

CRS 3.2018

Sayers, Margery

From: Tara Scully <taramscully@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 1:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School budget - move that money!

Please pass the amendment filed by Council members Calvin Ball & Jen Terassa will move \$5.1 million to the school budget to maintain current class sizes.

Tara Scully
3102 Ramblewood Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Howard county resident for LIFE.

Hammond Elem
Hammond middle
Atholton class 1999

Keep class rooms small.

There are 21 kids in my son's Kindergarten class room.

I have never understood how daycares are so strictly limited to how many kids per educator and then 21 five year olds is acceptable. With no dedicated teachers aid.

It's not the school system I grew up in.

We can do better.

- Tara =)
Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Leslie Toussaint <l2saint@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 1:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class sizes

I support the amendment filed by Council members Calvin Ball & Jen Terassa to move \$5.1 million to the school budget to maintain current class sizes!

Leslie Toussaint
Triadelphia Ridge ES

Sayers, Margery

From: Korin Sharp <iamkorin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 10:08 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School funding

Dear County Council,

Please use the additional \$5.1 million in funding to prevent increasing the already large class sizes in HCPSS, as well as more funding for Restorative Justice training and support.

Thank you.

Korin Sharp
9600 Chaton Rd
LAUREL, MD 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Stacey Folkemer <stacey.long2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:03 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vote to restore class size

Good morning,

I am a parent and resident of Columbia and am very concerned about the increased class size in Howard County Schools. One of the reasons we moved to Howard County is because of the schools, so it's disheartening to think that my child might not get all of the benefits I imagined when moving here.

Please vote to restore class size so that our children can continue to get one of the best educations in the country.

Thank you!
Stacey Folkemer

5242 Lightfoot Path
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Sheryl Goering <srgoering@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 8:38 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Support Amendment to CR-53!

Dear Councilwomen and Councilmen, I urge you to support the amendment to CR-53 increasing funding to HCPSS to maintain class size. There is evidence that our children suffer when class sizes increase. Please support the funding of current class sizes. Our kids need to be a priority! They are the future of our county and our country.

Respectfully,
Sheryl Goering

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Amber Naden <Amber_Naden@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 7:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore Class Sizes

To Whom It May Concern:

PLEASE vote for the amendment to restore class sizes. As a teacher in the county, I assure you that smaller class sizes are key for student achievement. I taught for 14 years in PG county, where class sizes are as large as the projections for next year. It is almost impossible to give struggling learners what they need in such a large group. I value class size more than avoiding furloughs or raises. The children should come first.

Thank you,

Amber Naden
Worthington Elementary

Sayers, Margery

From: Joshua Budich <jbudich@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 6:29 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: SUPPORT HoCo Smaller Class Sizes!

County Council Representatives,

My name is Joshua Budich, and as a Howard High School Alum & father of two Triadelphia Ridge ES students, I am in support of smaller class sizes and the amendment filed by Councilwoman Terrasa & Councilman Ball.

This November I will be supporting candidates that prioritize our schools, specifically supported smaller class sizes, and most importantly put our kids first!

Thank you,
Joshua

--

www.joshuabudich.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Kelley Flesher <kellyflesher@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 6:04 AM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Maintain Class Sizes at Current Levels-to CR-53

Dear County Council,

I am writing to support the recently created amendment to CR-53 that will maintain classroom size. Increased class size is harmful to students and teachers alike. There are many research supported reasons as to why class sizes should remain as small as possible. One of the most important being safety and the mental health of our students.

Teachers are our front line staff. Large class size make it difficult for teachers to really know their students and near impossible to spend the time needed attending to the students social-emotional needs. A student who connects with their teacher and feels supported is less likely to be bullied or become a bully. Social isolation and lack of community connectedness can lead to violence; whether self-harm or acts against others.

We all know that teachers are asked to wear many hats in today's modern classroom. One thing that has not changed is that a teacher is still a primary supportive figure in a student's life. Teachers should have the resource of time to get to know students to provide this vital supportive role.

Thank you for the important work that you do.

Respectfully,

Kelley Flesher
8340 Glenmar Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Kim Birnbaum <ksmiles@myfastmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 12:09 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: class sizes

Dear County Council Members,

Without knowing the language of the ammendment I will just convey the importance of maintaining or ideally reducing class size in our public schools. There are numerous studies including a recent one showing that class size was directly correlated to test scores and to student long-range outcomes/success.

Increasing class size is a lose-lose situation for all involved. It makes teachers jobs harder, students get less attention, and test scores and student outcomes suffer. Many of us, particularly in the eaastern part of the county are in very crowded schools, and our classes are at or are very close to the maximum class size. Increasing class size likely has a harder felt impact on our special needs kids, most of whom are mainstreamed without additional staff. We have less paraeducators in our classrooms, than we did before Dr. Foose was superintendent. Adding 1 more student makes it that much more difficult for a teacher to have time to help those that need some extra attention and further drains time and attention from all students.

While additional funding for the schools is needed in many areas, not the least of which is special education which suffered massive funds redirection under Dr. Foose, decreasing class size or at least not increasing it, will have a lot of bang for the buck. Increasing class size to balance budgets would have a poor return because of the hidden cost of decreased student outcomes, lower test scores, and lower quality of education as well as the consequences of these to lower school system ratings & making HCPSS less attractive to prospective teachers and therefore less competitive in hiring quality teachers.

We would be wise to heed the advice of all of the studies that have shown that lower class size improves student and test outcomes. I hope for all the reasons stated above that your ammendment will ensure that class sizes are not increased.

Sincerely,
Kim Birnbaum

Sayers, Margery

From: BVivrette <bvivrette@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 10:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School Amendment

Please support the amendment filed by Council members Ball & Terrasa to move \$5.1 million to the school budget to maintain current class sizes. This is the right thing to do, and why people continue to move to Howard County: the Schools!

Brian Vivrette

Sayers, Margery

From: Phil Ranker <phil.ranker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 10:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Restore funding to Howard County Schools please!

Hello,

I am humbly requesting that you vote in the affirmative for the amendment to restore 5.1 million to the HCPSS budget in order to maintain current class sizes. As a teacher in the system, I can assure you that keeping the class sizes the way they are and not increasing them is of paramount importance. If class sizes are increased, it is much more difficult to get to know our students and help them in any way that they may need it. Please vote to add the 5.1 mil to the budget.

Sincerely,

Phil Ranker

Sayers, Margery

From: Katie Mertz <katiedoylemertz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 9:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class sizes

Thank you for all you do! As an Elkridge resident with two children in HCPSS schools, the increased class size trend is alarming. Please help the children in this county and restore funding to maintain class sizes at current levels.

Thank you,
Katie Mertz
7104 Collingwood Court
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: lindaleslie@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 9:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR-53

Dear Council Members,

As a parent at Wilde Lake and Homewood, I know first hand what happens when kids fall through the cracks. It is critical that we do not increase class sizes and find other ways to address our current financial woes. I urge you to support CR-53 to provide additional Education funding.

- Linda Leslie

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Sayers, Margery

From: Meg Ricks <capizziricks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 8:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Amendment to fund maintaining class sizes

I was very glad to hear about the amendment filed by council members Terasa and Ball to keep school class sizes from increasing next year and to give more funding for restorative justice training and support. I urge you to pass this amendment. Next year I will have two children in one of the largest elementary schools in the county and one in the largest high school. Increased class sizes would be exacerbating the difficulties these schools are already facing due to overcrowding and I know they are not the only schools facing these challenges. Increasing class size will not help keep our kids safe and it will not help them to do their best. It will certainly not help us to close the achievement gap. We also clearly need to address discipline issues in a way that is effective and fair.

Thank you for your time and your service in behalf of our children.

Meg Ricks
Elkridge

Sayers, Margery

From: Rachel Tarp <rachel.tarp@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 4:30 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Please fully fund our schools

Dear Council Members and County Executive,

As a Howard County parent I ask you to please fund our schools, so that class sizes do not exceed acceptable student teacher ratios. This is of utmost importance to our children and communities. We want to maintain not only statewide but nationwide exceptional public education in Howard County. This won't continue with overcrowded schools. Please fully fund the budget! Parents (taxpayers and voters), educators, and most importantly our children are counting on you!

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Tarp

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Marisa McCurdy <marisahiggins@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 3:35 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Howard County Class Size

Council Members,

I'm writing to express my support for any funding measures that would enable classroom sizes to either remain intact or decrease. I realize there is a dire budget situation in Howard County for the Board of Education but I also feel that the classroom size situation is in a dire situation. I have three children in Howard County schools and directly witness the detrimental impact of large class sizes. I wholeheartedly disagree with Council Chair Sigaty's comment that class sizes are not at the dire emergency point.

Marisa McCurdy
6802 Norris Lane
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa M. Cramer <Lisa_Cramer@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 12:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size

Hello,

Thank you for working hard to meet the needs of Howard County citizens and employees. At the present time I am told that class size is not a priority to the council. As a teacher of 16 years in this county that is very upsetting to me. Our children and our staff deserve the right to learn and have their needs met. When there is only one teacher and over 22 children in kindergarten or any grade someone will have their needs not met. It could mean less face time with the teacher or lack of supplies because of small groups being made too large. Perhaps because our county continues to have high test scores and graduation rates you all have been mislead that everything is okay...but it is not. I can guarantee you that if you continue down this path of large class sizes our stellar scores that we pride ourselves on will not continue. When students have less face time with the teacher or too many students in a group they miss out on valuable instruction. Please make class sizes smaller our students and tax paying citizens deserve better.

Regards,

Lisa Cramer
Kindergarten Teacher/co ITL
Centennial Lane E.S.

"We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just the way we play the hand," Randy Pausch.

Sayers, Margery

From: Victoria Budich <vbudich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 10:52 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County Class Sizes

County Council Representatives,

My name is Victoria Budich and I'm a TRES mom and the TRES PTA Treasurer. I'm writing you today to implore you to restore funding to maintain class sizes at current levels, and look to the future to add more teachers and begin reducing class sizes.

This November parents like me are going to vote for County Council seats as well as BOE seats. We will be watching, listening, and voting for the candidates that put our kids first.

When you receive a proposal, campaign funding, or advice from developers and businesses remember why Howard County is sought after - it's the schools. Families (tax payers) move to Howard County for the **schools**, not to develop land. Fund the schools, fund our infrastructure, prioritize residents over businesses, and keep our class sizes small.

