moved to this county for me and my fiance' to start a family. I wanted to teach in this county for what the educational system represented. However, I have been notified that I am surplus and now I am being notified that I could potentially not have a job next year due to the rise of class sizes. This will set a wave that I am not sure how I should feel or how I should vote come November, due to the fact that people feel they should not only raise class sizes but want to cut employees who now have to scramble and leave for job in other counties. I am a wonderful teacher, I welcome you to my classroom and see my students put on their plays, share their writings with you, and they can read to you. My first graders this year, did amazing things, raising class sizes can impact the learning I provided this year. Mind you, I taught two years in Anne Arundel County with 35 5th graders in my class and did the best I could. I still gave 150% was determined that my 35 children were going to learn. It was hard for them to move around to centers in class and stay on task at times. Please I see the mountains that can be moved in smaller class sizes. It is important to be able to build those relationships and restorative practices so we can help the students who struggling early on with family issues at home so we don't have the shooting tragedies that are going on in America today. We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the

best education possible. I would love to meet with anyone and set up a time for you to visit my classroom.

Please know my vote counts and I do not vote on who the union says I should but I vote on issues and growth. Our county is growing and I think raising class sizes will be detrimental to our educational system which we should value at all cost. This is our future and our future needs the best education support.

Thank you,

Taffie Clark
6712 Cozy Lane
Elkridge MD 21075

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Pamela Foreman <pamela_foreman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 7:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the needed 5.9M!

Council Members ,

Hello County Council Members and County Executive,

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

I teach the Full-Day PreK program. I was greatly saddened when the World Language was cut, a valuable support to building vocabulary and close the gap in cognitive functions in our littlest ones! Now you want us to send them forward into larger classrooms without the essential staffing! Please don't! Please give careful consideration to placing money into education rather than incarceration!

Thank you,

Pam Foreman

Pamela Foreman

pamela_foreman@hcpss.org

9589 Castile Court

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Katzen <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 7:17 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Restore 5.9 Million

Council Members ,

Class sizes are a proven predictor of student success. Please do not weaken teacher's ability to meet the needs of all students. Please do not punish the students in our county for the previous superintendent's mistakes.

Dr. Maritrano has done his best to trim every bit of fat from our budgets already, already we have to do more with less. There's no more leeway. Many people have already lost jobs who aren't specifically in contact with students. Please don't remove the one factor for success with students, their teachers. Please keep our kids' best interests in your decision.

Do what is right. Restore personnel so we can teach properly.

Lisa Katzen
lisaakatzen@gmail.com
9841 Rainleaf Court
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Teresa Jefferies <TERESA_JEFFERIES@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 6:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size is a priority!

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman, County Executive

I voted for you because I was confident as a HC teacher that you would make our Howard County students and teachers a priority.

Not only do we need the 5.9 million dollars restored for our childrens' learning needs, but for the teachers of this county as well. We need to continue to keep the integrity of this premier school system intact.

If class sizes are increased it will affect me greatly as a second grade teacher in a small classroom. I have been known as a teacher to create wonderful reading corners in my classroom for students.

If my student numbers are increased, my library corner will be comprimised, because I will need additional desks. Also, my daily reading groups will be larger every day, and larger class sizes will impact my instructional differentiation I need to provide to my students.

My purpose for writing this letter is not just for my circumstances, but also for the many teachers and students that will lack every day in various areas due to increased class sizes.

As a trusted leader in this community will you please help the students and teachers of this county by maintaining our county's educational integrity. It's vital to the future leaders, our children.

T. Jefferies

Teresa Jefferies
TERESA_JEFFERIES@hcpss.org
7821 Grassy Garth
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Mary Hannah <mary_hannah@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 5:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reinstating education budget

Council Members ,

As a proud hcpss educator I respectfully implore you to reinstate monies removed from the education budget so hcpss can maintain the quality public education we have a reputation for. So I am able to provide for the needs of my students, one on one face time as needed, and differentiated instruction to students with incredibly diverse academic and emotional needs. Each of my class sizes are already at peAk capacity. Thank you for your consideration.

MaryKate Hannah

Mary Hannah
mary_hannah@hcpss.org
107 N Beechwood Ave
Baltimore, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Bonnie Bricker <bonbricker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 4:58 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support Amendment to CR-53

Please support adequate funding to prevent class sizes from increasing in our school system. I'll be looking for your vote on Thursday to support our students!

--

Bonnie Bricker
Talk With Me! Howard County
301-648-8939

Sayers, Margery

From: Donna Widmaier <donna_widmaier@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 4:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: PLEASE restore class size

Council Members ,

Please, I encourage you to consider how increasing class size will impact our community. With classes larger than 21, there is very little space for Kindergarteners to move around. Most have come from a preschool setting with around 10 in a class per 2 adults and lots of space to move and play. My classroom barely has space now for building structures (blocks, legos, etc), yet STEAM projects are our curriculum at least quarterly. Many students need frequent support and are too young to work completely on their own during the first half of the year. I have been known for providing excellent differentiation and communication to parents (both K and 1st), yet this will be very difficult if you do not restore our class size. This 5.9M will provide MUCH more than differentiation, it will better prepare our students for the years to come and make them college and career ready. I urge you to restore our class size ratio. This will have a direct impact on teachers' workload and moral.

Thank you for your consideration!

Donna Widmaier

Donna Widmaier
donna_widmaier@hcpss.org
6617 Warrens Way
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Lauren Sansone <lauren_sansone@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 2:15 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Kittleman,

I ask that you please reconsider increasing class size for our students. I work in an elementary school as the school counselor and I see the benefits everyday of having classes where students can build relationships with their teachers. Relationships are, I believe, the foundation for our students being able to access learning. By increasing class size there is less of an opportunity for teachers to build those strong relationships that will allow our students to feel safe enough to take risks with their learning and therefore meet success. I implore to reconsider this decision.

Lauren Sansone
lauren_sansone@hcpss.org
34 Drawbridge Court
Catonsville, Maryland 21229

Sayers, Margery

From: Brian Gertzen <Brian_Gertzen@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 2:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class sizes NEED to be a priority!

Council Members ,

Dear Council and Executive Kittleman,

As a teacher, I see on a daily basis the impacts of the budgetary priorities our county and school system establish, however none will be felt more than the decision to allow class sizes to increase next year. One student per class might not seem like a lot, but tell that to the 33rd and 34th students being added to my rosters who I am going to have to literally cram into the back corner of my classroom because I don't have enough space in my room for that many students. Tell it to the half-a-dozen teachers in my building who are in their first year in the county who have been surplusd due to the class size changes, and to the countless students, parents, and colleagues who can't understand why the Council and Board would let quality, caring teachers potentially leave our school system.

For years Howard County has prided itself on the strength of its schools and the quality education HCPSS offered to the residents of Howard County. The schools are what bring the residents and tax dollars to the area, or at least they have. If they County Council and Board of Education continue down this path they have embarked on over the last few years with the budgetary and spending decisions they have made, I can guarantee you are going to see the families and teachers of Howard Country beginning to wonder if Howard County is where they should be if they want the best opportunities for their families and careers.

Please, I urge you, to reevaluate the impact of your actions and reconsider the decision to allow class sizes to increase next school year.

Thank you,
Brian Gertzen

Brian Gertzen
Brian_Gertzen@hcpss.org

14710 Wexhall Terrace
Burtonsville, Maryland 20866

Sayers, Margery

From: Elizabeth Weith <ELIZABETH_WEITH@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 1:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funds!

Council Members ,

Seriously?? These decisions are being made by people who are NOT in the modern classroom! Students are already "dropping through the cracks" in esteemed Howard County. And you want this high school teacher's classes to INCREASE in size? So that I am forced to provide subpar customer service to more students and their families? Teachers are NOT SUPERHUMAN.

Where has the 8k a year my husband and I pay in Howard County property taxes gone all these years??

Elizabeth Weith
ELIZABETH_WEITH@hcpss.org
8422 Flowering Cherry La
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Kendra Roberts <kendra_roberts@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 12:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class sizes

Council Members ,

Dear County Executive and Council Members, While I am not a County resident, I am a proud Howard County Teacher. I have been teaching Kindergarten for 12 years. An additional mandate of large class sizes, particularly in the younger grades will deeply impact by ability to teach, manage and differentiate instruction. Young children need a lot of hands on instruction as well as a lot of structure. Can you imagine managing 25 kindergarten students when 5 of the students are in your small group and 20 students are on their own for a majority of the language arts or math block? It will require larger groupings, providing less differentiated instruction. We need the 5.9 million dollars restored so that teachers can teach, especially our youngest students. Larger class sizes make management extremely difficult and lowers the morale of teachers and other staff. Thank you.

Kendra Roberts
kendra_roberts@hcpss.org
6231 Longleaf Pine Rd
Eldersburg, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Robert Miller <robmilfam@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 12:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for HCPSS

Dear County Councilmembers,

Thank you for your consideration of adding extra funds to our school system's budget with the intent of preventing an increase in class size and supporting restorative practices. I support this initiative. It would have positive impacts regarding our students' educations, HCPSS staffing, our school system's reputation (with tangential impacts that include property values), and potential benefits to our students' social and emotional well-being. It is unfortunate that HCPSS is in the predicament that it is in, but your efforts to support it in enabling it to reduce its deficit while minimizing negative impacts on students is appreciated. Maintaining a high-quality school system is vitally important to our students', and our county's, success.

As I watched your efforts to come up with ways to minimize the fiscal impact of your initiative, one thought came to mind. I would encourage you to consider using funds for the purposes of preventing an increase in class size and supporting restorative practices instead of using the funds that the County Executive wants to put into security measures. Depending on what is being considered when looking at these measures (the physical changes and/or the salaries of beat officers), it appears that at least about \$1M to \$2M could be applied toward the class size and restorative initiatives instead of the security initiatives. Of course, I do not devalue the importance of security, but it seems irresponsible to spend this money on security initiatives unless we have some data to prove that they would actually help make our students and staff more secure. Given the recent tragedies that we have seen, it appears that smaller class sizes (providing teachers with better opportunities to address student needs) and restorative practices could be at least as likely to prevent these types of tragedies as would the proposed security measures, in addition to having the other benefits mentioned above. At the very least, if research on the security initiatives has not yet been done, it might be advisable to postpone their implementation until their level of effectiveness has been determined.

Thank you very much for your efforts regarding the budget and on behalf of the county, now with the addition of the new challenges brought by the Ellicott City flooding. Best wishes as you make the decisions that will help us meet the challenges that lie in front of us.

Sincerely,

Robert

Robert W. Miller
Cell: 410-227-8445
Home: 410-992-1933
robmilfam@gmail.com
10372 Painted Cup
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Cassandra Greene <Cassandra_Greene@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 12:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: hire more teachers now

Council Members ,

As both a parent of two Howard County public school students and a Howard County elementary school teacher, I see this issue from two sides. Please hire the required number of teachers needed to put a stop to having to increase class size. More students in each classroom makes classroom management more of a challenge and reduces the amount of time teachers can devote to individual students. Please hear and act on Mr. Ball's proposal to add \$5 million to our budget.