- Victoria Budich

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Alexis M. McKenzie <amlaske@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 8:14 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding Increase for HCPSS

Dear Council Members,

I would like to request funding be increased to HCPSS to avoid having to increase class sizes for the 2018-2019 school year. Increasing class sizes, particularly at the elementary level, is detrimental for early learners. Having observed in my son's classroom throughout the year we simply do not have enough hands on deck to handle all of the challenges. Children are falling through the cracks in one of the wealthiest counties in America. We can do better and we need to!

Thank You,
Alexis McKenzie
Elkridge Resident

CAS 3.2018

Sayers, Margery

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


Council members,

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

Jahantab

Begin forwarded message:

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

	<p>Howard County Public School System</p> <p>NEWS RELEASE</p> <p>Contact: Brian Bassett brian_bassett@hcpss.org 410-313-1505</p>
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May 21, 2018

Talbott Springs Elementary School on Track for Replacement

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

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

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

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

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

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For the latest HCPSS news and information, visit www.hcpss.org.

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



May 18, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

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

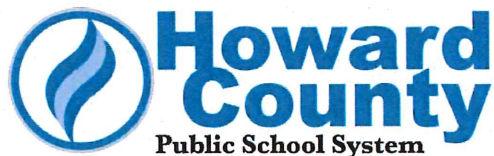
Subject: FY19 Capital Budget Security Related Systemic Priorities

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

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

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

Copy to: Executive Staff
Board of Education Office



May 18, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

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

Subject: FY 2019 Operating Budget Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

cc: Executive Staff
Board of Education Office

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

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

Peter Greaney
Peter_Greaney@hcpss.org
5441 Hildebrand Court
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

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

Greetings,

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

Thank you.

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

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

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

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

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

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

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

All the best,

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

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



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

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

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

May 17, 2018

Dr. Ball and Councilmembers:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Greetings,

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

Thank you.

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

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

Dear County Executive Kittleman,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All the best,

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

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



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

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

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

May 17, 2018

Dr. Ball and Councilmembers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Please reconsider your position. Thank you.

A concerned parent,
Mindy Gaines

CR 53. 2018

Sayers, Margery

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Daisy Zhang
9637 Susies Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

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

Members of the Howard County Council,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Members of the Howard County Council,

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

The Board of Education has done its due diligence and cut its budget by request. They have demonstrated leadership and stewardship by making tough decisions. In doing so they are working to fix the problems they inherited. They are not passing the buck and saying "I didn't create the situation so it's not my responsibility to correct it."

On behalf of the school children of Howard County we are asking you to do the same. This is necessary for Howard County to thrive in the long term.

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

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

Ann E. Davis
Veterans Elementary
Vocal Music
410-313-1700
ann_davis@hcpss.org

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Trish and Ken Ververs
ktververs@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

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

Members of the Howard County Council,

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

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

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

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

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Karen Simpson
KAREN_SIMPSON@hcpss.org
5230 Green Bridge Road
Dayton, Maryland 21036

Sayers, Margery

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

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

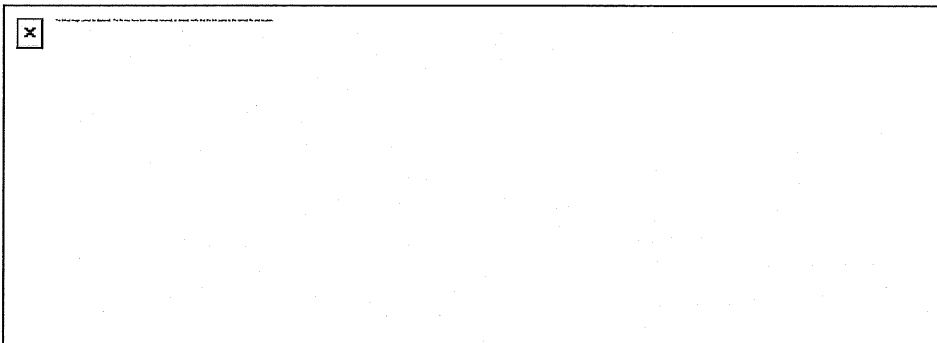
May 9, 2018

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

Mr. Mason,

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

History of Underestimation

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

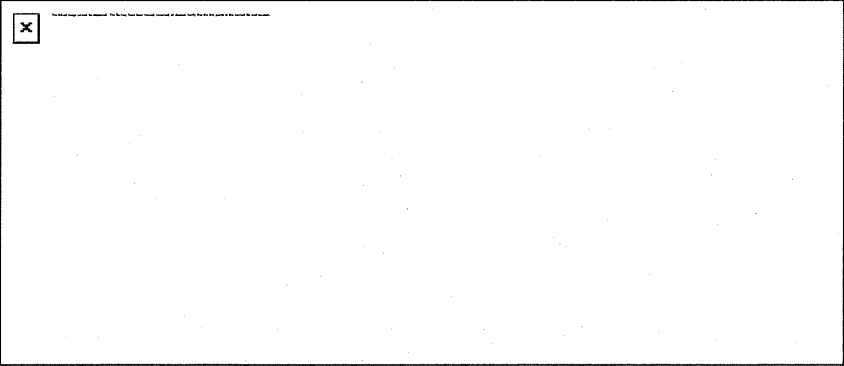
Ducketts Lane

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

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

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

Taken from Howard County Public Schools 2017 Feasibility Study



Veterans Elementary School

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

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

Facing the Future

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

Respectfully,

Ruth Walker
Howard County Tax Payer

Ruth Walker
Instructional Technology Support Teacher
Talbott Springs Elementary School

Sayers, Margery

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

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

katy Do

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Members of the Howard County Council,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Grace Wang

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Nancy Barker
Retired HCPSS

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Fully fund the school budget

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

Yours,
Kim Feldman

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

laura foerster

laura_foersterpuglisi@hcpss.org

5643 chelwynd road

halethorpe, Maryland 21227

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

Regards,
Valerie McBee

Valerie Mcbee
valerie_mcbee@hcpss.org
3230 Old Fence Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

How can you do this:

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

Restore the \$6000000.00 to the budget for students.

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

Roy Rosnik
roy_rosnik@hcpss.org

13434 Chris Mar Court
Highland, Maryland 20777

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brittany Franckowiak

brittany_franckowiak@hcpss.org

14052 Chestnut Ct

Laurel, Maryland 20707

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

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

Sincerely, Ira Wright, Special Educator

Ira Wright
ira_wright@hcpss.org
813 Harvest Terrace
New Market, Maryland 21774

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

This class size increase will impact my educational space because our classrooms are not big enough to hold the needed desks for each student.

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

This class size increase will effect the level of communication and support I am able to provide every child and family in our county as well as specialized instruction provided for our IEP students.

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

Heather Gainey
heather_gainey@hcpss.org
202 Stonewall Road
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Sincerely,

Shannon Grieve
School Counselor
Howard High School

Shannon Grieve
shannon_grieve@hcpss.org
641 Orpington Rd.
Baltimore, Maryland 21229

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Leslie Topus

River Hill High School

Teacher for 44 years; 27 of those in Howard County.

Leslie Topus

leslie_topus@hcpss.org

2185 Mount View Rd

Marriottsville, Maryland 21104

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

It is simple; our students.

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

Teacher's salaries-This is also
"The Fierce Urgency of Now"!

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Officials-

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

Sincerely,
Denis Ahearn

Denis Ahearn
denis_ahearn@hcpss.org
15280 Sweetbay Street
Woodbine, Maryland 21797

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Anne Long
Teacher at Homewood

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

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

Karen Fernande

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Sincerely,

Anna Gannon

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Kittleman,

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

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

Fund students, teachers and real instructional opportunities.

Sincerely,

Margaret Danaher

Margaret Danaher
margaret_danaher@hcpss.org
4725 Dorsey Hall Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

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

Joshua Rettenmayer
JOSHUA_RETTENMAYER@hcpss.org
9067 Northfield Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

I am a proud HCPSS teacher, finishing my 11th year with the system. I am proud of the work I do for one of the best school systems in the nation. However, I am disappointed that this year's proposed budget does not put students and the staff that serve them at the forefront.

Did you know HCPSS was ranked by Forbes as the 29th best place to work in the country?!

We beat out Montgomery County in the rankings! I do believe in order to keep that status, the amazing teachers and staff need to be paid to reflect their hard work and dedication to our schools and community. Competitive pay will also bring the best graduates our way.

In addition, increasing class sizes across the board is sure to have a detrimental effect on both students and teachers alike.

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

Meghan Kasten

meghan_kasten@hcpss.org

111 Hopkins rd

Baltimore , Maryland 21212

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Sincerely,

Robin M. Balimtas
Reading Specialist/OMMS

Robin Balimtas
ROBIN_BALIMTAS@hcpss.org
14041 Big Branch Drive
Dayton, Maryland 21036

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Lesli Ancona
lesli_ancona@hcpss.org
6640 Towering Oak Path
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To whom it May Concern,

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

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

And with no increase in salary with teachers already spending more than 40 Hours a week working. How can you rectify this situation?

I am currently a Paraeducator in the county and see the day to day pull Of teachers in the classroom.

So, I ask why?

Sincerely,

Liz Smull, MS NCBTMB

Lizabeth Smull
Lizabeth_Smull@hcpss.org
9465 Catfeet court
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

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

Helene Tyler

Helene Tyler
helene_tyler@hcpss.org
10947 Harmel Dr
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear County Council and Executive Kittleman,

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

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

Sincerely,
Albert T. Packan

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

Howard County Resident
Howard County Teacher

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Thank you for your time

Karen L. Cole

Karen Cole

karen_cole@hcpss.org

437 Madingley Rd

Linthicum Heights, Maryland 21090

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Thank you for your time.

Michaeline Van Reenan
HCPSS Teacher

Michaeline Van Reenan
michaeline_van_reenan@hcpss.org
6012 Kennard Court
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Hello,

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

Lois Han
lois_han@hcpss.org
10200 Wetherburn Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Counting on you,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Thanks in advance.

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Donna Hayman

Donna Hayman

Donnanhayman@yahoo.com

6228 Tamar Drive

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Eric Soskil

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Sincerely,

Mr Steven Lewis

Steven Lewis

slewisdietcoke@yahoo.com

7638-A Stony Creek Lane

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Please fund our schools!

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

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

Thank you!

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Melissa Kiehl
melissa.kiehl@gmail.com
700 HUNTER WAY
CATONSVILLE, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Executive Allan Kittleman,

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

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

Jacqueline Kern,
HCPSS Reading Specialist

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Hello,

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

Thank you,

Evan Gallena

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Thank you

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Good Morning,

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

Currently, we have 2 fifth grade classes in our gym at one time with 64 kids. Our gym is not a big space, and it is too crowded. We already are at a size where my coworker and I feel uncomfortable letting each student do an activity at the same time. If we increase the sizes of the classes, we are going to be giving each student less opportunity to develop their physical, cognitive, and affective goals. Also, my co-worker and I will not be able to provide the necessary feedback to help our students develop into life long learners for physical activity.

With obesity being such a huge national epidemic, we should be making this a priority.

Another topic I would like to briefly discuss is how underpaid our teachers are in our county.

Montgomery county would be paying me close to \$10,000 more every year. That is just ridiculous. We are going to start losing some very qualified and outstanding teachers because resources are not being used correctly.

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

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

Best Wishes,

Joe Quirk

Joseph Quirk

Joseph_Quirk@hcpss.org

8554 Black Star Circle

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

I am writing to urge you to restore the money that the County executive cut.

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

Deborah Vo
deborah_vo@hcpss.org
2800 Stansway Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

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

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

Thank you for considering these important issues!

Julie Kastner
Julie_Kastner@hcpss.org

6129 Downs Ridge Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Mr. Kittleman,

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

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

Linda Ferrara

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Elected officials,

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

Jahantab

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

Public School Construction Program

Hello Scott

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Mr. Kittleman,

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

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

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

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

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

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

All the best,

Chelsie Hockenberry

Chelsie Hockenberry

CHELSIE_HOCKENBERRY@hcpss.org

7977 Brightmeadow Ct.

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Deborah Vo
deborah_vo@hcpss.org
2800 Stansway Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Study after study shows that smaller class sizes are extremely beneficial to student success. We here in Howard County pride ourselves on our high-achieving, progressive schools that are constantly ranked in the top in the nation. Many parents who would otherwise choose private schools are happy to send their students to our fantastic public schools. How long will that continue if our class sizes increase to levels associated with an earlier, less effective time period of our country's educational history? How long will we continue to be ranked as a top county for education if we cannot even provide what is considered a standard of a modern, progressive public education system? How long will we be ranked a top place to live if our schools cannot keep the same high standards that define all aspects of our community? I grew up in HCPSS schools and now live and teach here. I am extremely passionate about bringing the great experiences that I received to my students. With larger class sizes, that will be much more difficult. Larger class sizes do not mean we will have larger classrooms and teaching spaces - I know many teachers who simply cannot fit another desk in their cramped rooms (and they have a bare minimum of things in their rooms besides student desks). Our gyms, music rooms, art rooms, and computer labs are not getting any bigger and many of these spaces are already full to the brim. This presents several safety issues, not to mention instructional difficulties and potential trouble finding enough equipment in good condition to use.

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best wishes,

Natalie Pretzello

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

Natalie Pretzello

NATALIE_HOGG@hcpss.org

6932 South Carlinda Avenue

Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully and hopefully yours,

Joanne Topping

Joanne Topping

jrtopping@gmail.com

8094 Woodloo Dr

Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern:

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

Thank You,
Tasha Brison

Tasha Brison
tabrison@gmail.com
307 Shannon Forest
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and County Executive...

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

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

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

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

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

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

Benjamin Schmitt
bdschmitt@verizon.net
7817 Whistling Pines Ct.
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Thank you,

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Hello,

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

Thank you for your support,
Jessica Westendorf

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Good Afternoon,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time.

~Allison Venuti
HCPSS educator

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Arndt
Kindergarten Teacher

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Honorable Elected Officials:

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

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

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

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

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

Please...do right by our children.

Sincerely,

Lisa Pellegrino

Lisa Pellegrino

lisa_pellegrino@hcpss.org

6341 Beechwood Dr

Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Wadsworth

Principal

Centennial Lane Elementary

Amanda Wadsworth

amanda_wadsworth@hcpss.org

7184 Millbury Court

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

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

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

Jameelah Jefferson
1st Grade Teacher
Dayton Oaks Elementary School

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Dear Chairwoman Sigaty and Councilmembers:

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

Thanks,

Glenn

Glenn E. Schneider

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

10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21044



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FY 2019 Board of Education Operating Budget: Public Hearing

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

Position: SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Good Evening County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are a County about Education, about our Children.

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

Thank you

Heather Urner

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Howard County Council Members and County Executive Allan Kittleman,

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Erica Rutan
1st grade teacher

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Councilman,

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

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

Carol Spaulding

caspauld@aol.com

8625 Jennifer Ct.

Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Kittleman,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Christina Wanex
christina_wanex@hcpss.org

6911 Carroll Highlands Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman,

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

Sincerely,

Carol Spaulding

Carol Spaulding

carol_spaulding@hcpss.org

8625 Jennifer Ct

Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To Whom This May Concern:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Alison Schwartz

Howard County Education Association Member

Alison Schwartz

ALISON_SCHWARTZ@hcpss.org

610 Shipley Road

Linthicum Heights, Maryland 21090

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Thank you, Betsy Fetchko

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Linda Birdsong

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Increased class size will negatively impact student learning.

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

The students in Howard County need their teachers and staff.

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear County Executive Kittleman and fellow esteemed County Council Members,

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jackie Bryant

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

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

Karen Payne
karen_payne@hcpss.org

5022 Middlesmoor Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Sincerely,

Judy Brubaker

Howard County Resident, Parent, and Educator

Judy Brubaker

judy_brubaker@hcpss.org

4550 Vinter Way

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

S. ERICKSEN (Always a Raider!)

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

S. ERICKSEN (Always a Raider!)

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Yours,

Bonnie Dorsey

First Grade Teacher in HCPSS

Bonnie Dorsey

bonnie_dorsey@hcpss.org

9243 Ridgefield Circle

Frederick, Maryland 21701

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Carol Eassa

carol_eassa@hcpss.org

5852 Richards Valley Road

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Hello,

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

Please don't let this happen to our kids.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven W. Burnett

Glenelg High School

Steve Burnett

sburnett@mcdaniel.edu

2045 Hughest Shop Road

Westminster, Maryland 21158

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Sincerely,

Stacey Belsky

science teacher, Elkridge Landing Middle School

Stacey Belsky

stacey_belsky@hcpss.org

7209 Fawn Crossing Drive

Clarksville, Maryland 21029

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Thanks in advance for your support.

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Allan Kittleman,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bruner

Stephanie Bruner

stephanie_bruner@hcpss.org

1266 Emmaus Road

Woodbine, Maryland 21797

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear council members,

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

Thank you,

Debbie Barlow

Social studies teacher

Hammond High School

Deborah Barlow

barlowhd@verizon.net

9357 Spring Water Path

Jessup, Maryland 20794

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Sincerely,
James Murray

James Murray
james_murray@hcpss.org
5885 Stearman Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dr. Mr. Kittleman,

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

Sincerely,

Jeanine Hintz

Jeanine Hintz

Jeanine_Hintz@hcpss.org

14073 Monticello Dr.

Cooksville, Maryland 21723

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Dear Mr. Kittleman and County Council Members,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Jennifer Coker

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Mr. Kittleman and members of the county council,

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

Sincerely,
Greg Walsh

Gregory Walsh
greg_walsh@hcpss.org

9684 Horsham Drive
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Good afternoon,

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

Sincerely,

Kathleen MacLaughlin

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Kind regards,
Jen Johannes NBCT

Jen Johannes
jennifer_johannes@hcpss.org
8213 Tyson Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

Thank you,

Tara Terry

FACS Teacher at FQMS MS in Howard County

Tara Terry

tara_terry@hcpss.org

13500 Tridelphia Rd

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Thanks for all of your help and support!

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Unterman

Howard County Resident of 12 years

Nancy Unterman

nancyu125@yahoo.com

5832 Shady Oak Ln

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

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

Thank you,

Taffie

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

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

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

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

Thank you,
Laura Swann

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Good afternoon,

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

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

https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/how-important-is-class-size-after-all/2011/07/11/gIQA9NUj9H_blog.html?utm_term=.24c064ed0831

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

Have a nice day,

Katherine Copanic

Teacher and Parent in HCPSS

Katherine Copanic

KATHERINE_COPANIC@hcpss.org

5008 Ravenhill Row

Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

Hello,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

Thank you- Kathryn Menne

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

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

Sincerely,

Amber Naden

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Council Members ,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Good afternoon.

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

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

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

Best regards,

Susan Garber

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration,
Kristin Yakas

Sayers, Margery

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

Councilmembers,

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

Thank you,
Jahantab

Jahantab Siddiqui

Chief Communication, Community & Workforce Engagement Officer

Howard County Public School System

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

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



April 5, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

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

Subject: Talbott Springs Elementary School Project Planning Timeline

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

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

For the TSES project, the following timeline occurred:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next steps include the following

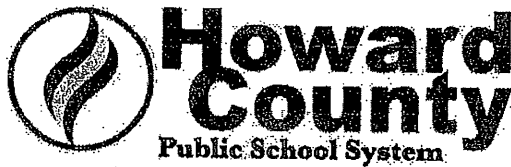
- Staff will continue to follow-up with the Designees on the issues identified in their letter, dated December 8, 2017.
- HCPSS staff will follow-up with the Public School Construction Program staff on April 12 to discuss results of the Designees meeting.
- HCPSS is able to request both State Local Planning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

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

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

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

Copy to: Executive Staff
Board of Education Office



February 8, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Mason:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Fred D. Mason III
February 8, 2018
Page Two

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

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

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

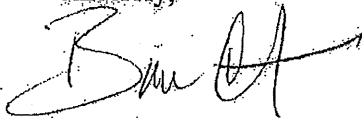
Although the existing facility received a "Good" rating in the 2013 PSCP Maintenance Evaluation and was appraised at a fairly high percentage, it received our highest rating of 121.8% on the Facility Condition Index. The partial renovation in 2000 included some partitioning (partial height walls) and "paint and patch" work but no systems were replaced. The systems are now over 40 years old and can no longer be maintained. The QZAB projects helped to provide much needed maintenance for the facility to continue to function.