Concerned Teacher and Parent

Cassandra Greene
Cassandra_Greene@hcpss.org
7125 Elk Mar Drive
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeanne Garland <jeanne_garland@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 11:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size in our schools

Council Members ,

Dear Council members and Executive Kittleman,

Please take positive action for our children and families and restore funds cut from the education budget. We can discuss educational impact and stressed teachers, but what I want to focus on is safety in schools. I firmly believe that the most important factor in having safe schools are the relationships. Teachers need to know their students and their families. We need to know when support is needed. Our counselors need to be able to meet with students who need support and they need to be there when teachers call. The larger the class, the less able we are to know our students and provide the early warnings that can prevent tragedy. Larger classes will only increase the possibility of violence in our schools. We need to keep our kids and our families safe. Increasing class size leaves our schools vulnerable. Locks and cameras have not made a difference. People do. Please let teachers be there for their students and families in a meaningful way. Increasing class size will leave too many cracks.

Jeanne Garland
7636 Oldfield Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Jeanne Garland
jeanne_garland@hcpss.org
7636 Oldfield Lane
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Delea Barkdoll <delea_barkdoll@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 11:38 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Monies

Council Members ,

Please restore school funding. Bigger class size is not the answer, scores go down, misbehavior goes up. Both of these are reasons that Howard County is held to such high esteem. Do it for the students of Howard County schools.

Delea Barkdoll
delea_barkdoll@hcpss.org
5294 Eliots Oak Road
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy Grutzik <agrutzik@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 10:43 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support the amendment to add monies to the HCPSS operational budget

Dear County Council members,

Please make your investment in education a priority and support the amendment to add monies to the HCPSS operational budget.

If the additional monies are not added to the HCPSS budget, class sizes will be increased for a third time. Once the sizes are raised, it's my understanding that it is hard to go back.

As a current substitute teacher for HCPSS, I see first hand what difference class sizes make.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Amy Grutzik
Resident of Howard County District 5.

Sayers, Margery

From: Erin Fowler <erin_morsberger@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 9:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Support US!!!

Council Members ,

Dear County Council,

As a teacher who has worked in the county for 11 years I ask you to please support your teachers and students. Raising class sizes to even just one student may not seem like much to you, but I assure you it is.

As a Title one teacher I feel the strain of large class sizes as I try to provide the best education to students who come from difficult home situations and lack of economic resources.

Every day I pour out my heart and energy to these students and then come home to my own family where I need just as much energy.

As a teacher, a wife and a mother I am asking you to please support the FY19 Budget.

Sincerely,

Erin Fowler

Guilford Elementary

4th Grade Teacher

Erin Fowler

erin_morsberger@hcpss.org

15 Saint Timothy'S Lane

Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Kelly Mckim <kelly_mckim@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 9:14 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please make class size a priority

Council Members ,

To all it may concern-

I am troubled by the recent discussions of raising class sizes in Howard County Public Schools. As a second grade teacher, I usually have 20-22 students in my homeroom class each year. While on paper, adding a few more students may not seem like that much, it can make an already challenging job that much harder. It also impacts math instruction. Over that last few years, I have had 27-29 second graders in my math class. It makes differentiation very difficult. It also makes finding enough manipulatives a challenge. My priority as a teacher is making sure I do everything in my power to keep children safe, and teach each student to the best of my ability. I will continue to do so regardless of how many enter my classroom. Please consider, however, that students deserve to be seen and heard, which is much harder to do as numbers increase.

Thank you,
Kelly L. McKim

Kelly Mckim
kelly_mckim@hcpss.org
6715 White Rock Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Maria Freeman <maria_freeman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 8:14 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support students and staff in HCPSS

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. It is difficult to provide the differentiation and individualized teaching that students need in order to grow and learn, especially in the lower grades, when class sizes continue to increase. I am seeing more and more students who are reading below grade level but could be on grade level with just a bit more focus on their needs. Teachers are stretched to their limits already with larger classes, we need smaller classes to meet student needs.

Sincerely,

Maria Freeman

Maria Freeman
maria_freeman@hcpss.org
1008 W. 41st Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

Sayers, Margery

From: Marijane Monck <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 9:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the \$5.9M

Council Members ,

It is not the fault of the students that we are at this point, but they are the ones who will suffer. Let's make this right by restoring the funds now and then work as a community to decide what exactly our priorities are.

County Executive Kittleman mentioned that it would take a 10% increase in property taxes to meet all the needs of HCPSS and the rest of the county. Well, I for one, have no problem coming up with an additional \$300.

Marijane Monck
mjmonck@gmail.com
11064 Berrypick Ln
Columbia, Maryland 21044-2909

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Chapman <kchap1386@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 8:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support the amendment

Dear Council Members,

Please support the amendment to add monies to the HCPSS budget. I have worked for Howard County public schools for 9 years. Raising class sizes is not in the best interest of our students or teachers. Anytime anyone asks me what could be done to make public education better, my first response is to lower class sizes. I speak from experience. Education must be a top priority. Our students must be our priority because they are our future. I am also a teacher returning from a one year leave. I am sad for teachers like myself and other who have been surplused who have dedicated our lives to our careers and our students. I am now anxiously awaiting where or if I'll be placed in a position next year. I should not be in this position. This is devastating that this is the position HCPSS is in. I am devastated and it makes me so sad to see teachers and students be pushed aside once again. Please support students and teachers by supporting this amendment.

Sincerely,
Karen Chapman

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Masami Stratton <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 8:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: We cannot afford another class size increase!

Council Members ,

I am proud to be a teacher in the premier district of Howard County Public School System. However, class size increases will directly impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students. In addition, this will seriously limit course offerings. Not to mention, it will impact the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county. All of these will affect our ability to remain the premier public school system in Maryland.

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. There simply is no other way to remain great.

Masami Stratton
mmstratton@hotmail.com
4027 Overlook Dr
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Kirsten Coombs <Kirsten_Coombs@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 5:46 PM
To: William J. Barnes; Caroline Walker
Cc: BoE Email; CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org; Kittleman, Allan; Karen.Salmon@maryland.gov
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - Allocation of Title 1 Funding

Maybe providing him the details on Title I definitions would help. FARMS does not equal Title I.

Kirsten Coombs
Sent from my Board iPhone

> On May 27, 2018, at 2:17 PM, Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> <response to Title 1 designations.pdf> <Blog Post- Howard County
> Appears to Have Been Using Federal Grants Intended for Low-Income
> Students to Enhance Education in Wealthy Schools – From Data to
> Knowledge.pdf>
>
>
> This letter pertains to disclosure of possible mis-identification of
> Title 1 schools, and distribution of Title 1 funding. Also, please
> find the original blog post at:
> <https://howardcounty640805081.wordpress.com>

Sayers, Margery

From: Caroline Marcotte <Caroline_Marcotte@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 4:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size

Council Members ,

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to let you know about how the increase in class size will affect my teaching. I am a music teacher at two different elementary schools within the county. I share a large classroom at Talbott Springs with my co-teacher, and have my own space in a portable classroom at Pointers Run. While it is nice to have autonomy at PRES, there is barely enough space in this classroom to handle the current class sizes, let alone the intended increases for next year. If class sizes increase, it will render my classroom unable to handle anything other than seated instruction. There will be no room for folk dances or play parties...the movement elements that make my class so enjoyable to young boys and girls, alike. Furthermore, as a related arts teacher I am already in charge of the musical instruction of about of approximately 500 students. Knowing this many students is already a difficult task in and of itself. If I have to teach even more students, I cannot imagine how I will be able to successfully reach each individual student and differentiate effectively. I sincerely hope that you consider reducing class sizes for next year, as this will only benefit our students.

Sincerely,

Caroline Marcotte

Caroline Marcotte
Caroline_Marcotte@hcpss.org
10671 Gramercy Place, 214
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Elissa Hozore <Elissa_Hozore@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 3:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore the funds the County Executive cut

Council Members ,

As a teacher in Howard County I am asking you to restore the \$5.9M in funding to ensure our students receive the best education possible. This class size increase will impact instructional differentiation I am able to provide students. More importantly it makes it challenging to have personal relationships with most students which research has show to be one of the most important components of student success and engagement.

Thank you for your consideration,
Elissa Hozore
Elementary Technology Teacher
Bellows Springs Elementary School

Elissa Hozore
Elissa_Hozore@hcpss.org
722 Howard Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21208

Sayers, Margery

From: Laurie Ressler <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 2:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore HCPSS funding!

Council Members ,

Dear Honorable Mr. Kittleman and County Council members,

I'm the media specialist at Talbott Springs Elementary. I spoke with you all a few weeks back asking your support to restore funding to rebuild our school. It looks like (fingers crossed) that is going to happen. However we learned of these latest cuts this week that will affect staffing and class size.

I'd like to tell you what happens when class size is increased. You all and the public are told it will be by one or two pupils per class. No big deal, right? But no actual additional child walks into the classroom. Instead the teacher-to-student numbers are juggled so no real children are added but instead one entire teaching position is cut. It may be a second grade teacher that goes, so the 22 pupils she would have had are now redistributed into three other classes. That's 7 or 8 students per class. Can you imagine the impact then on general instruction? As a Related Arts teacher who sees every class in the school weekly, it is significant indeed.

Or instead a special education position is cut. The impact on our most vulnerable students is incalculable. These educators are under enough stress now as it is. I know my own school can not afford to lose a single special ed position and continue to serve as the needs of those who need them most.

Howard County Public Schools are our county's greatest asset. When our performance drops, it affects property values, a fundamental driver of our economic survival. We've taken enough cuts. We are already losing excellent teachers and a world language program. I didn't expect to have to come to you hat in hand again in a month. This has been a traumatic year to every informed staff member in the system and next year those who haven't been paying attention are going to get a wake up call when they return to work in August. Please restore the \$5.9 million to the county school budget.

Most sincerely,
Laurie Ressler

Laurie Ressler
lauriegriffinressler@gmail.com
8384 Montgomery Run Road unit G
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Christine Burleigh <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 2:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS 2017-2019 FY school budget

Council Members ,

Mr. Kittleman,

My name is Chris Burleigh. I work as a contract employee at MWES giving support to special ed. students. My son also attends MWES as a rising 3rd grader. I was disheartened to read about the cut to our county's school budget. Our class sizes are already too big, causing our most vulnerable even added loss of time for assistance. 32 children allowed for 3rd grade class is insanely too high. How do we expect our educators to have the time to do their jobs to the best of their ability.

We talk about mental health and safety in our schools all the time. Our students, our staff, our educators need to know that what we care most about is their safety and their futures.

Please, find a way to re-fund our schools for the 2018-19 school year.

Christine Burleigh
celizabeth34@yahoo.com
2829 Foxhound Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Courtney Rabold <courtney_rabold@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 2:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size

Council Members ,

To Whom It May Concern:

The number one many people including myself moved to Howard County is because of the schools being considered one of the best. With class sizes getting bigger, we are no longer going to have a great school system. Please reconsider the funding to reduce class size. I ask this as a parent in the school system, a Howard County resident, and teacher.