The Talbott Springs Elementary School serves one of the County's most disadvantaged communities. It provides many resources outside the routine school functions such as collecting food and clothing and providing space for professional community liaisons and/or social workers. The existing building uses any available space, such as storage closets and teacher planning spaces, to provide these much needed services. A new, larger building would allow the school the flexibility to provide the spaces needed to deliver educational programs as well as the many additional services and resources needed to support the community.

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

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gist
Executive Director
Capital Planning and Operations

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Hello,

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

I support replacing this building.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jonathan Edelson,
Chairman Oakland Mills Board of Directors

Jledelson.omca@gmail.com

202-957-0000

Sayers, Margery

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

Hi Jen,

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

We will get back to you.

Cindy V

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

Cindy,

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

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

All the best,
Jen

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

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

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

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

Subject: Talbott Springs Replacement School Correspondence

Hi Mary Kay,

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

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

Warm regards,

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All the best,
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Email: JTerrasa@HowardCountyMD.gov

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Subject: Talbott Springs Replacement School Correspondence
Attachments: Talbott Springs ES REPL Feasibility Study Review Ltr SIGNED.pdf; Letter to Designees Addressing TSES Concerns.app.pdf

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Warm regards,

Cindy Vaillancourt



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

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

ROBERT A. GORRELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KAREN SALMON, Ph.D.
CHAIRPERSON

December 8, 2017

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

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

Dear Mr. Washington:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

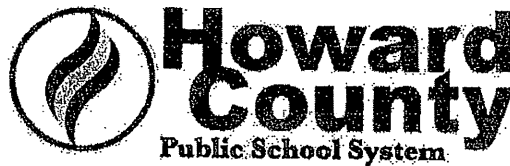
Sincerely,



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

FM/js

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



February 8, 2018

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MSDE School Facilities Branch Chief
Designee to the IAC
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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Mr. Fred D. Mason III
February 8, 2018
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As stated, the current enrollment for this transient population is approximately 500 students. The replacement facility is being constructed for the local capacity of 535 students which would address changing enrollment numbers. In addition, immersion classrooms are designed for an additional 85 students. This provides the new school with a total local capacity of 620 students.

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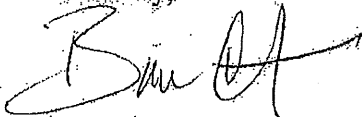
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The Talbott Springs Elementary School serves one of the County's most disadvantaged communities. It provides many resources outside the routine school functions such as collecting food and clothing and providing space for professional community liaisons and/or social workers. The existing building uses any available space, such as storage closets and teacher planning spaces, to provide these much needed services. A new, larger building would allow the school the flexibility to provide the spaces needed to deliver educational programs as well as the many additional services and resources needed to support the community.

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

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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Bruce Gist
Executive Director
Capital Planning and Operations

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Mollie and Brenton Nelson

--
Mollie Nelson

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

Talbott Springs needs a NEW building.

Thank you.

Marijane Monck

Sayers, Margery

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Erin M. Smart

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Thank you,

Katherine Adams

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager

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

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Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045

410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org



March 30, 2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Among the reasons for this recommendation are:

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

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

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

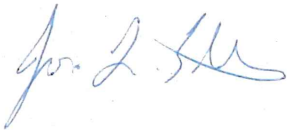
In addition to this shocking news about Talbott Springs, due to overdevelopment in other parts of the county, High School 13 has been fast-tracked and renovation and expansion of Hammond High School has been moved ahead of the Oakland Mills High renovation, even though Oakland Mills is an older school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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

Dear County Council:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kind Regards,

Susy Benavides
443-996-6673

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

CAPACITY AND OVERCROWDING

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

CONDITION OF SCHOOL BUILDING:

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

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

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

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

I am asking you as part of this year's budget process to take a serious look at the growing demands of this highly desirable school system and devise a feasible plan to fund all renovations and upgrades currently necessary, as well as build new schools, to meet our county's growing need in a timely manner. The education, safety and security of our students depends on it.

Thanks,

Michelle

Michelle E. Dunwoody, MS, BSN, WHNP-BC
Rear Admiral, US Public Health Service
Assistant Surgeon General
Chief Nurse
Health Services Division
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 1st St. NW, Rm 400
Washington, DC 20534
Office: 202.616-1965

***Treat employees like they make a difference and they will!*

***If you aren't at the table, you're on the menu...*



"This message is intended for official use and may contain SENSITIVE information. If this message contains SENSITIVE information, it should be properly delivered, labeled, stored, and disposed of according to policy."

Sayers, Margery

From: Yujun Mao <maoyujun@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2018 11:51 PM
To: allan_kittleman@howardcountymd.gov; CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org; BOE@hcpss.org
Subject: Centennial High School Concerns

Dear Executive Kittleman, Superintendent Martirano,

My name is Yujun Mao. A proud mother of two Centennial high school students. A Centennial High School two terms of PTSA BOD member.

It was great pleasure that I actually met and spoke to both of you by chance.

I met and spoke to Mr. Kittleman last May when you presented the Howard County Political Science Award of 2017 to my daughter. Thank you, Mr. Kittleman!

I met and spoke to Mr. Martirano this February 23 at Centennial High School Chinese New Year dumpling luncheon. Thank you Mr. Martirano for showing up and enjoy the delicious dumplings.

My whole family love and care our CHS community, we want our kids be sound and safe at school. I do have the following concerns, please take your time to read.

CAPACITY AND OVERCROWDING

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- Centennial has already registered 1618 students for classes, the same number we had for 2017/2018 school year. History shows that this number will most likely rise by 60 students prior to the beginning of the school year. Additionally, last year we had over 90 students register during the school year.
- We are currently just shy of 300 students over our stated capacity of 1320. The County's Jump Start program did nothing to resolve our over-crowding issues.
- We currently have 13 floating teachers and 145 sections of classes with 33 or more students per class.
- With the number of teachers our principal is being asked to surplus, Centennial will have many sections with a student to teacher ratio in excess of the recently approved 1 to 34 cap.
- Not only do we need more space, but we also need more teachers. We are slated to lose 4.2 staffing positions this upcoming year. This is not uncommon. Even though our enrollment increases Centennial does not receive the proper staffing. By way of example, for this current 2017/2018 school year, Centennial did not receive any staffing for its core academic classes for even though we have 100 more students from the previous year.
- We do not have the room in our gymnasium to hold even half of our students, so we cannot have any indoor pep rallies.
- Our Cafeteria is overcrowded and students often have to stand to eat their lunch.

CONDITION OF SCHOOL BUILDING:

- Centennial High school is 41 years old.
- We are in desperate need of a complete systemic renovation to replace the aging heating and cooling systems, upgrade the plumbing and electrical systems, supply new data technology and security systems, provide new interior finishes throughout the building, create ADA accessibility compliance throughout, repartition select areas of the school, and construct building additions as necessary to fulfill program deficiencies.
- The county has recently fast-tracked the renovation for Hammond High School which is the same age and footprint as Centennial due to over-crowding and yet they have 300 less students than Centennial which was originally on the 2020 capital improvement budget and is no longer on any capital improvement budget through 2028.
- The temperatures in our classrooms fluctuate greatly and parts of our system are so rusted the facilities personnel have a difficult time making any adjustments.
- We only have a 2 pipe system so unlike other schools in the county, our chiller cannot be turned on during the winter because it is so old facilities personnel are afraid it will freeze.
- We are the only high school in the county that does not have easily accessible outdoor bathrooms or drains in our field concession stand. We must empty buckets of water in order to use our concession stand sink.
- The number of school computers is woefully deficient, and the computers are embarrassingly out of date. We have only 28 computers per computer science class and yet the new class size is 34. Moreover, the computers we do have take over 7 minutes to boot up, a good indicator of exactly how old they are.
- We are out of space in our cafeteria and often have students standing to eat their lunches.

INCREASED BUDGET TO FUND NECESSARY MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO AGING BUILDINGS

- The Centennial parents are concerned that the school system and the County do not have a cohesive long-term plan for renovating and maintaining our older schools and building new schools.
- The school system is the bread and butter of the county and the reason people move here, thereby increasing property values.
- The rising number of students is putting a large strain on the system.
- Builders who wish to develop in this county should have to pay for the burden it will place on our school infrastructure.
- Developers in Howard County pay far less than those in Montgomery County.
- Centennial Overlook added 100 new homes to an already overpopulated school district. To date, 77 students from that development are enrolled in the Centennial district, 60 of which are at the elementary school level, which means these are young families will, in all likelihood, have additional children.
- Howard County is a wonderful place to live and a great place to raise our children and the education our students receive cannot be topped, but the environment in which many of our students are forced to exist day in and day out needs to be addressed.
- The class sizes are too high, the school buildings need major repairs and the equipment desperately needs updating.

I am asking you as part of this budget process to take a serious look at the growing demands of this highly desirable school system and accept responsibility for devising a feasible plan to fund all renovations and upgrades currently necessary, as well as build new schools, to meet our county's growing need in a timely manner. The mental health, safety and security of our students and teaching staff depends on it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Yujun Mao

Sayers, Margery

From: Temrah Okonski <okonskitg@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2018 10:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: About CHS- from a parent

3-24-18

Okonski
2 Students at CHS

To: The Howard County Council

I am writing as I am a concerned parent, and though I love and appreciate the HCPSS, I don't believe that CHS is being treated in an equitable way.

I do believe that CHS excels because motivated and hard-working families move into the CHS district because they want their kids to have the best. My family methodically chose a HS we respected and waited for one year to move into a house that was in the CHS school district.

Teachers love teaching at CHS because the students are inspiring. Why are the CHS students hard working, focused, respectful, and why do they succeed? Because we their parents are working to support them, encourage them, spend money on tutoring when needed, and helping expose them to all kinds of opportunities. Personally I am 100% exhausted.

So when I hear that school's whose performance scores are less than those at CHS are getting more than CHS in terms of renovations and teacher support I am **infuriated, disheartened, and confused**.

I do believe that all Howard County students deserve the right to excel but not at the expense of the staff, students, or parents of CHS. We deserve every modern amenity that any of our neighboring schools receive!

I understand that the underlying issue is money. Nonetheless, school renovation and student-teacher ratios **MUST** be **EQUITABLE**. Below are the issues I find most egregious:

- We are 22.9% over our stated capacity of 1320 students.
- We currently have 145 sections of classes with 33 or more students per class.
- We are slated to lose 4.2 staffing positions this upcoming year while our enrollment continues to increase.
- Centennial High school is 41 years old and we are in desperate need of renovations, and we are not earmarked for any capital improvements through 2028.
- Our technology is woefully out of date. We have only 28 computers per computer science class and yet the new class size is 34. Moreover, the computers we do have take over 7 minutes to boot up, a good indicator of exactly how old they are.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LISTENING EARS. I have confidence that you will help those empowered to make equitable and safe changes take the right action.

T. Okonski



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Keith & Maura Dunnigan <dunniganzoo@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 9:11 AM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Support and Fully Fund HCPSS
Attachments: Document6.docx

Dear County Executive Kittleman and County Council Members,

Attached is my testimony from last evening. While it was heartening to see so many people advocating for important programs in our county, I couldn't help but think who wasn't in the room. Not because they don't wholeheartedly support and want funding, but because they are working, taking care of their families, and some not even realizing the drastic effect that underfunding has on their family/community. I can personally attest to when there are long waiting periods at FIRN and not enough attorneys and trained personal for outreach, it devastates people's future. I think the point was well taken from so many giving testimony. How is it that in one of the richest counties in the country we are having to beg for services to educate our children equitably and provide relief for marginalized families living in poverty? We can and should do better. The disparities between the have's and have not's is only deepening and it's disintegrating our social contact to be responsive neighbors and caring human beings.

We look to our elected officials to ensure that our spending reflects our community values. Our revenue creation should reflect that as well. Thank you for all your service to our community.

With appreciation,
Maura Dunnigan

4808 Woodshire Garth
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Good evening, my name is Maura Dunnigan. I am a parent of 5 children in or graduated from the Howard county Public School System. I am a former special education teacher and as an educator who continues to work with vulnerable students, I want to first thank all the people who testified on behalf of minority and economically disadvantaged children. Keep amplifying those voices.

Equity, inclusion, diversity.

It seems like these are buzz words that we see on every bumper sticker, tagline, and stump speech.

These are foundational values of our school system and community. Yet in a divisive climate where bullying, hate crimes, and vitriol are pervasive.... The essential staffing requests from hcpss and the office of diversity, equity and inclusion have been cut. I am asking that we recognize and support this office with not just a buzzword, but because this is meaningful work that not only impacts our students but ripples out into our community climate.

You don't have to be paying close attention to have heard about the bullying that goes on, the incidents of racism that aren't just the ones that blow up on social media... but the ones that happen every day, like sharp paper cuts to our students of color. The school to prison pipeline that is all too real across our country. Look at the data and see the disconnect in who is teaching in the classroom and the faces of our students. Representation matters. It matters when kids see themselves in the curriculum. When they can relate to one another and understand that they are valued by each other, their school and community.

We are tasking this office to work on things like the opportunity gap, disparities in discipline practices, examining bias and eliminating hostilities that have been simmering for years yet keep bubbling to the surface in the ugliest of ways.

We cannot expect to build capacity for this work without resources. Can you imagine taking on the equity issues of an entire school system with a team of just 3? Training and supporting over 8 thousand teachers and staff? Facilitating meaningful dialogues with 56 thousand students and hoping that they will somehow connect and understand each other?

And yet they hear feedback from teachers like, “thank you for filling in gaps in history, that I had never learned, that led to systemic and structural inequities.” It gives perspective and context. Or from an African American teacher, one of few people of color who teach in the building, expressing how belonging and being valued is important, yet difficult and how that is magnified for students on the margins.

From students, saying that it meant so much to tell their story and be heard by classmates and teachers. This trust had to be developed to tackle problems.

Think these positions don’t directly affect students? Look around. Look at someone with a different colored tshirt, who might not share your same views. What if we stopped this meeting right now and spent time telling each other our stories, explaining our lived experiences, who we are? It’s harder to hate up close, or judge, bully, and disempower when we get to know each other. These are restorative practices that hcpss is facilitating. It is proactive community building, not reactive band aids to trauma.

Strong relationships are a security measure, not armed guards or metal detectors. Otherizing is toxic to our kids, schools and communities. We are thankful to have a superintendent that recognizes and values this and we ask support to fully fund hcpss and restore positions in the office of diversity, equity and inclusion.

We need to fund our priorities, not empty buzzwords.

Sayers, Margery

From: Kelly Balchunas <usf1998@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2018 9:25 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Public testimony at county executive budget meeting, 3/8
Attachments: CE budget testimony 2018-03-08.docx

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

I signed up online to provide testimony at tonight's budget meeting. I did not submit testimony online when I signed up as I did not know at the time what I intended to say.

But as I sit here tonight and the night wears on, I find that I cannot stay as less than half of those that signed up to testify have spoken. I have young kids and my husband tells me that they are waiting up for me.

Please see attached my testimony that I planned to provide tonight. As you can see in my written testimony, I find it hard to do what is "right" by my family by being with them, or being here.

Funding for HCPSS is so critical. I counted 5 teachers from my school alone tonight who are in the room. I fear that my written testimony carries less weight than my speaking in person but 137 people speaking is, at a minimum, 137 minutes x 3.

I thank you in advance for your understanding.

Sincerely,
Kelly Balchunas
President, Waverly Elementary School PTA

Good evening.

My name is Kelly Balchunas and I'm here tonight to advocate for every citizen of Howard County as I ask you to not only fully fund the budget request submitted to you by HCPSS but to also fund HCPSS above what has been asked for in their very bare-bones budget for the coming school year. Attending meetings is unfortunately becoming a more frequent necessity for me, and one that I don't particularly enjoy. Being here advocating for Howard County citizens, and especially Howard County children, means I am making a difficult choice.

Increasingly, I find myself having to choose between doing what's right for my family today – reading bedtime stories with my kids and kissing them goodnight – or doing what's right for my family in the future – attending meetings that take me away from my kids to fight for the education funding they deserve and need. It's overwhelming and exhausting for me, and for them.

I shouldn't have to detail why funding for HCPSS needs to be this county's top priority – YOUR top priority. But just in case I do, I will run through some reasons:

1. HCPSS is THE economic engine of Howard County. While the county government might like to think it is our beautiful parks, or the proximity to Baltimore and Washington, or other "quality of life" measures, people come to Howard County to enroll their children in the public school system, which has a REPUTATION for excellence.

2. The REPUTATION of HCPSS makes the county highly desirable for developers to build thousands of expensive new homes, which people are happy to purchase BECAUSE THEY THINK THEIR CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION.
3. The REPUTATION of HCPSS provides long-term Howard County citizens with a valuable asset, as residents sell plots of their land or their homes to people who are happy to make this purchase BECAUSE THEY THINK THEIR CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION.

As a parent and as a PTA President who is able to spend a lot of time in school, the actual REALITY is HCPSS isn't holding up to its reputation. And this is a problem. Each and every year I have seen teachers, students, and the school deal with unnecessary funding concerns that are negatively affecting HCPSS. And therefore, negatively impacting every Howard County citizen and every Howard County child. As an example, just today an HCPSS teacher said the following: "For the first time in my 17 year career in this county, teachers are going to lose their jobs. There aren't going to be enough vacancies for all the surpluses, and our young, non-tenured teachers are the most vulnerable. Teachers who remain will be asked to do even more with even less."

DOING MORE WITH LESS. TEACHERS ARE DOING IT. STUDENTS ARE DOING IT. IT IS NOT EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION. IT IS REALITY NOT HOLDING UP TO REPUTATION. IT IS,

HOWEVER, INCREASING CLASS SIZES FOR THE 3RD TIME IN 3 YEARS. IT IS TAKING A GIANT BACKWARD STEP BY ELIMINATING WORLD LANGUAGE FROM THE CURRICULUM.

The Spending Affordability Committee that was commissioned under your administration recently reported that Howard County has a revenue concern. But Howard County general fund revenue exceeded projections by \$59M in 2016, and \$29M in 2017. How was the surplus spent in those two years?

Wait until people decide that their children will receive just as good of an education in Sykesville, or Olney, or Frederick County, or Severna Park, all which have arguably tantamount “quality of life” measures and proximity to Baltimore and Washington. Many people moving here are highly mobile due to their education and careers. Howard County is their destination because of the school system.

But I have spent quite a bit of time recently looking into schools in neighboring areas and their standards and data and outcomes are comparable to that of Howard County public schools. If I’m doing the research, so are others. This is not hyperbole.

HCPSS says education funding has decreased 4% over the last decade – obviously this spans your administration as well as prior administrations. Your administration claims in some instances that education funding has held steady and claims in other instances that it has

increased. Data included in my submitted testimony demonstrate clearly that HCPSS funding was 56% of the overall county budget in 2012 and is only 52% of the overall county budget in 2018. If the portion of the overall county budget dedicated to HCPSS was still 56% instead of 52%, the school system would have \$43.9M more today.

I don't care whose statement is "right" regarding education funding. In fact, very few people do. Nobody has to be "right". But what is right is, funding HCPSS – and to reiterate – doing well by EVERY county resident who unquestionably benefits by the appropriate funding of HCPSS.

We are all highly aware that this is an election year, as are you. As our County Executive seeking re-election you have an opportunity to be the leader this county needs you to be. To be the individual who puts the brakes on the decline of HCPSS. It's what everyone wants. So please do it.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Scott <jen.e.scott@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 10:43 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: HCPSS and the Howard County Budget

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council Representatives,

I am very alarmed by the news reports about the Howard County Public School System budget shortfall of up to \$50M in the upcoming year. I am writing to urge you to fund the HCPSS at the level requested by the Board of Education- and even beyond. The BOE's own budget request includes a number of unacceptable compromises, including increased class sizes county-wide and the abrupt elimination of the world language programs in Title I elementary schools. (I am thankful they did leave teacher furloughs off the table, as this would be beyond the pale in my view.)