Sincerely,

Courtney Rabold

An Elkridge Landing Parent

Dunloggin Middle School Teacher

Courtney Rabold

courtney_rabold@hcpss.org

6190 Fairbourne Ct

Hanover, Maryland 21076

Sayers, Margery

From: Hugo Jackson <hugo_jackson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 1:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restoration of the County Budget

Council Members ,

As a long time educator, many of those years in Howard County, the cuts that have been made the past few years have been devastating for our educational system in Howard County. Schools that have never had behavioral issues in the past in our county have started having new issues. Restorative Justice and other new initiatives are needed to keep our school system as number 1 in the state of Maryland. Cutting the money will soon cut our ranking and then who's fault will that be?

Hugo Jackson
hugo_jackson@hcpss.org
8066 Four Quarter Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Kerri Shepet <kerri_shepet@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 12:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: budget cuts and special education

Council Members ,

Dear respected council members,

I am a special educator in Ellicott City. The children I serve require intense, specialized instruction, often in a one-to-one or small group setting. As it stands, my school is slated to lose one special educator and one special education paraeducator in the 2018-2019 school year due to budget cuts. This worries me, because when special education teachers are cut, their case loads have to be spread out among other teachers. This means that the 6-8 kids I can ideally provided services to are stretched to 12 or more. I know that four additional kids doesn't sound impossible to manage. I love my job and my kids, so I find a way to make it work. However, I feel for the kids who don't get as much from me as they deserve. When you think about a 5.5 hour instructional day, this leaves me with 27.5 minutes per 12 students. 27.5 minutes to teach them how to read, do math, interact with others, form relationships. And in addition to the already large caseloads we start the year with, we inevitably gain 3 or more additional students throughout the year. I urge you to find a way to restore the 5.9 million needed to keep Howard County the absolute best in Maryland. Thank you for your time.

Kerri Shepet
Veterans Elementary ALS teacher

Kerri Shepet
kerri_shepet@hcpss.org
1661 Cananaro Dr.
Annapolis, Maryland 21409

Sayers, Margery

From: Pamela Jones <pamela_jones@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 11:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please help!

Council Members ,

Please restore the monies the County Executive cut.

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

The class size increase will definitely effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county. (IEP'S, 504"s, ESOL, etc.)

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

**Think about dissolving the math & reading resource personnel in all school except for title one schools.

County in service workshops are more than enough information needed for teachers.

Pamela Jones
pamela_jones@hcpss.org
9642 Sparrow Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Lesa Guth <Lesa_Guth@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 11:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Keep Howard County #1

Council Members ,

Good Afternoon,

I am taking time out of my holiday weekend to request the budget be restored to reflect the needs of our classrooms. I come to you as a parent, educator and community stakeholder. 61% of my very substantial property tax is dedicated to the education of our children. My ever-increasing annual property tax equates to more than 20% of my teacher salary. When we relocated to Maryland in 2013 we purposefully selected Howard County because of the excellence in education. As a Special Educator, I also chose to work in Howard County due to our excellent school system. I love my career, the students, and my place of work. It is increasingly difficult to offer our special needs students a Free Appropriate Public Education as legally required by the federal IDEA legislation. Due to current insufficient staffing, I forego more than 75% of my planning time (time that is contractually guaranteed to me) in order to serve the needs of my students. Special Educators find ourselves with in creasingly larger caseloads each year. Our classrooms increase in size because we are in need of additional staffing that is supposed to be forthcoming in the 2018-19 school year. I would welcome the board members to shadow me on any given day to see exactly how my time is spent. HCPSS cannot continue to be the leaders of public education if our County Executive and board members will not lead us in the proper direction. Please reconsider your decision to decrease our school budget and help the educators keep Howard County at the forefront of public education. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lesla Guth

Lesla Guth

Lesla_Guth@hcpss.org

4945 March Brown Road
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Erika Wunderlich-Hite <Erika_Wunderlich-Hite@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 11:47 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fund the HCPSS class size decrease

Council Members ,

I am writing to urge you to add the monies necessary to the HCPSS budget request so that class sizes do not increase. On a personal level, this class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students. I already struggle to connect with each of my students in my 30- student high school science classes. We cannot do as many labs because we don't have the money for so many students in one class, and science is not safe with so many students.

In addition, teachers who are surplus and have applied for transfers have very little chance of getting a desired placement, and now the Board of education has revealed that some teachers may be fired. This is unacceptable! HCPSS was once one of the premier educational systems in the state, and has continued to degrade since I was hired in 2002. Please help by stopping this class size increase. Thank you for your time.

Erika Wunderlich-Hite
Erika_Wunderlich-Hite@hcpss.org
1604 Walter Ave
Finksburg, Maryland 21048

Sayers, Margery

From: Molly Michaelson <molly_michaelson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 11:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the Education Budget

Council Members ,

You need to make education a top priority. Our world class educational system is failing students and families. Class sizes are too large and we don't have the resources we need to meet student needs. Please restore the education budget now.

Thank you,
Molly Michaelson

Molly Michaelson
molly_michaelson@hcpss.org
8466 Kings Meade Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Retterer <JENNIFER_RETTERER@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 11:21 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: You're heading in a bad direction

Council Members ,

Public Education is a Civil Rights issue. Don't believe me? Spend one day in a classroom in a school in Columbia proper. I don't mean being whisked from place to place by a Principal during an announced visit. Come to the school and stay there all day. See it ALL - the overcrowding, the lack of resources.

Now, make it worse by taking away more teachers and making the class sizes bigger. It'll be a problem for every Howard County school, true. But the parents on the Western side will supplement with tutoring, lessons, tablets, subscriptions and anything else their kids might need because their teachers have too many students at once to be able to offer individualized help.

Now, what do you think will happen to our lower income families? To those kids with parents, who, no matter how good intentioned they are, simply cannot afford those extra outside resources?

What happens to our students with disabilities when their Special Education teachers, who already struggle with large caseloads, must take on more? What happens to our students with emotional disorders when we don't invest in restorative practices?

Maybe you think this isn't real. I assure you, it is. I've heard it from the teachers, the parents and the students. I've heard words like "segregation" and "inequity." It is real, and it will only get worse. When it does, those of us who are seeing it first hand are going to start getting louder.

Dr. Martirano talks of equity. It's a good idea, but we aren't seeing it. Cuts to funding and increases in class size will bring us down further.

Don't be on the wrong side of Howard County's history, Mr. Kittleman. Restore that 5.9 M to the education budget.

Jennifer Retterer

JENNIFER_RETTERER@hcpss.org

11216 Green Dragon Court

Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Carly Norris <CARLY_NORRIS@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 11:14 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS budget restoration

Council Members ,

Dear Leaders,

I understand that you have the need to fund all the county programs including your state-of-the-art courthouse on Bendix, I urge you to think of preventing involvement in the court system by funding education first. We all know every dollar, especially in Early Childhood Education, reduces the amount spent on incarceration and judicial costs in the future.

I invite you to come into my classroom, see what we do, see how adding more children will hurt my students, see what my children need daily and how as only one adult, I cannot meet all of their needs as it is.

Surely, you can find money in your budget. I am betting the workout facility at the new courthouse costs at least a few hundred thousand to build, the various healthy food options you are providing there are probably pretty costly too...maybe you could send that money to the school system and fund those high-end perks for the courthouse later?

My students need you act in a morally and ethically responsible way, please, we are not asking for anything special, we are asking for basic necessities in the classroom.

Sincerely,

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Bonnie Bricker <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 10:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support adding \$\$\$ to HCPSS

Council Members ,

As a retired educator, I am well aware of the implications of the current HCPSS budget. I urge you to support funding to keep class sizes manageable, allow for appropriate course offerings in secondary schools, and support family-teacher communication. Please support the amendment to add monies to the HCPSS budget.

Bonnie Bricker
bonbricker@gmail.com
6479 PARK FOREST CIR, PARK FOREST CIRCLE
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Karly Danaher <Karly_Trinite@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 9:56 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Importance of Teachers and Class Size

Council Members ,

As an alumni of the current High School I work at in Howard County, I can tell you the changes I have seen coming back as a Teacher are hugely detrimental to these students. To be brief, There are so many students in my classes —that, for the first time in my career, I am extremely nervous about reaching all of them I'm a meaningful way. Since I started teaching, my goal has been to talk to every student every class at least once. It is so important to do this. However, with my current 55 minute class, 29 students per class, spread in multiple classrooms, I am no where near having a personal experience with my students. This has been a major issue in creating a positive classroom environment. Now, we are talking about making class sizes 34+, and it leaves me speechless. How can students feel comfortable in an environment and learn if they are in a lecture hall size class? There will be a lower quality of education, which is something I never thought I would see from HCPSS. Please make this a priority and reconsider the importance of having Teachers.

Thanks for all that you do. -Karly

Karly Danaher
Karly_Trinite@hcpss.org
2440 Guilford Avenue
MARYLAND, Maryland 21218

Sayers, Margery

From: Barbara Michaelian <barbara_michaelian@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 9:25 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Size/Monies Cut

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

Increasing the class size will impact my instructional differentiation that I am able to provide by students. Especially with our school adding the emotionally disturbed program this school year. My classroom comfortably sits 22 students at a maximum. The increase in class size will impact the education space because there will not be enough room for the students to engage in developmentally appropriate activities, rather they will have to stay stationary in their seats the entire class time. The class size increase will effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family within our county. Please reconsider was we need the 5.9 M dollars restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Barbara Michaelian
barbara_michaelian@hcpss.org
3220 Sykesville Road
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Sayers, Margery

From: Georgianne Mcneirney-Rewalt <georgianne_mcneirney-rewalt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 8:47 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the funds

Council Members ,

Dear Allan Kittleman, I hope that you are behind the effort to restore the funds needed to assure that the students in Howard County have the quality education they deserve. I do not live in Howard County and I hear the residents in my county applaud the education in H.C. This quality education is provided by the dedicated teachers in H.C. The loss of teachers, higher class sizes, loss of elementary world languages are signs that Howard County residents will not provide students with the quality education for their children. Please consider restoring the necessary funds so that Howard County will continue to be a model for the state.

Sincerely,

Georgianne Mcneirney-Rewalt
georgianne_mcneirney-rewalt@hcpss.org
9101 Montpelier Drive
Laurel, Maryland 20708

Sayers, Margery

From: Megan Rimmel <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 8:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fund our schools!

Council Members ,

Mr. Kittleman,

Please fund the 5.9M to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. I live in Howard county, teach middle school English in Howard county, and have two children who attend Howard county schools.

As a teacher I have seen the impact of larger class sizes. I teach English and it is imperative that I have the ability to talk one on one with each student about his or her writing. This is impossible to do in a larger class. We have heard a lot about equity this year, and I can tell you that children in larger classes do not receive the same education, supports, and opportunities of their classmates sitting in smaller classes.

Please enable me to do my job, to teach every student, and to ensure the future success of our children by funding public schools.

Thank You,
Megan Rimmel

Megan Rimmel
fidgeroni@hotmail.com
900 Henryton Rd
Marriottsville, Maryland 21104

Sayers, Margery

From: Jacquelyn De Bella <jacquelyn_debella@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 7:37 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fully fund the 2018-2019 school budget

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman and County Council Members,

As a teacher and a long time resident of Howard County, I am asking for your support in restoring the budget. As a teacher in a Title I school, I am grateful you are keeping the class sizes lower for those schools. It does make me very concerned for my own children who are not in that setting. My son will be entering second grade and currently has 23 students . Although he is in a well managed school with highly qualified teachers , increasing class sizes will impact his learning and create classroom management challenges. In addition, there are only so many hours of time in a day so I am concerned about the future teacher's ability to reach all the students , make a personal connection, and grade all the work. There is only one para educator for five classes so that individual can not help with classroom support and is often pulled to sub since there is a shortage of subs as well. The classrooms are also smaller and the school is not due for an addition any time in the future. I am concerned about how crowded the classroom will be.

My husband and I selected Howard County because it had the number one education system in Maryland. After I've paid taxes for 21 years now my own children are getting the short end of the stick. I find that galling because I given 12 year to this County as an educator. My husband works as an engineer and has often volunteered his time to the schools for various science and math activities.

Another related concern I have is the proposed development on Gorman road . We were told at the meeting that the developers will not be contributing land or money towards additions to the current schools. When we are in a situation with the budget as it currently stands, this lack of partnership (developers and school growth) has me more concerned because the money will not be there for education however homes are still being built over capacity .

I know there are some council members who support this increase for the school budget. I applaud your priorities and acknowledging that the future lies in our children . For those opposed, thoughtfully reflect on the negative impact of your decision and the consequences.

Thank you for your kind time and attention to these concerns .

Sincerely ,

Jacquelyn DeBella

Jacquelyn De Bella

jacquelyn_debella@hcpss.org

7913 Hammond Pkwy

Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Heather Woolson <Heather_Woolson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2018 7:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore

Council Members ,

This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students...This class size increase will impact my educational space because...There will be challenges in course offerings due to this class size increase...This class size increase will effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county... We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible

Heather Woolson
Heather_Woolson@hcpss.org
2795 Graybill Ct
New Windsor, Maryland 21776

Sayers, Margery

From: Tyler Petrini <tyler_petrini@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 9:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size increase = class offering decrease

Council Members ,

Good evening.

As a direct result of the class size increase, multiple advanced courses in the World Languages program - courses that are both popular and revered among the students - are being cut in size. Despite healthy interest in both the Spanish V AP course AND the Spanish V Advanced Special Topics course, one section of each was eliminated for the upcoming year due to class size increases at the Spanish II level. This increase in class size at the lower levels decreased the number of required positions in our building and thus ultimately displaced dozens of students enrolled in the higher levels who were interested in expanding their proficiency in the Spanish language. This is an unfortunate consequence and a disheartening step for a county that has always valued rigor and promoted student choice. Denying students a choice in their education because of a decision to increase class sizes is nothing short of despicable. Moreover, given that enrollment in the higher levels reflects an authentic interest in class content, disregarding that interest is a proverbial slap in the face to both teachers and students associated with the program.

Please reconsider the punitive decisions you have made regarding the budget and ensure that class sizes stay the same and the school system is appropriately funded.

Thank you.

Tyler Petrini
tyler_petrini@hcpss.org
6919 Old Waterloo Road
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Linda Birdsong <linda_birdsong@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restoring education budget

Council Members ,

The HCPSS Board of Education was forced to make drastic cuts to the FY19 budget. I urge you to please restore the education budget to avoid teacher layoffs and increase class sizes. This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students and could provide overcrowding and be a safety issue in Science classrooms and labs.

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Irene Williams <irene_williams@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the 5.9M to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible

Council Members ,

As an educator I want to provide the best opportunity for academic achievement to all students. I believe increased class sizes will inhibit student achievements.

The increase in class size has already effected me and my team members. I currently have a class with 30 students and another class with 31 students in a class room designed to accommodate 25 students. Unfortunately, my situation is not unique. One of my team members has 35 students in one class room. One of the current problems with over crowding classroom is that this creates an unsafe environment. Students find it difficult to walk through the classroom and there is not enough space for students and their books and back backs, especially in classrooms that were designed to have tables in them. And yes, I can place student desks to my class room. This solution has provided more space for students to sit, but less floor space and a crowded classroom where students complain about the lack of space as a result of the tables and student desk.

The current increase in class size challenges me and my peers every day to provide the support and differentiation we would like to provide. It is difficult to help each student during class with less and less supports. Additionally, I spend more time after hours providing and responding to parent and student communication.

If we are currently feeling the effects of larger class sizes, I can't imagine how difficult next year will be.

As a Howard County taxpayer and employee I would like to say we need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Irene Williams
irene_williams@hcpss.org

8354 Silver Trumpet Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Aiosa <meaggan_aiosa@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Help

Council Members ,

This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students. Students in primary grades are still learning how to read and be responsible students. Every student, regardless of level, needs attention from a teacher. Second grade classes are increasing to 26 students. Best practices show that students learn best from small group reading instruction and recommend groups of no more than 6 students in a small group . Furthermore, many of our guided reading sets only have 6 copies of books. If teachers are going to follow best practices, then there would be 5 reading groups per class. There is simply no time in the day to accommodate 5 reading groups that need to meet for 20 minutes a day. That is 100 minutes of guided reading instruction in a 120 minute block that also includes word study, read aloud, comprehension strategies, handwriting, and the implementation of the HCPSS writing models. Please help fund the budget to allow class sizes to remain smaller. Our students are the ones that will lose in this situation.

Thank you.

Jennifer Aiosa
meaggan_aiosa@hcpss.org
121 Oakdale Ave
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Aimee Kandelman <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support students and staff in the FY19 budget

Council Members ,

This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation teachers are able to provide. You can only individualize to a point and the more students you have, the less you're able to do it properly.

This class size increase will impact educational space because classrooms are already overcrowded. There simply isn't enough room. And younger elementary students need to move. They can't be constrained to their desks for hours on end. As a mental health professional, you can be assured this will lead the behavioral concerns.

This class size increase will effect the level of communication and support everyone is able to provide every child and family in our county. There is only so much we can do and needs continue to increase.

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

Thank you.

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy Rabinowitz <amy_rabinowitz@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 5:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size and the negative effect on education

Council Members ,

Please reconsider restoring the 5.9 million dollars to the education budget. This money can ensure that class sizes are not too large to allow for high-level educational excellence. In addition due to the large class size, several course options are not available to high school students essentially limiting their ability to get the education and degree desired. As a parent and educator in the county, I see the negative effects. I will be having to put my own child in community college courses to make up for the classes no longer offered at her school. As a teacher, I will be challenged to meet the diverse needs of my students and to provide the highest quality and rigorous education when I am doing so for 31 students who will not fit in the classroom comfortable. Not to mention the lack of technology to instruct that many students. Please reconsider restoring the budget to make the children and teachers a priority in Howard County.

Sincerely,

Amy Rabinowitz

Amy Rabinowitz

amy_rabinowitz@hcpss.org
12196 Linden Linthicum Ln
Clarksville, Maryland 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Smith <jennifer_a_smith@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 5:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Education Matters

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

I have contacted you before. I am a proud HCPSS employee.

We need you to allocate more money to our public schools. Nothing is more important than our children. When politicians "can't find" monies for schools when creating a budget, I am disappointed to find that it is largely due to political motivation (ie, not wanting to raise taxes at a mid term election point).

On paper, increasing class size by "just one student" does not seem like a big deal, it is. I am sure you have seen the research regarding smaller hclass size and student success.

When I first started in HCPSS, the issue of money did not seem to be such an issue, the people and politicians of Howard County understood that monies spent for education were an investment in the future.

Mr. Kittleman, you are remiss if you do not make Howard County Public schools a priority in your budget. Your constituents will remember what you thought was more important to spend money on.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smith

Jennifer Smith

jennifer_a_smith@hcpss.org

1158 Elm Road

Halethorpe, Maryland 21227

Sayers, Margery

From: Lee Hart <Lee_Hart@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 5:38 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re

Council Members ,

The students need all staff for support. Need someone to understand their eternal feelings,when no one home will listen.

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Mary Leach <mary_leach@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 4:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Keep Howard County Schools World Class

Council Members ,

The superiority of our schools is a major factor in the success of Howard County. When you increase class size, you cause more negative interaction among students, more frequent bullying, less individualized attention to student needs, and reduced achievement levels. Student emotional growth is impacted as a result of less support being able to be provided to each student.

Our students need to see how important they are to us. Let's show them we prioritize their education, by keeping class sizes low, enabling structuring of classes that reflect consideration of students who work well together and those who don't. "The payoff from class-size reduction is greater for low-income and minority children, while any increases in class size will likely be most harmful to these populations."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2014/02/24/class-size-matters-a-lot-research-shows/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.9b83beaee3b3

You must reconsider the long term costs of saving money today vs investing in our students for equality, achievement, and superiority in their and our futures.

Restore the monies that were cut.

Mary Leach
mary_leach@hcpss.org
3300 St George'S Court
Hampstead, Maryland 21074

Sayers, Margery

From: Michelle Hyde <michelle_hyde@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 3:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: class size/budget

Council Members ,

I am appalled at what is happening in HOCO....I live here, work as a teacher and my children attend school here. Up until recently, you would not hear a complaint. But, my daughter(last one) will be in huge classes, see all athletic budgets cut and I will start next school year --not with any raise--but making LESS!!! I know for sure my taxes are not going down...so this lack of funds is really hard for me to swallow. I--and I am not alone--would like to know what happened to our surplus. If you used it to pay off Foose after she embezzled it from me--I assure you---if nothing else...I will be voting for new leadership. This did not happen in this county before you were the leaders.

Michelle Hyde

Michelle Hyde
michelle_hyde@hcpss.org
8827 Doves Fly Way
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Cecilia Haley <cecilia_haley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 2:49 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

Please do what is necessary to restore the 5.9M required to help our HCPSS students receive the best education possible.

As a middle school ELA teacher for over 15 years, I have seen first hand how larger class sizes impact a student's learning experience. With large class sizes, I will not be able to provide the kind of personal attention and feedback necessary to help each student improve as a writer. I will be limited in how I use laptops in the classroom, since our aging carts of 30 computers often only have 20 - 25 working computers. Providing differentiation to meet the needs of all students will be extremely limited -- students who struggle and gifted students will suffer.

As a parent of two children who went through the school system, I have seen first hand how large class sizes can impact my own children's success and experience in school. I've also seen how course offerings were limited in high school due to limited numbers of teachers. As an example, my daughter was unable to take Latin, and my son was unable to take AP US History. What a shame that curious students are unable to explore their interests.

I could continue with many more examples of how this lack of funds will impact children on a daily basis in our classrooms. Please provide a fully-funded budget.

Thank you,
Cecilia Haley

Cecilia Haley
cecilia_haley@hcpss.org
6221 Stratford Ct
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Cecilia Cruse-Talley <cecilia_talley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 2:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Smaller classes!