Debating how this situation came to be and where the fault lies may be important for avoiding this situation in the future, but it is an irrelevant distraction at this critical moment. As a county and a community, we absolutely must step up to fund the shortfall in our schools. We must make sacrifices in other areas of the county budget, increase revenues, whatever it takes. We cannot allow our teachers and our children, especially those who are most economically vulnerable, to bear the brunt of this budget disaster.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Scott
3792 Plum Spring Ln.
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Kirsten Coombs <Kirsten_Coombs@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 9:17 PM
To: Richard Kohn
Cc: Cynthia Vaillancourt; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Mr. Kohn,

Are you saying cut our GT Resource Teachers? At RB & WLMS, these educators do amazing things with our students, which I know occurs at all of our schools. They work hard to identify students for these opportunities. These pullouts offer creative ways of teaching core subjects.

Kirsten Coombs
Sent from my Board iPhone

On Mar 7, 2018, at 7:18 PM, Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms Vaillancourt,

Thank you for the explanation. I support the emphasis on equity, but I have mixed feelings about cutting teachers, especially in the Title 1 schools, to pay for the equity administrator. How would it go over to cut GT pullouts? The GT students are doing fine, but we know it is the lower income students who get cut because it is less unacceptable.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2018, at 7:01 PM, Cynthia Vaillancourt <Cynthia_Vaillancourt@hcpss.org> wrote:

I apologize for being dense- I am just not following the Spanish question. We are cutting something like 30 Spanish teachers - reassigning them to other positions, that become open as a result of normal turn over, or growth - the art and music teachers are already in the buildings on staff, but will have their schedules changed BACK to how they were before (and how the rest of the elementary schools operate). The total cost savings noted includes calculations for, I believe, an increase of 1.5 tech ed teachers to restore the tech instruction that was sacrificed for WL. The 2.6 cost savings for the suspension of wl in preK-6 is a net number that takes into consideration the other tweaks involved.

The positions included in the administration category have been changed via reassignments and returns to the classroom, but some of those savings have been offset by the new office for the Diversity and Inclusion office. All that detail is in there--- I am not sure whether the spread sheets you have posted here are the most current versions, or the pages from the budget book. If you have specific questions about particular positions, please let me know - or I can refer you to the public information office.

I think you are trying to imply that we have increased fat in the Central Office while cutting positions in the schools. I don't think that is the case - but if you have specific positions you think should be cut - please identify them.

sincerely,
Cindy V

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 6:28 PM
To: Cynthia Vaillancourt
Cc: akittleman@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Ms Vaillancourt,

I noted I the budgeted expenses that the lines with Administration in the title increased from last year's budget. 2018 is second last column, proposed is last column. If Admin was cut, where is that shown?

2nd question, why is Spanish more expensive than art, music, tech ed. These are usually expensive courses.

Thanks.

Rick Kohn

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2018, at 5:42 PM, Cynthia Vaillancourt
<Cynthia_Vaillancourt@hcpss.org> wrote:

I am sorry, Mr. Kohn, I really don't know what you are asking.

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To: Cynthia Vaillancourt
Cc: akittleman@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
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Ms. Vaillancourt,

Thank you for your response. Why does the top line of the Expenditures in Superintendent's proposed budget show about a

\$1 million increase under the title "Administration"? Has this been taken out? Also, Operating and Administration increased by \$3.5 million. Why is it so much more expensive to teach Spanish than music and art, or is it mainly recess that will be substituted?

Rick Kohn

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<Screen Shot 2018-03-07 at 10.38.36 AM.png>

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Dear Mr. Kohn,

Thank you for your ongoing engagement with the HCPSS and advocacy for disadvantaged and immigrant students. As it happens, the Board HAS moved numerous administrators back into classrooms, and cut the school administration ranks deeply in order to maintain as many programs and services as possible.

All of that information was discussed in great detail during the budget work sessions and can be found on line on the HCPSS website.

The Board has directed the Superintendent to restore class sizes for the entire county as the first priority in the event additional funding becomes available. That would represent roughly \$5.9 mil. In the event additional funding beyond that were to become available, perhaps the World Language program previously offered at only 8 of our 41 elementary schools (not even ALL of our title 1 schools) could be reimagined in a way that it could serve more students in a more equitable way. As it is, the current program of 30 minutes per day for 5 days per week, for preK -5 graders cannot be sustained.

It continues to be a priority goal of the HCPSS to provide world language to elementary school students in Howard County. The suspension of the current program will help make it possible to get the HCPSS on firm financial footing so that a better, more equitable, program can be developed.

In the mean time, all of the impacted students will be able to experience the full Art and Music

curriculum that was reduced in order to fit the 30 minute per day language schedule. They will also have more access to tech ed.. and possibly even more recess.

I encourage you to be in touch with your county government representatives during the next portion of the county's budget process and let them know where your priorities lie.

Many thanks,

Cindy Vaillancourt

speaking as an individual board member.

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 9:59 AM

To: akittleman@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert

Cc: Tammy Spengler

Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

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Cc: Tammy Spengler

Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 7:09 PM
To: Kirsten Coombs
Cc: Cynthia Vaillancourt; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Thank you. That is clear.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2018, at 6:23 PM, Kirsten Coombs <Kirsten_Coombs@hcpss.org> wrote:

Mr. Kohn,

There were moves to bring legal counsel in house and the Exec is where that and the new Rector of Diversity reside. It also reflects the transfer of positions into Exec.

As to your Spanish instructor question, yes, it is more expensive because we have to continue teaching music, art & PE. Those are mandated ES subjects. Spanish was in addition. It also reflects the fact that some sixth graders were taking a language, which wasn't uniform across Middle school.

I don't think any of the recess schedules are affected from I personally have seen at RBES.

Kirsten Coombs
Sent from my Board iPhone

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Expenditures					
Administration	\$ 12,210,506	\$ 12,342,223	\$ 13,582,729	\$ 13,240,748	\$ 14,204,273
Mid-Level Administration	56,055,050	58,497,662	59,654,568	62,488,043	62,425,700
Instruction	329,475,986	330,430,892	337,481,665	358,716,046	364,802,015
Special Education	91,193,981	93,423,761	98,652,503	104,727,030	109,405,224
Student Personnel Services	2,937,793	3,201,863	3,279,643	3,425,010	3,661,877
Student Health Services	7,103,773	7,728,496	7,890,221	8,235,796	8,973,884
Student Transportation	36,903,221	37,557,887	37,872,734	38,615,733	40,976,791
Operation of Plant	41,058,508	40,208,488	38,996,338	40,501,696	44,697,662
Maintenance of Plant	24,043,352	25,285,204	23,447,705	23,939,247	27,063,835
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FY 2019**Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget****Howard County Public School System***Executive*

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To: akittleman@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert
Cc: Tammy Spengler
Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 6:28 PM
To: Cynthia Vaillancourt
Cc: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Ms Vaillancourt,

I noted I the budgeted expenses that the lines with Administration in the title increased from last year's budget. 2018 is second last column, proposed is last column. If Admin was cut, where is that shown?

2nd question, why is Spanish more expensive than art, music, tech ed. These are usually expensive courses.

Thanks.

Rick Kohn

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2018, at 5:42 PM, Cynthia Vaillancourt <Cynthia_Vaillancourt@hcpss.org> wrote:

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<Screen Shot 2018-03-07 at 10.34.38 AM.png>

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Cc: Tammy Spengler

Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Sayers, Margery

From: Kirsten Coombs <Kirsten_Coombs@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 6:23 PM
To: Cynthia Vaillancourt
Cc: Richard Kohn; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
Subject: Re: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

Mr. Kohn,

There were moves to bring legal counsel in house and the Exec is where that and the new Rector of Diversity reside. It also reflects the transfer of positions into Exec.

As to your Spanish instructor question, yes, it is more expensive because we have to continue teaching music, art & PE. Those are mandated ES subjects. Spanish was in addition. It also reflects the fact that some sixth graders were taking a language, which wasn't uniform across Middle school.

I don't think any of the recess schedules are affected from I personally have seen at RBES.

Kirsten Coombs
Sent from my Board iPhone

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FY 2019

Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget

Howard County Public School System

Executive

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Cc: Tammy Spengler

Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

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To: Richard Kohn
Cc: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert; Tammy Spengler
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It continues to be a priority goal of the HCPSS to provide world language to elementary school students in Howard County. The suspension of the current program will help make it possible to get the HCPSS on firm financial footing so that a better, more equitable, program can be developed.

In the mean time, all of the impacted students will be able to experience the full Art and Music curriculum that was reduced in order to fit the 30 minute per day language schedule. They will also have more access to tech ed.. and possibly even more recess.

I encourage you to be in touch with your county government representatives during the next portion of the county's budget process and let them know where your priorities lie.

Many thanks,

Cindy Vaillancourt

speaking as an individual board member.

From: Richard Kohn <richardakohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 9:59 AM
To: akittleman@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; Kevin Gilbert
Cc: Tammy Spengler
Subject: [BoE Email] - HCPSS Budget

IndivisibleHoCoMD



March 7, 2018

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman
Howard County Council
Howard County Board of Education
Howard County Superintendent of Schools

We as members of Howard County Indivisible, Immigration Committee seek to support the County's commitment to create a more welcoming environment for immigrants. As members of this committee, we are deeply concerned about some proposed cuts to the Howard County Public School System budget.

The Superintendent has recommended eliminating the elementary school World Languages Program, which was piloted in several Title 1 schools. This program focuses on teaching Spanish language and Latino culture to elementary school students. Programs like this are essential to promoting cultural understanding among immigrants and native-born citizens, and to fighting hostility and xenophobia. In addition, providing this instruction and fostering inclusion and respect will help to decrease the achievement gap between races and income levels.

Cutting this program would be a travesty. Instead we suggest decreasing administrative personnel who do not work directly with students. We cannot pay for new administrative positions by cutting faculty who work with disadvantaged students. The populations that attend our Title 1 schools cannot afford to bear this burden for the county.

We urge you not to cut the World Languages Program from the elementary schools in which it is currently offered. If anything, this program should be expanded.

Sincerely,



Tammy J. Spengler

Immigration Committee Co-Chair
Howard County Indivisible
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Corey Bullock <coreyrbullock@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 1:05 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Cc: tee153@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for Troy Park as HS 13
Attachments: BULLOCK TESTIMONY.docx

Greetings

Please see our attached testimony in support of Troy Park for HS 13.

Sincerely

Corey and Tina Bullock
6291 Hanover Rd
Hanover, MD 21076

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Dear BOE members, Dr. Martirano, County Executive Kittleman and County Council,

Our names are Corey and Tina Bullock and we have lived in the Elkridge area for 14 years. We have two school-aged children who currently attend ELMS and EES. Not only do we live in Howard County, but Corey also works in Howard County. We moved to Howard County because of the excellent public school system and the diversity of our community. We have the greatest neighbors, close community ties and great relationships with the businesses here in our community. We've seen the growth of our community and immediate surroundings and support it all with great pride. Close by we have a new middle school and a new elementary school is on its way also. Even though our kids don't attend either of them, both schools are great additions to upper Eastern Howard County.

As you are aware, High School 13 has been a topic of conversation throughout the county for the last few months. This was preceded by the possibility of redistricting, which met with great resistance. The topic was tabled for discussion until the location of High School 13 had been put to rest.

While I live in the Elkridge area, I acknowledge - and it is very important for you to note - the location of High School 13 does not only impact Eastern Howard County or the Elkridge community. Building a new high school casts a wide net over the entire school-aged population and families in Howard County.

Please take into thoughtful and serious consideration the following reasons for building High School 13 at Troy Park:

- The Troy Park Site significantly lowers the staggering overcapacity percentages specific high schools are currently experiencing (i.e. Howard, Long Reach, Mt. Hebron and Centennial). Less redistricting will be needed if the high school is built at Troy Park.
- The Troy Park Site offers the cleanest elementary to middle to high school feeds, eliminating the need to separate children and families who have been in school communities together for up to nine years.
- Elkridge has experienced rapid over-development, due to its appeal for affordable housing in a highly desired public school system. In fact, in 2016, 1,980 public high school students were living in the Elkridge Community, more than enough to fill a high school!
- Troy Park should be constructed first based on the immediate need of the population. Mission Road should be land-banked. It is of the utmost importance to plan for the future now. As development continues, an elementary school, middle school, vocational center and/or High School 14 will certainly be needed.
- The "park" at Troy Park at this time consists of 3 completed turf athletic fields, a small playground, and plans for a community center. These amenities would tie in beautifully with a high school and create a green space that encompasses education, athletics, conservation and community service.

In regards to placing High School 13 at Mission Road, there are several logistical and safety concerns to seriously consider before casting your vote:

- The Mission Road Site is currently an active quarry and will continue to be one for at least the next 8-10 years. It has approximately 200 large trucks coming in and out of the property throughout the school day. Not only will these trucks contain dust, gravel and other flying debris, but will contribute significantly to the noise and air pollution that surrounds a school campus. Not to mention daily blasts (which though timed and are of short-duration) will significantly contribute to the increased anxiety of children in the general school population, particularly the students with autism and other special needs, causing unneeded interruptions in the school day for students, teachers and staff.

- Savage Stone, LLC (which owns the Mission Road site) has a documented history of Maryland Department of the Environment violations. While they have put best practices in place since these violations have occurred, it brings into question the continuing day-to-day diligence concerning environmental safety by quarry operators and staff.
- Plans for the Mission Road Site show no plans to place a fence or wall between the school site and the quarry. This is an extreme danger to students who wait after school for team practices, children who walk to school, and those individuals who may decide to leave the school property during classroom hours without permission (i.e, runners or just cutting class). It is also worth noting that the rock-loader at Mission Road is currently placed approximately 500 feet from the current sketch of the Mission Road site, as per the Office of School Planning.
- The Mission Road Site raises several red-flags for student safety and liability issues for the county and school board for the future foreseeable future. Questions to consider include, but are not limited to: After the quarry is no longer operational, what is to be done with the approximate 600 foot deep quarry pit? Will it be filled in? If not, will it become a large reservoir for water? If so, the pit could pose a water hazard to high school students wanting a little unsupervised swimming.

These are all important points for the BOE AND County Council to consider looking out into the future development of the Mission Road site.

It is my hope expectation as a resident, tax-payer, and voter in Howard County that the BOE, Dr. Martirano, and County Executive Kittleman will make the right decision and follow Howard County Policy 6000 and 6010, in regards to School Site Selection and Acquisition and do what is in the best interest of the children and families you pledged to serve in Howard County.

Thank you for your time, detailed attention and thoughtful consideration to this important matter.

Corey and Tina Bullock
Hanover, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Anthony Solo <tsolo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 1:05 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Cc: Anthony Solo
Subject: Build at Troy Hill testimony
Attachments: HS13 letter.docx

Dear BOE members, Superintendent Martirano, County Executive Kittleman, and Howard County Council,

We have attached our testimony on why we think Troy Hill Park is the better location for HS13. We understand that you all have a hard choice to make in the next few weeks. Please remember that Elkridge and Hanover areas have been asking for a high school for the last 50 years. The growth in these communities has been so large that it is time for a high school there.

However, the best solution to this problem of where to choose for the next HS is rather simple. However, the hard part is finding the funding from the state and federal government. That solution is build both High schools for both Communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anthony T. and Susan R. Solo
6394 Hanover Crossing Way
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear County Executive Kittleman, Superintendent Martirano, and Board of Education members,

Our names are Anthony and Susan Solo and we live in Hanover, MD. We are writing to urge you to put High School 13 in Elkridge. We support the Troy Hill Park site for the following reasons.

We have been Howard County residents since 2006. Part of the reason that we moved to this County was for the Public Education system. We heard from our realtor that this county's education system was one of the best in the country and doing some quick research then proved they were right. As time went on, we started seeing all the housing developments go in throughout the Elkridge, Hanover, Jessup, and Savage communities. However, what we did not see was the County Government, Board of Education and other county entities improving the infrastructure of the county, mainly the western side of the county, along Route 1 corridor. Elkridge and Hanover have gotten so many new residents, which means MORE students, in the last 12 years that we have been here. But, so has Jessup and Savage. Part of the reason is the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) of 2005 when they had Fort Meade scheduled to grow during the last decade. So, part of the solution to this problem is asking for more federal money from the Department of Defense and Department of Education due to the BRAC. We are sure there are grants that Howard County can apply for to receive money to build new schools. If more money is obtained, then build both areas a high school.

The several reasons Elkridge needs HS13 before Jessup is because our students are already in over-populated schools. We know that Elkridge Elementary has over 900 students from kindergarten to 5th grade. However, looking at other elementary schools in Howard County, it seems we are the exception not the norm. More students than the school can handle. Howard High School and Long Reach High school are also over populated. Re-districting every few years is ridiculous and only angers voters/citizens/parents of the County.

Transportation issues are going to be worrisome for parents that allow kids to travel from Elkridge/Hanover to Jessup, if Mission Road is the next high school and Elkridge/Hanover are re-districted to that school. Route 1 is congested and not the friendliest to new drivers, I-95 is extremely busy with all kinds of traffic during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Route 1 has not been improved to handle the increased traffic during these times. Additionally, the County has several areas along Route 1 that has semi-trucks and if Mission Road is picked, the county adds more buses to this traffic corridor. New housing, mainly apartments and townhouses, continue to populate the Route 1 corridor. When will the infrastructure catch up with the housing in Howard County?

Since we both come from Pennsylvania where there are school districts, we do not understand why Maryland does not adopt a similar plan to them. Maryland likes to have this whole county program. Why not try something new? For example, Elkridge Elementary, Duckett's Elementary and Rockburn Elementary can feed into Elkridge Landing Middle School then that feeds into the New HS13, if it is located at Troy Hill Park. Keeping this community together for the kids from 6th grade to 12th grade only makes sense. This is when children form long lasting friendship.

One reason to get away from a whole county school is snow days. Eastern Howard County may get slammed with snow, however, the Western side gets a small trace amount. Next thing we, the residents of school children, know is the whole county school system is closed.

The easiest solution to Howard County's problem of not enough space for schools is to build a high school for both Elkridge/Hanover area and for the Jessup area. Both areas need a high school! We understand the budget may not allow for this to happen, however, we are sure taxpayers in Howard County would appreciate the two new schools and continue to have the best school system in the country. What better way to showcase that, than having two brand new High schools!! This ties in with asking the federal government for more money through grants!!

The second solution is to start charging these builders a larger fee for continually adding more housing to an over-populated education system. The county's infrastructure is bursting at its seams. The county needs to stop allowing builders to build on any small plots of land until these larger issues are taken care of.

Please build where the kids are! Please build HS13 at the Troy Hill Park site!! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anthony T. and Susan R. Solo
Hanover, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Lauren Polon <lpolon4@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 12:54 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County School Budget

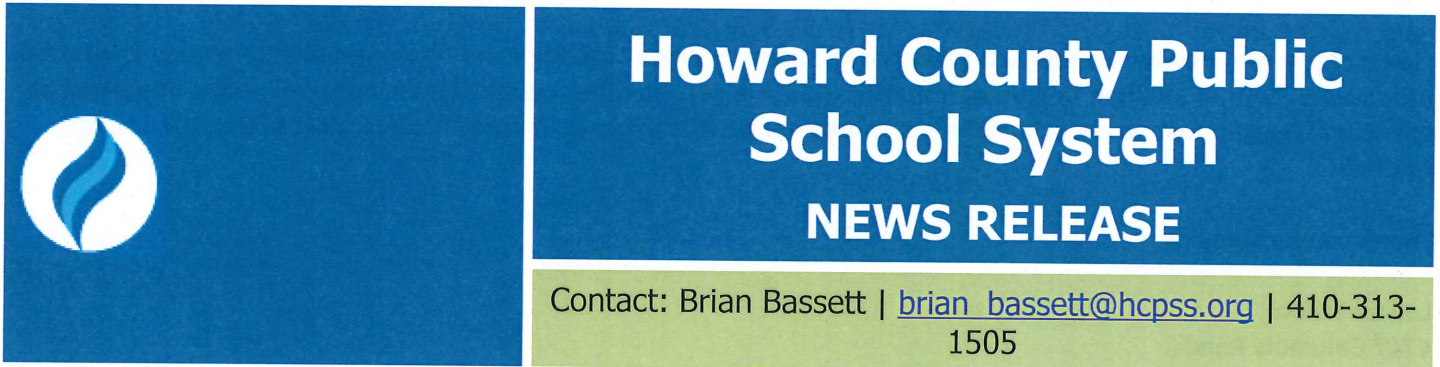
Mr. Kittleman and Howard County Council,

I am a resident of Howard County and parent of a student at Wilde Lake High and Dunloggin Middle. Please extend the proposed 52% HCPSS budget to at least last year's 58% budget. No other budget item in our county is as important as our school budget. Cuts to the school budget should not be cuts made to finance "luxury items" like bike lanes, for example.