Council Members ,

The students of Howard County Public schools deserve smaller class sizes. Please make sure that there is money in the budget to make this happen. It is more challenging to teach larger groups of students in Howard County with all the changes with curriculum and assessments. Please do not make our job impossible.

Cecilia Cruse-Talley
cecilia_talley@hcpss.org
6045 Florey Road
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Sayers, Margery

From: Heidi White <heidi_white@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 2:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size impact

Council Members ,

Thank you for all you try to do for students and teachers As a 25 year HCPSS teacher, I believe class size is one of the issues that most impacts student learning, student behavior and student/teacher morale. It is very clear: the amount of students in a classroom directly impacts the amount of help and attention a student receives. Larger class size=less teacher assistance, more frustration and more behavior issues. Smaller class size=more teacher assistance, higher achievement, students and teachers are happier. It is more valuable than money, technology, supplies and paychecks. I see it every day in the classroom. Please, the best thing you can do for our students and teachers is to keep class size small.

Thank you for your time,

Heidi White

HCPSS teacher of 25 years

Heidi White

heidi_white@hcpss.org

401 North Bend Rd

Baltimore, Maryland 21229

Sayers, Margery

From: Dennis McDonald <dmcDonald@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 2:12 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: class size increases

Council Members ,

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Mathematics Support Teacher, I work to help teachers provide the best possible instruction to their students and to ensure that all of our students have opportunities to do rigorous mathematics. My work, and the work of my teachers, is severely impacted by the increases in class sizes that have occurred over the recent years. Every year for the past three years, students have had to endure class sizes near or at 30 students per class, greatly limiting the attention they are able to receive from their teachers. There are many students for whom school is the primary, or only, place where they receive support building their skills in reading, writing, science, social studies, and mathematics. In addition, increased class sizes make it far more difficult for teachers to get to know each student as an individual, something that is critical to building students' social-emotional skills. Howard County has made statements proclaiming the need to build communities of learners in its schools, something that recent events in our nation have demonstrated is even more important. When students come to school every day to classes of 30, it is difficult for a teacher to make every child feel a part of such a community, to get to know those students who are in desperate need of adults in their lives who know and care about them. Please restore the money needed to keep class sizes at their current, already high, levels, and make show that the Howard County not only talks the talk about wanting the best for all of its children, but also walks the walk.

Dennis McDonald
Talbot Springs Elementary School

Dennis McDonald
dmcDonald@hcpss.org

1303 Woodland Circle
New Windsor, Maryland 21776

Sayers, Margery

From: Lorraine Savoy <Lorraine_Savoy@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 1:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore 5.1 million to schools!

Council Members ,

I am writing in support of the amendment to restore 5.1 million to the county budget in order to fund schools. We cannot wait until the money is available because our students are in need right now. This is the most important use we can make of our limited resources. Support schools and students - pass the amendment!

Lorraine Savoy
Lorraine_Savoy@hcpss.org
6135 Camelback Laane
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Meredith Schwartz <meredith_schwartz@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 1:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School funding

Council Members ,

Hello -

I am pleased to be a 35-year resident of Howard County and an 18-year teacher in the Niche #1 ranked (in Maryland) HCPSS.

Because of poor fiscal leadership by the prior superintendent, the HCPSS currently finds itself in debt, facing changes detrimental to students, its one and only client.

Howard County is nationally ranked (#3 & #11) as a desirable place to live (Niche, 2018). A big part of that ranking is due to the quality of education offered by HCPSS.

Howard County is the fourth richest county in the nation (Forbes, 2017). Our thriving school system is a direct result of that wealth.

The essential question is this: Does Howard County want to continue to improve the quality of life for its citizens? If the answer is "yes," then that means continuous improvement (smaller class size) of the HCPSS.

It means full funding of schools.

Meredith Schwartz

Meredith Schwartz
meredith_schwartz@hcpss.org
2812 St John'S Lane
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Gabrielle Jacobson <gabrielle_jacobson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 1:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Increased Class Size

Council Members ,

I am a middle school Special Education teacher, I co-teach ELA. I also teach our certificate bound students. I run an after school homework club and I do all I can to empower staff with skills, understandings and motivation to connect with our students in meaningful ways. I work hard to educate staff to teach more universally.

I wish that you could really understand the need for highly trained and appropriately compensated teachers. Our student population is changing. There are more lower level learners than ever before (yes, even in Howard County!) and many are not identified formally by holding an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This means that, technically, they can't receive specialized services in the classroom, although that's exactly what they need to be successful college or career ready members of our community. You might wonder what happens with these students?

I invite you to join me for an entire day to witness the challenge of providing the necessary supports for all of our students to be successful. I invite you to stare into the eyes of a student who, as a 7th grader, is reading at a 3rd grade level and explain to him that you can't paraphrase the test directions because he is supposed to be able to do it independently. But he can't. And there isn't time in the schedule to give him the individual attention he needs. He can't be 'pulled out' because he doesn't qualify for an IEP. His mother works at night and can't help him with his homework. So it doesn't get done. He languishes, becomes increasingly frustrated and develops interfering behaviors. He becomes 'that kid' who disrupts class, stops participating and loses hope. Are we helping him to become college or career ready? What will increased class size do to help him? Nothing.

Please come spend a day with me. Get to know our students and watch the interactions in the classroom. See how our community will be negatively impacted by increased class sizes. Feel what it's like to have 30 students in one classroom, feel the tension, try to focus with all the movement, and attempt to get your question answered before the teacher moves on. We are one of the wealthiest counties in the country and yet we still have middle school students reading at an elementary level. There's such focus on high school AP classes and

the top tier students with the 'best scores.' Let's not forget that the majority of our students need more support than we are giving them.

Increasing class size just says to them that the County doesn't care enough to give them the best education it can.

I urge you to NOT increase class size; we need \$5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Respectfully,

Gabrielle Jacobson

Special Educator

Hammond Middle School

Gabrielle Jacobson

gabrielle_jacobson@hcpss.org

5276 Five Fingers Way

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Sonya Beall <SONYA_BEALL@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 12:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

Here we go again not putting what is in the best interest of our students first. I am a paraeducator and experience on a daily basis the stress put on teachers to meet the needs of EVERY student in their classroom. Now you want to increase class sizes and reduce teachers. How do you expect the needs of every student in the classroom to be met? There are GT students, above grade level, on grade level, below grade level, students with special needs, and struggling students grouped in many classrooms throughout the county. On top of that there are students struggling with other matters outside of the academic classroom setting. Our teachers are there for students in every capacity. The money needs to be restored for smaller class sizes, more classroom teachers, more special education teachers, and more support personnel in order for us to support our students in all aspects of their educational career and keep Howard County as the number one county for an excellent education! We support our students and families and they deserve our best performance. This will not be possible with the increase in class size and decrease in fully qualified and invested teachers and staff.

Sonya Beall
SONYA_BEALL@hcpss.org
618 Burtons Cove Way #153
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Sayers, Margery

From: Christine Houck <CHRISTINE_HOUCK@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 12:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: We need more funding!

Council Members ,

Howard County is known throughout the nation and beyond as having an outstanding educational system. We have families moving from other counties, states and countries so that their children can go to school here. In order to keep our schools outstanding, we need funding. HCPSS needs the proposed 5.9 million dollars restored to support our teachers and students. We need that money to ensure that our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Thank you!

Christine Houck

Christine Houck
CHRISTINE_HOUCK@hcpss.org
10313 Wetherburn Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Sarah Russo <SARAH_RUSSO@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 12:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore the funding for the future of HCPSS (and our kids!)

Council Members ,

When I was first hired in Howard County, I was so excited to begin my career. It was tough, moments of tears and self-doubt - and yet that year I grew so much. I can't imagine what it would be like to have been told at the end of my first year that I had been laid-off for the next year. I might have given up completely and not become the valued media specialist I am today.

If we want to continue to have strong schools, we can not afford to let our new teachers go. Not only are we risking losing career teachers, but we are risking recruiting talented new ones, as HCPSS would gain a reputation for teacher job insecurity.

We'd be throwing away our future, and the future of our children.

Please if you can - We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Please don't give up on our new teachers!

Thank You,
Sarah Russo

Sarah Russo
SARAH_RUSSO@hcpss.org
602 Hopkins Street
Brooklyn, Maryland 21225

Sayers, Margery

From: Lee Tanis <lee_tanis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 11:25 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

I am writing to you today disheartened and defeated. I have been in education for 23 years in Howard County. I am constantly put to the task of educating students with the idea that "Howard County has no money" looming in the background. I have gone years frozen in salary, not getting full steps on pay scales, and getting mediocre pay increases compared to those in other positions. I am disgusted at the mismanagement of funds by people we trusted to do their jobs. Howard County is one of the richest counties in the country. Why are we constantly fighting to keep classes small? Why are we going to lay off teachers when the community is growing at a rapid pace. Something isn't right. Maybe if we didn't buy out the last dishonest superintendent, we'd be in better shape? Maybe if we continuously monitor positions in the county that could be eliminated to save money we would be in better shape? Maybe if health funds were managed appropriately we would be in better shape? I know I chose this profession. I love the kids, I love what I do. Would I recommend to a younger person to get into education in Howard County (or any other) probably not. Why can corporations budget their money in a responsible fashion, but during a time that is not a recession, during a time of growth, are we discussing laying teachers off. Or is it because it is an election year and politics will help put people in office. It is disgusting to use education as a pawn.

Lee Tanis
lee_tanis@hcpss.org
904 Longbow Road
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Cutler <JESSICA_CUTLER@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 11:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support students and staff in the FY19 budge

Council Members ,

I urge the council to find the money to support students and staff by placing all of the surplussed staff members. As a teacher who has taught classes of 34, I can tell you that increased class sizes detracts from quality education, classroom management, and morale. Howard County prides itself on the quality education that every child receives, and with continued cuts, the quality of the education we can provide will be lessened. Please support Councilman Ball's proposal to restore our budget and our staff.

Jessica Cutler
JESSICA_CUTLER@hcpss.org
1921 Reading Court
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: Monica Ivy <MONICA_IVY@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 11:02 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class sizes

Council Members ,

With the landscape of a classroom and the diverse social/linguistic/emotional/economic/educational needs we can do our jobs (consider what 32 kids in third grade looks like) with less students in a class. It is basic math! We owe our kids!

Monica Ivy
MONICA_IVY@hcpss.org
4388 Columbia Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Michelle Howard <michelle_howard@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 10:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: It's About Customer Service!

Council Members ,

Good Morning,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to have the variety of opportunities we offer to insure our students are ready to face the educational and world of work challenges of today.

As a professional educator who comes from the world of business, I'm compelled to put it another way. If your bank had 2 tellers on a Friday , you would ask the manager "why aren't there more people helping? They knew we were coming." A good manager recognizes the problem and provides support for the tellers by going to HR and the powers that be, so they can provide quality service for the clients.

The bank doesn't tell the customers "We're the only game in town. Sorry. But keep coming and put up long lines, crowded lobby, lack of personal service, and errors in transactions."

And they don't say to the tellers "keep working, be happy you have a job and oh, by the way, make sure you make time after the bank is closed to clean up anything you couldn't finish as well as support the clients' programs."

We are professionals. Respect us and respect our clients by providing us the monetary tools we need to provide the quality, not quantity, instruction.

Michelle Howard
michelle_howard@hcpss.org
9107 Sunset Ridge Road
Randallstown, Maryland 21133

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 10:48 AM
To: susankdefibaugh@gmail.com
Subject: School Funding

First Name: SUSAN
Last Name: DEFIBAUGH
Email: susankdefibaugh@gmail.com
Street Address: 7248 Riding Hood Cir
City: COLUMBIA
Subject: School Funding

Message: Dear County Council, As a taxpayer of Howard County for the past TWENTY years, I implore you to properly fund our schools. We are supposed to be one of the best school districts in the country and we are increasing class sizes and laying off teachers? What the HECK? Get things under control. Don't let the County Exec do this to our schools. Also it's a damn shame that TSES replacement was taken off the table yet we build all these new schools where new development occurs in the Western part of the county and ignore Columbia and those of us who have lived in the county for decades. It's a damn shame. Find the money. Fix it, please.
Thank you, Susan Defibaugh

Sayers, Margery

From: Joan Merza <joan_merza@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 10:16 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY19 Budget

Council Members ,

Please reconsider your position on allocating less money than is needed to operate a school district that is the reason people flock to Howard county to live and happily pay over 60% of their taxes to support! We need at minimum, 5.9M dollars restored to ensure that our students are getting what they need from their education. I teach Pre-Algreba GT to sixth graders. My classes all have exceeded 30 students in a fast paced, 2 year above, GT level math. This year I actually has 1 class that due to some students unexpectedly leaving or dropping the course fell to 15. The remaining students showed the most gains on both PARCC and MAP standardized testing and the most increase in positive attitude toward math and their future as mathematicians. It is no surprise that this class also had the lowest absentee rate and the absolute lowest rate of negative behaviors! Lower class size makes a difference at all grade levels. For middle school students it is critical. Please do not sa ve money at the expense of our children's education.

Joan Merza
joan_merza@hcpss.org
3027 Pebble Beach Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Hilary Becker <hilary_becker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 10:15 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: kind

Council Members ,

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

This class size increase will impact my educational space because...

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

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

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

Hilary Becker
hilary_becker@hcpss.org
4221 Red Bandana Way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Sara Weiser <sara_weiser@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 9:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore funding for our students

Council Members ,

I am an elementary-school classroom teacher in Howard County. I have 29 children in my class this year. It is a struggle each day to provide these 29 individuals with the attention, support, and differentiation they need in order to receive the high caliber education we demand and expect in HCPSS.

If full funding to the budget is not restored, my classroom will be home to 30 or more students. "Small group" or individualized instruction according to best practices (6 to 8 children in a group, with frequent individual conferencing between teacher and students) is barely possible with 29 children in the class - a "small group" becomes a group of 9 or 10 students crowded around a table for 6, or sitting squashed up on the floor in the limited space available between the student desks. The more children enrolled in the class, the less frequently I can engage with them individually or in small group settings, which dramatically impacts the quality of instruction I can provide.

I pride myself on connecting regularly with students' families to be sure they know what is happening in the classroom and that they are aware of their students' progress. I spend hours over and above my contracted work day planning and preparing instruction, evaluating student work, and communicating with families. Each student that is added to the class increases the amount of unpaid time I spend outside my contracted work day, limiting the extent to which I'm able to adequately plan instruction, prepare materials, evaluate work, and connect with families.

We have the best school system in the state, and among the best in the country. We are placing that at risk by increasing class sizes and refusing to fully fund the educational needs of our community. We cannot maintain the high-quality instruction that Howard County is known for if the budget is not fully funded.

Please make it a priority to restore full funding for the HCPSS budget. Making school funding a priority ensures that our citizens are educated and empowered to keep our community strong and growing.

Thank you.

Sara Weiser

sara_weiser@hcpss.org

4803 Wilwyn Way

Rockville, Maryland 20852

Sayers, Margery

From: Jillian O'Brien <Jillian_O'Brien@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 9:24 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Budget, Restore Staff

Council Members ,

An increase in class size will NOT positively affect staff or students. You must restore or place more funds to the budget to insure that this does not happen. As an educator, I will not be able to provide quality instruction to all students in my class of class sizes for elementary are higher than 30. I will not be able to differentiate instruction to that many students effectively, which will lead to wider achievement gaps, lower graduation rate, and adults who are lacking skills that they should have received in my 3rd grade classroom, such as multiplication. Already, with 27 in my classroom, the space does NOT lend itself to: effective noise control, an area for individualized small group instruction, as the groups are too large for the table or free floor space, creating seating charts allowing for multiple arrangements, or enough room for all of the students backpacks and materials. I will be unable to provide effective and open individualized parent/teacher communication and Home connections with every student of class sizes increase. As one of the best school systems in the nation and in Maryland, I would believe that students would receive the best experience possible, and that does NOT come with increased class sizes.

Make the right choice.

Sincerely,

Jillian O'Brien

3rd Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary

Jillian O'Brien

Jillian_O'Brien@hcpss.org

8948 Blade Green Lane

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Miller <cynthia_miller@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 9:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restoring money to the education budget to keep class sizes the same without increasing them.

Council Members ,

I am writing to implore you to restore the money to the budget in order to maintain the class sizes we have at this time. I know it seems like an easy solution to increase class size to make up for some of the money problems. However, as someone that works with our Special Education students in the classroom I know this will produce disastrous results. Our classrooms are already full and this will make every classroom overcrowded. It is tough enough now to be able to help each child in their learning and helping them to be successful. Many people move to Howard County for the wonderful education we offer and they of course pay taxes to assist with our budget. If we continue to water down what has been a highly successful program they will instead move to our neighboring counties where they can find cheaper housing. Please help us to help the students of Howard County so that they can help to create a stronger society!

Many thanks for your consideration!

Cynthia Miller
cynthia_miller@hcpss.org
5734 Elkridge Hgts Road
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Barbara Lokitis <barbara_lokitis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 9:04 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY 19 Budget

Council Members ,

As an occupational therapist whose caseload covers 10 schools, I see first hand how large class sizes impact students with and without disabilities. I have worked in HCPSS for 20 years and have always felt that teachers put their students first, but with the increased workload, teacher and student morale, success and well being all are suffering. Please fully fund HCPSS so that we can continue to be one of the best school systems in MD and in the country. Teachers and staff have done their part, it's time to do yours.

Sincerely, Barbara Lokitis

Barbara Lokitis

barbara_lokitis@hcpss.org

9230 Winding Way

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Dana La Rosa <DANA_LAROSA@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Budget Concerns

Council Members ,

Hello,

I am a teacher in the Howard County Public School System, as well as a resident of Howard County. I was recently made aware of shortages in the budget that may cause staff to be let go and class sizes to increase. This is greatly distressing to me. As class sizes increase, the quality of the education I will be able to offer my students will greatly diminish. As student support positions are cut and classes grow larger, it will become more challenging to provide individualized instruction to the students who need it most.

Teachers are increasingly concerned about the growing number of students with emotional issues who come through our doors. The staff at my school work tirelessly to place these students into classes where they will be comfortable and successful. Forcing more students into classes may lead to more peer conflict between them, and you will see an increase in disciplinary issues, something the county has been taking an initiative to improve this past year through restorative practices. This is a tremendous safety concern for everyone involved.

Howard County is known throughout the country as a wonderful place to raise children because of its stellar school system. If we want HCPSS to maintain this excellent reputation, our goal should be more staffing and smaller class sizes, not the other way around.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dana La Rosa

9450 Ridgeview Dr.

Columbia, MD 21046

dana.m.larosa@gmail.com

908-489-0754

Dana La Rosa

DANA_LAROSA@hcpss.org

9450 Ridgeview Dr.

Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Jamieson <cynthia_jamieson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Bridget Crises

Council Members ,

Increasing class sizes puts teachers in an even more stressful situation than we currently are in. Some teachers already have 32 students at the middle school level. This is unconscionable. Please restore the funding needed to keep class sizes more manageable.

Thank you.

Cynthia Jamieson
cynthia_jamieson@hcpss.org
1929 Orchard Point Road
Pasadena, Maryland 21122

Sayers, Margery

From: David Chalecki <DAVID_CHALECKI@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:40 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Maintain Current Class Size

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members,

I write this letter in response to information that our budget might not allow the school district to keep down class sizes.

I currently teach at Wilde Lake Middle School and previously taught at Woodlawn High School. These types of schools will feel the impact the most when class size is increased. Schools that qualify as title one with a high minority population. These are the schools that need the most support in order to succeed. Students at these schools experience the grueling grind and uncertainty that life offers with little shelter from adults. They need a stable, healthy environment to go to every day.

I encourage you to research the impact of class size. Please strongly consider restoring the \$5.9M before finalizing your decision.

Very Respectfully,

David Chalecki M.Sc
U.S. Army Combat Veteran

David Chalecki
DAVID_CHALECKI@hcpss.org
630 Realm Ct W
Odenton, Maryland 21113

Sayers, Margery

From: Nicole Meshbeshier <nicole_meshbeshier@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the funds!

Council Members ,

We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Families live in Howard County and relocate to Howard county because of the outstanding school system. It is imperative that we provide the funding necessary in order to support staff and students.

Nicole Meshbeshier
nicole_meshbeshier@hcpss.org
5710 Rosanna Place
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Sara Hammer <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:09 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the fund please

Council Members ,

Hello- please restore the fund for education so that class sizes don't have to increase. They are already so large, and my kids are getting lost in the shuffle as it is. We can't afford for it to get worse. The larger class sizes will bring our educational system down in this county as a whole. Thank you.

Sara Hammer
szwerling21@yahoo.com
2130 Bexley Dr
Woodstock MD, Maryland 21163

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Deremigis <lisa_deremigis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:09 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Students & Staff in the FY19 Budget!

Council Members ,

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

This class size increase will impact my educational space because...

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

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

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

Lisa Deremigis

lisa_deremigis@hcpss.org

9840 WILDERNESS LN

LAUREL, Maryland 20723-5503

Sayers, Margery

From: Carolyn Driskill <carolyn_rausenberger@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:04 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Lowering class sizes

Council Members ,

As a veteran teacher I have 39 years, I have seen many changes in classroom sizes. One thing is certain, our Howard county school classes have gotten to the point where instruction is difficult due to the high numbers of students. If we are all on the same page to do what is best for the children, and I know the teachers are, please show that you as well put the children first. The teachers are committed to doing their best. We need your support to commit to lower class sizes for the good of our students. Voting otherwise is a mistake and shows priorities in your agenda other than the children. Thank you for voting to lower class sizes in Howard county schools.

Carolyn Driskill
carolyn_rausenberger@hcpss.org
6353 Montgomery Road
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Charles Wehr <CHARLES_WEHR@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 8:01 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore funding to our schools!

Council Members ,

County Executive Kittleman (Allan),

As I am writing this, I am thinking about the fact that you were one of the first people that Sue and I met when we moved to Howard County almost 30 years ago. That was well before we started our family, but like most people who choose to live here we made the decision because of the Counties commitment to education. There are counties that are closer to our work places and some that have lower taxes, but we all chose this county for the schools.

As a parent and a HCPSS teacher, I can tell you that the recent budget decisions will have a great impact on my ability to teach and students ability to learn. I will have trouble physically fitting these larger class sizes into my room and significantly more trouble trying to get each child the individual attention the need and deserve.

Please find a way to restore the 5.9 M to the schools budget. We are all depending on you.

Sincerely,

Charlie Wehr

Charles Wehr

CHARLES_WEHR@hcpss.org

2175 Sykesville Rd.

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Denise Taylor <DENISE_TAYLOR@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:57 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Increase funding for schools

Council Members ,

As a parent and teacher, I am greatly concerned about the proposed funding in the school system for the coming year. With the current proposed budget, recommended class sizes are increasing again. Increased class size means less individualized and differentiated instruction for students with special needs. I am the parent of a child with learning challenges that are not significant enough to warrant an IEP, but do require accommodations. He has been lucky to have teachers that provided additional supports to him through smaller, instructional groups. I am concerned that the proposed budget will necessitate the elimination of these types of intervention groups that are needed by so many "at risk" or "borderline" students. As a parent, and teacher, school funding is a priority to me and our family. I urge you to consider fully funding the HCPSS budget request.

Denise Taylor
DENISE_TAYLOR@hcpss.org
9747 Longview Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Steven Burnett <STEVEN_BURNETT@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:48 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Advocacy for HCPSS Budget

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members,

I would like to advocate for the funding. Howard County delivers superior educational services to our students. I have worked in two other counties and student suffer when class size is used to balance budgets. As a counselor our kids are coming to school with more and more social and emotional issues. Increasing class size will continue to compound these issues. Please continue to make our kids the number one priority and restore the funding for the schools.

Thank you

Dr. Steve Burnett

Glenelg High School

Steven Burnett

STEVEN_BURNETT@hcpss.org

2045 Hughes Shop Rd

Westminster, Maryland 21158

Sayers, Margery

From: Patricia Parra Garcia <Patricia_ParraGarcia@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore class sizes

Council Members ,

Students will surely benefit from a more personalized instruction. 26-27 kids in a classroom is too overwhelming for some many children. They will fall behind. We won't be a world class school system if kids cannot even fit in a classroom

Patricia Parra Garcia
Patricia_ParraGarcia@hcpss.org
7555 Rain Flower Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Natalie Ricketts <Natalie_Ricketts@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the funding

Council Members ,

To the people who can help us make a difference:

We need your support and we need funding. I became a teacher for one reason... the students. Every day, every decision I make in my career comes down to one question: What is the best thing for my students?

I can tell you I'm deeply concerned about raising class sized for a third time. Especially in this day in age where mental health is at the forefront of many education conversations, I worry about the time I can give to each individual student. I want to be able to know my students on an academic and personal level. I want to be able to catch any issues I see arise and provide them with the supports they need. Raising class sizes for the third time hinders the relationship and trust my students have with me.

Do the right thing. Help us support our students emotionally and academically. They need us!

Sincerely,
Natalie Ricketts

Natalie Ricketts
Natalie_Ricketts@hcpss.org
3285 Brockton Drive
Jefferson, Maryland 21755

Sayers, Margery

From: Christin Traini <christin_traini@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:43 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Budget

Council Members ,

Please reinstate funds for smaller class sizes. More and more students are coming into our schools with needs other than academics. The school is becoming the only place where they have stability in their lives. Larger class sizes mean they won't get the individual attention they need.

Please also remember that a major reason that property values are high in Howard County is because the school system is so good.

Christin Traini
christin_traini@hcpss.org
7623 Weather Worn Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Natalie Meyers <info@actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: We want the best for our students

Council Members ,

It is vital that we continue to ensure academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps. This cannot be done with the increases in class size.

This class size increase will impact the instructional differentiation I am able to provide students because I will be forced to have more than 4 reading groups which will reduce the amount of time I will be able to spend with each student. An even more significant impact will be felt in math class. Since we do a 2 group rotation, I will have larger group sizes resulting in a substantial reduction in the quality and quantity of instruction each student receives.

The safety of the students will also be put at risk. The educational space will be cramped resulting in more injuries and reduced access to resources within the classroom.

Natalie Meyers
natalie.a.meyers@gmail.com
9059 Billow Row
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Deborah Holihan <deborah_holihan@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:25 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore the budget.

Council Members ,

Howard County has been one of the best school systems in the country for generations. But with class sizes growing annually, we can no longer expect teachers to be as successful. Any classes with more than 25 students will not get the attention, the individualized attention, that students so desperately need. Next year my average class size in middle school English is 26.5. I really don't know how I am going to get to know each of these kids individually as writers or readers.

Please restore the budget and help us reduce these huge class sizes.

Thank you,
Debbi Holihan
Teacher at Clarksville Middle School
Parent at Waverly Elementary

Deborah Holihan
deborah_holihan@hcpss.org
3090 Greenhaven Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Meghan Plofkin <MEGHAN_PLOFKIN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size increase is detrimental to learning

Council Members ,

Class sizes are one of the things that can make or break the learning environment. Currently some of my classes sit at 30 students. With 30 middle school students in a room, it is not only difficult to move around the physical space but it also creates more opportunity for behavioral problems. With that said, my main concern is my ability to reach and differentiate for all students if my class sizes are increased. It is my goal to give all students as much of a personalized learning experience as possible, but with 50 minutes and over 30 students that is not allowing me to do that. I urge you to find the money to allocate towards ensuring that class sizes become smaller to provide a better learning environment for our students.

Meghan Plofkin
MEGHAN_PLOFKIN@hcpss.org
7318 Eden Brook Drive Apt 133
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Hudson <susan_hudson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Help Us Do Our Job

Council Members ,

Please restore the money out County Executive cut for the 2018-2019 school year. I'll be entering my 20th year as a first grade teacher in Howard County. I've been lucky enough to have an average class size of 19-20 students. The years I've had 21 or 22 students were far more difficult because classroom management, physical space, and meeting the needs of each student became more challenging. Class size any larger than that would necessitate an additional 1-2 reading groups, math groups, writing groups.... we struggle to meet with each group every day now. There is no way we can follow the best practices HCPSS requires with larger class sizes. The children will suffer.

Sincerely,

Susan Hudson

Pointers Run

Susan Hudson

susan_hudson@hcpss.org

10625 Old Ellicott Circle

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Donna Tafuri <donna_tafuri@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 7:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY19 HCPSS Budget

Council Members ,

I have worked for HCPSS for the past 10 years and have seen reductions in staff each year . Which in turn lessens the education of our students. Increasing class size will continue to decrease what we provide for our students. This is really sad for our county. People move here to live in a county that has the best schools! Which really is no longer true, especially for the special ed population!

We need that 5.9M restored to ensure that we provide the best education and retain the best educational staff!!

I for one, can not wait to retire and leave the county as it is NOT the county I moved into 25 years ago!

Donna Tafuri
donna_tafuri@hcpss.org
6336 Woodcrest Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Nientzu Chao <iris_chao@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 6:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restored the 5.9M back to the students

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman and county council members,

As we all know when things get tough we need make tough decisions, but we should never jeopardize or sacrifice our kids' education. A lot of things in life we might have second chance, unfortunately not the education. If we don't have the support we need to educate them at the right time when they are ready to learn and stay in school then the end result will be unimaginable. And down the road it might be the major problem on your top to do list on how to help them get jobs, be good citizens and contribute to the society.

We are United State of America, if other countries can do it, so can we. We should set a good example to all others that Howard County indeed is the best place to live because we have the best school system, best educators and best students all thanks to best county executive and council members for their unconditional support Year after year. So please do the right thing restore the 5.8 M or even more to ensure we can do our jobs. Thanks for your time and consideration.

A concern educator

Nientzu Chao

Nientzu Chao

iris_chao@hcpss.org

11822 Snow Patch Way

Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Paige Gearhart <Paige_Gearhart@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 6:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Increase the budget

Council Members ,

Firstly, increasing class sizes the first two times didn't work. Anytime you spread a teachers attention, a student suffers. Secondly, no school ever improved by decreasing the amount of staff available to support its students. Another point I'd like to add is that you want to decrease staff, and increase classroom size? Why not just fire all the teachers and let the students teach themselves??? That's where you're headed! And thirdly, simply letting these people go after years of service in the county is, quite frankly, a slap in the face. Why would anyone choose to stay in this county if it's councilmembers so easily dismiss them as replaceable. It's absolutely appalling.

Paige Gearhart
Paige_Gearhart@hcpss.org
9107 Town and Country Blvd
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Amber Naden <Amber_Naden@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 6:09 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Restore Class sizes

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern:

Please consider voting yes to the amendment to restore class sizes. I am a new teacher to Howard County Public Schools. I transferred after working in PG county for 14 years. This year has been amazing. With my class size of 18, I was able to provide my students with the time and individual attention they needed to move all students on grade level for next year. I was able to move 6 out of 18 students from Emergent reading levels to Transitional reading levels. I really felt I had found my home at Worthington elementary. Now, due to class size increases, I am surplusd. I found out yesterday that it's possible some surplusd teachers won't be placed at all. Some schools will have elementary classes (including at Worthington) of over 30 students. I can't tell you how difficult it is to make sure classes that big are getting what they need. Restoring class sizes will ensure that teachers are kept where they are needed and that students are getting everything they deserve. Please consider voting yes to this amendment. It means the world to Howard County students and teachers.

Sincerely,

Amber Naden

Worthington Elementary

Amber Naden

Amber_Naden@hcpss.org

7856 Foxfarm Lane

Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Sayers, Margery

From: John Bowen <john_bowen@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 5:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Doing what is right!

Council Members ,

Please address this issue with the monies for our children and staff in the schools of Howard County. This county invests in very frivolous things such as dog parks and not in it's people, children, homeless. I have lived in this county all my life and have always been proud to until recent years. Please consider taking care of those who take care of our kids.

Thanks for everything you do and for reading my concerns here.

Have a blessed day.

John Bowen
john_bowen@hcpss.org
5143 Montgomery Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Erin Eaton <Erin_Eaton@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 4:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size

Council Members ,

Please consider restoring the budget. Larger class sizes will impact the safety of students in the physical education setting. This current school year, we already have large double classes in the small gymnasium. If we increase class size, we will not have the necessary space required for movement to deliver the county curriculum and keep our students safe. Each need of each student really matters to me, increasing student numbers will impact instructional differentiation we are able to provide. With a rising obesity epidemic, I feel called to help children and their families be able to make healthy choices, and foster a love of lifetime wellness. Increasing class will impact the level of support and communication I am able to provide each child and family. Thank you for taking the time to read our concerns. Warm regards, Erin Soulen, Proud Howard County Physical Educator

Erin Eaton
Erin_Eaton@hcpss.org
3088 ballesteras court
Mount airy, Maryland 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: DIANE BUTLER <politicodiane@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 2:10 AM
To: SchoolPlanning@hcpss.org; BOE; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Beazer

In my last Email, I meant East of us!

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharon Gregory <sharon_gregory@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 12:32 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restoring HCPSS Budget

Council Members ,

Dear County Council,

Our students need your help in restoring our budget not to increase class sizes for our children to learn. Every year we see Fire Fighters and Police get a increase in salary. You invest in them to keep this County safe. Well our children are just as important because they are our future. You may think it's easy to teach in a classroom of 25 plus students but come down and visit to really see how that space works. When you add student desk, teachers, Para's yes more than one with inclusion, desk, bookcases with little to no storage the space gets much smaller. Now you have up 4 adults giving instruction and 25 plus who can be talking at any given time. Then, we're asking students to focus which is very hard especially in May during a full month of testing with laptops. We need this funding to give our student the quality education they deserve. If we can afford to give TIF's to big developers coming to our country then we need to make our students priority number one.

Sharon Gregory
sharon_gregory@hcpss.org
5611 Gulf Stream Row
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Genevieve Fischer <genevieve_rawlings@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 12:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Growing demand + less support = failing county

Council Members ,

We are continuing to gain students from underserved countries, school districts, and neighborhoods.

My first year in the county, I worked at Oakland Mills MS and I felt I had the support and resources needed to meet the needs of my students. Now, after working in our more affluent schools, I feel the lack of supports, materials, and growing class sizes negatively impacting students.

The students shouldn't be paying the ultimate price. Teachers will continue to do their jobs regardless of the challenge, but at what cost? When do we say enough is enough because our teachers are getting more and more burnt out year after year.

My second year at Oakland Mills MS, we had to start rationing paper because materials of instruction funds were being cut for the first time... and it has continued to go downhill since then. Can I even begin to tell you how telling teachers they might not have paper in April/May decreased moral? Not to mention, made teachers fear that they would not be able to do their jobs in an effective, timely manner. I'm all about saving trees, but common core rolled in right about at the same time and we did not, and still do not have textbooks in every content area that align to the curriculum.

Do we want to remain a county that still takes care of our own- students and staff? Then, we need to reduce class sizes, provide adequate funds for materials, and provide staff to support all areas of instruction. Please consider the ramifications our choices now on the futures of our children.

Genevieve Fischer
genevieve_rawlings@hcpss.org

8585 Falls Run Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Adrienne Gainer-Lee <Adrienne_Gainer-Lee@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 12:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Funding for Education

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman and County Council Members,

As a teacher and a parent, I implore you to prevent increased class sizes by restoring the cut \$5.9M. All of our children deserve the best education possible. The negative impact larger class sizes have on me as a teacher to do my job effectively, as well as the negative impact larger class sizes have on my children's learning, is unacceptable. As a 5th grade teacher, I should not have 30 students in my class, teaching 30 different children, with 30 different needs (academic, emotional, and behavioral), and grading 30 different papers, in 6 different subjects. Having 25 students is already challenging, but the addition of 5 more may not seem like a lot to you, but it makes a huge difference. I know this for a fact because my class sizes have fluctuated from 24-30 in the past 6 years. As a parent, I don't believe my child is getting the best possible education with 30 students in a classroom, for the same reasons I listed above as a teacher. Her educational needs cannot be met by one teacher trying to 'do it all' with 29 other students who need her just as much. The level of responsibility increases each year for teachers, but the level of support does not. If anything, support decreases. How can I expect to do my best as a teacher when you keep weighing me down with more responsibilities and less support? How can my children receive the best education when their teachers feel these burdens as well? Do the right thing...do what's morally right...for all of our deserving children and hard working educators, and restore the \$5.9M. Education MUST be a priority because our children ARE, and should always BE, our number one priority.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Gainer-Lee

Adrienne Gainer-Lee

Adrienne_Gainer-Lee@hcpss.org

9301 Kings Grant Road
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Paul Folkemer <paulwfolk@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 9:12 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class sizes amendment

Hello,

I'm writing to ask you to please vote YES on the amendment to restore class sizes.

As a father whose daughter will be entering the Howard County public school system in a couple of years, I'm concerned about the impact that raising class sizes would have on her. I want her to be able to get the best education in the best possible classroom environment, and that might be very difficult in an overcrowded classroom, where students won't be getting the individual attention they need.

When you vote on this amendment, please consider what's best for the children. They're what matters most.

Thank you.

Sayers, Margery

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 9:40 AM
To: CouncilMail; BoE Email; Student_Member@hcpss.org
Subject: Funding for Howard County schools

Please see this website for posts about Howard County Public Schools.

<https://howardcounty640805081.wordpress.com>

The last post was:

Howard County Appears to Have Been Using Federal Grants Intended for Low-Income Students to Enhance Education in Wealthy Schools

Please consider an audit of how funding is being distributed to Howard County schools.

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 12:22 PM
To: Richard Kohn; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Student Board Member
Subject: RE: [BoE Email] - Funding for Howard County schools

Dear Mr. Kohn:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. The Title I Office has been subject to Annual Reviews by the Maryland State Department of Education and federal, state, and private audits. There have never been any findings that suggest misallocation of Title I funds. Also, on December 19, 2017, the Board approved, under Bids and Contracts, a Grants Forensic Audit to ensure that all of the school system Grant Funds are appropriately allocated.

Once again, thank you for contacting the Board.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hanks
Administrator
Board of Education
Phone: 410-313-7194
Fax: 410-313-6633
Email: kathleen_hanks@hcpss.org

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 9:40 AM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Student Board Member <Student_Member@hcpss.org>
Subject: [BoE Email] - Funding for Howard County schools

Please see this website for posts about Howard County Public Schools.

<https://howardcounty640805081.wordpress.com>

The last post was:

Howard County Appears to Have Been Using Federal Grants Intended for Low-Income Students to Enhance Education in Wealthy Schools

Please consider an audit of how funding is being distributed to Howard County schools.

Sayers, Margery

From: Shayna A. Fastovsky <Shayna_Fastovsky@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 1:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restoring class sizes

To whom it may concern:

As a teacher and parent in Howard County I know how important a small class size is for achieving and learning in school. As a P.E. teacher I can also speak to how difficult teaching can be with class sizes over 30 in middle school. Having large class sizes and limited space to teach in is unsafe. We have raised class sizes twice in the past 6 years. This cannot be allowed to happen again. I am asking you to please vote yes to the amendment to restore class sizes.

Thank you,

Shayna A. Fastovsky
Elkridge Landing Middle School
Physical Education
Related Arts Team Leader
410-313-5040

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Sayers, Margery

From: Kristina Spicer <Kristina_Spicer@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 1:13 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class Sizes

To Whom it May Concern:

As a teacher in Howard County I know how important small class sizes are for achieving and learning in school. As a P.E. Teacher I can also speak to how difficult teaching can be with class sizes over 30 in middle school. Having large class sizes and limited space to teach in is unsafe. We have raised class sizes twice in the past 6 years. This cannot be allowed to happen again. I am asking you to please vote yes to the amendment to restore class sizes.

Thank you,

Kristina Spicer
Eldridge Landing Middle
Physical Education Teacher

"Make it a GREAT day!"

Arranger-Harmony-Developer-Relator-Discipline

"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand. "Vince Lombardi

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Sayers, Margery

From: DIANE BUTLER <politicodiane@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 7:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Beazer Homes Centennial

To the Council,

I would really like to know how Beazer Homes across from LongGate Shopping Center is advertising that their students will be going to Centennial High School, when the Dunloggin neighborhood that has been here for 60 years is always fighting to stay in our neighborhood school, Centennial. We have paid county property taxes for 60 years. The new development is even farther West, and on the other side of 29. All of the new developments should get last shake at their school choice because they certainly are not paying their way, for their school seats. There is no way that brand new homes, west of us will be jumping over our neighborhood to attend our neighborhood school. Frankly, the same goes for the newer developments, off of Toll House!

Diane Butler

Sayers, Margery

From: Tiana Seldon <tiana_seldon@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 11:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reduce class size and save our jobs!

Council Members ,

Please help fight for reduced class size and save our jobs!

It is increasing tough to teach effectively and I am worried about job security since I'm on the surplus list.

Thanks
Tiana Seldon

Tiana Seldon
tiana_seldon@hcpss.org
9004 Ina Ct
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Janet Browning <janet_browning@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 11:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore the Funds

Council Members ,

I am one of the many educators feeling the stress of increased class sizes. It is coupled with an increase of over 100 students in our student population for the coming year. Increasing class size again will impact my educational space because I do not have the physical space for seating additional students. We need the 5.9M restored to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible.

Janet Browning
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7407 Pinkwood
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Lori Allen <lori_allen@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 11:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Education Budget

Council Members ,

Please consider providing the additional funds needed to the Howard County school systems budget to benefit every student. I am a teacher in Howard county and understand the consequences of greater class sizes as I am not able to provide every student in my class with the the necessary support due to overwhelming class sizes . Please help us help our students and families by providing the bed education possible.

Sincerely,

L. Allen

Lori Allen

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5202 Woolton Ct

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Wai Ma <WAI_MA@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 11:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Urgency to support students and staff

Council Members ,

I work in the school system and have seen students not receiving adequate instruction for to over crowded classroom. With the increased sizes of classes, it is impossible for teachers to attend to students' needs. Please continue to support our school system to provide quality and equitable education for our students. Without enough finding to decrease classroom sizes, students' growth will be suffered.

Wai Ma
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4525 Ashley Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Wenona Galotta <Wenona_Galotta@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 11:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Rethink Budget cuts

Council Members ,

As a special education paraprofessional, I see that the already large class sizes are making it extremely difficult to meet every student's need in the classroom. Teachers are forced to spend more and more time managing behaviors rather than instructing. In inclusion classes, there might be as many as 6 special ed. students requiring support. 1 teacher and 1 para in a class of 30+ is just not adequate. Many of these classrooms won't be able to physically hold any more desks- as it is, space for labs is now limited. Increasing class size yet again would be disastrous.

As a parent of 3 children in Howard County, I'm angry at the large class sizes and lack of resources. Kids are either falling through the cracks or they are bored because they aren't being pushed to their potential. They are missing out on educational experiences because there just isn't enough time or space or materials for everyone. Not because the teachers are failing, but because they are overwhelmed trying to meet the needs of all of their students who are learning at different paces.

Please reconsider and do what's best for students in our county.

Thank you, Wenona Galotta

Wenona Galotta
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9336 Old Scaggsville Road
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Norma Custis <norma_custis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2018 11:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please restore our money!

Council Members ,

Class size is so important to me as a teacher in the elementary school. If you don't restore the money needed I will have over 26 students. This will effect my ability to differentiate instruction. Also, these larger class sizes causes teams not to have space to implement programs with fidelity. I fear that the normal communication and support I usually give will be effected. Please restore the 5.9M . I have taught 29 years in this county. I want to continue to provide my students with a quality education.

Thank you!

Norma Custis
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Randallstown, Maryland 21133