Thank you for listening.

Lauren Polon
4747 Columbia Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

From: HCPSS Public Information <publicinfo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 10:12 AM
To: Press Release
Subject: BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS FY 2019 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET, AND FY 2020–2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REQUESTS



March 6, 2018

BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS FY 2019 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET, AND FY 2020–2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REQUESTS

Ellicott City, Maryland—The Howard County Board of Education last night adopted its Operating Budget Request for the 2018–2019 school year (FY 2019) totaling \$906.8 million. The amount requested represents \$87.7 million, or 10.7 percent, over the amount funded for the FY 2018 school year as well as an additional \$50.5 million request for one-time funds over the next several years. The recurring amount requested from the county is \$583.2 million, which is at the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) level. An additional request for county funding includes \$11.4 million in one-time costs needed for FY2019 as well as a \$50.5 million request from the county to address the Health Fund deficit accrued during FY2017 and FY2018. The HCPSS will work with the County to develop a multiyear plan to eliminate this accrued debt of \$50.5 million. The total request for state funding is \$249.3 million, an increase of \$10.7 million over FY2018. The remaining budget includes funding from Federal and Other Sources totaling \$12.6 million.

Several reductions were made to the Superintendent's Proposed budget to provide additional funding for employee health benefits, stabilizing the Health Fund by meeting the 85 percent required funding level from the school system. This full funding of health care costs will eliminate the structural imbalance while ensuring that the school system's debt will not increase beyond the amount accrued in FY2017 and FY2018. Reductions made by the Board include \$5.4 million to increase class size for grades 1–12 by 1, \$2.8 million in additional position reductions, \$2 million in funding for utilities, \$1.1 million in operations costs, \$1 million for various reductions in academics, \$2.6 million for the elementary and sixth grade world language program, \$700 thousand in funding for the technology plan, \$250 thousand for a proposed middle school athletic pilot program, \$200 thousand in Human Resources funding, \$198 thousand in Athletics funding, and funding for a Board attorney and Budget Analyst/Internal Auditor. The Superintendent's recommended budget had incorporated significant reductions in central office staff, particularly the elimination or

repurposing of 29 central office positions in order to better support schools. The Board also noted that should additional funding become available through budget savings or increases in county and state revenues, this funding will be used to restore class sizes.

Funding was increased to restore the full allocation of lunch and recess monitors. The budget also includes a placeholder of \$8.1 million for salary increases still in negotiations.

The Board also adopted an FY 2019 Capital Budget Request totaling \$79.7 million, a 2020–2024 Capital Improvement Program Request totaling \$517.4 million, and a 2019–2028 Long Range Master Plan of \$983.5 thousand.

The Capital Budget request includes funding for costs associated with locating and constructing a new 13th county high school, targeted to open in fall 2023; an addition to increase school capacity at Waverly Elementary School, scheduled for completion in August 2018; and the final phase of construction of New Elementary School #42, scheduled to open in Elkrige in August 2018. Additional funding is allocated for systemic renovations, which include replacements and upgrade of rooftops and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at several schools.

The Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program Request provides for an accelerated start date for the Hammond High School addition project, and reflects \$98.6 million in reductions for planned projects to accommodate projected county and state funding levels.

The Board will submit its budget requests to Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman on March 12, 2018.

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10910 Clarksville Pike Ellicott City, Maryland 21042 | www.hcpss.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Alexis M. McKenzie <amlaske@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 8:16 AM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Support to Raise HCPSS Budget

Dear Council Members and Mr. Kittleman,

I would like to express my support to raise the HCPSS budget back to 58% of the Howard County budget. I was impressed and in approval with stricter budget policies when the school system was lead by Dr. Renee Foose. At this time due to our change in leadership and more responsible spending I would like the budget to be increased. HCPSS is a wonderful part of Howard County and our children deserve better than increased class sizes.

Thank You,

Alexis McKenzie
5945 Meadow Rose
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: BVivrette <bvivrette@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 9:01 PM
To: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org
Subject: HCPSS Budget

Council members and Mr. Kittleman,

When people move to Howard County they move here for the educational opportunities. Let's stop using the school budget as a bargaining chip, and do what's right for our kids. We pay plenty of taxes for good schools, not overdevelopment. Developers should pay their fair share of fees for schools and public facilities. Please restore the HCPSS budget and make it a priority, same as you have fast tracked HS13.

Brian Vivrette
Elkridge parent

Sayers, Margery

From: Becki Vivrette <rvivrette@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 8:48 PM
To: CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: County Budget

Mr. Kittleman and County Council,

I am writing to express my sincere disappointment in the county's commitment to fully funding education. I moved to Howard County 5 years ago specifically for the school reputation, and between the school redistricting, HS13, and now, the education budget, I am beginning to regret that decision. The BOE is placed in an impossible position to fully fund our staff and programs when the education budget has been underfunded for quite some time. I am writing to implore you to restore the education budget to 58% as it was in the past, in order to fully support our staff and programs, and ultimately, our children and the future of the county.

When we will start prioritizing what matters? Education, safety, and community should all be number 1. Over-development, greed, and poor planning for our children only hurts us in the long run. I am scared for our family and what the future entails, as we live in the Route 1 corridor, and our voices never seem to matter.

I hope you will consider my points in your budget decisions this week.

Thank you,
Becki Vivrette

Sayers, Margery

From: Alison Hickman <alisonhickman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 11:30 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan
Subject: Preschool Program Funding

Good morning,

I am sharing some feedback that I believe is important as you contemplate the HCPSS budget.

I urge the group to fund **full-day** preschool for as many children as feasible.

I am concerned if there is only half-day preschool that it will not reach the students who are desperately in need of this program. I believe the half-day preschool is only reaching children who have one or both parents at home.

My husband and I are both working professionals who are far enough along in our careers to have a significant degree of flexibility. Even with that level of flexibility, I could not successfully make a half-day preschool program compatible with my schedule. I am fortunate to be able to pay for a full-day high quality preschool program. The only families I know whose children attend part-day preschools are those families with one stay at home parent. Even with transportation funded, part-day preschool requires coordination of two care providers within one day for a working parent, and is incompatible with the way daycares are traditionally priced at a fixed weekly or monthly rate.

The part-day preschool program as it is currently structured is nearly impossible for a single parent or dual working parent household to take advantage of. Please consider making full-day preschool a funded portion of the budget.

Thank you,
Alison Hickman]
6454 Red Keel
Columbia, MD 21044
301-580-5442
Clemens / Wilde Lake / Atholton

From: HCPSS Public Information <publicinfo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 8:43 PM
To: Press Release
Subject: INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTS PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2018–2019 ACADEMIC YEAR



Howard County Public School System NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Bassett | brian_bassett@hcpss.org | 410-313-1505

January 9, 2018

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTS PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2018–2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

Ellicott City, Maryland—Interim Superintendent Michael J. Martirano presented his [proposed budget](#) for the Howard County Public School System fiscal year 2018–2019 (FY 2019) during a special presentation to the Board of Education on Tuesday, January 9.

The FY 2019 budget proposal totals \$850.7 million and represents an increase of \$31.6 million, or 3.9 percent, over the FY 2018 budget. Of the total, \$594.5 million is requested from the County, which represents a \$10.2 million increase for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and \$11.4 million for one-time costs, including the first phase of a four-year plan to address a structural imbalance and deficit in the employee Health Fund.

“The budget proposal serves as a roadmap for educating, nurturing and providing the best start in life for our more than 57,000 children, and for taking care of the staff members who are entrusted with our students’ care,” said Martirano. “It expands educational opportunity and equity, and takes a collaborative approach to establishing realistic funding levels and addressing structural budget issues that have gone unaddressed for several years.”

He noted that the structural imbalance with the Health Fund as the school system’s biggest challenge. “If it weren’t for this deficit, developing the budget would not have been as challenging,” he stated.

The Howard County Public School System has been operating with a structural imbalance that has strained the overall financial footing since 2011. Martirano cited expanded programs, salary increases and the lack of comprehensive planning to develop a sustainable budget plan as

contributing factors to the \$22.2 million negative balance, which will grow this fiscal year by another \$28.3 million. "We must take ownership of the situation and reset our course to one that is fiscally responsible yet still advances programmatic priorities to make HCPSS a premier school system."

The proposed budget reflects a careful and incremental approach that puts in place a four-year plan to address the Health Fund structural imbalance and deficit, as well as four-year plans to address the shortage of nurses and the need for social workers and other student supports. Funding is also included for innovative new learning options, including the JumpStart dual enrollment initiative, career academies for Agriculture and HVAC, and a pilot middle school athletic program. It includes resources and services that are essential to achievement and well-being, such as daily access to nutritious food, social services and a high quality preschool program that is especially valuable in promoting school readiness for children who face poverty, language barriers and other challenges. It also provides for highly skilled staff and specialized services for students with developmental or intellectual disabilities, in alignment with the school system's new special education strategic plan.

The budget reflects the system's goals to align operations more closely to system priorities, direct maximum funding to schools and instruction, and maximize transparency and responsiveness. It incorporates \$4.1 million in cost savings through a comprehensive reorganization and recalibration of Central Office divisions to be more responsive, effective and efficient. Highlights of the budget proposal include:

- \$3.1 million in funding for new special education positions.
- \$4.2 million in funding to new positions to support the expected enrollment growth of 1,150 new students, staff Elementary School 42, and improve school-based student support services, including nurses and social workers.
- \$1.2 million for the JumpStart Initiative to expand dual enrollment for up to an additional 1,000 students.
- \$9.3 million for Operations and Technology to enhance indoor environmental quality and systems security, fulfill increasing transportation costs, and implement other essential projects.
- \$8.1 million placeholder for a salary increase for all staff.

"We cannot implement new programs, introduce new initiatives, or resolve structural issues overnight," Martirano stated. "The investments and strategies in the FY 2019 budget proposal reflect the priorities of our Board of Education and community. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration in enhancing the academic success and social-emotional well-being of every Howard County student."

The [Superintendent's FY 2019 Budget Proposal](#) provides greater detail than has been provided in prior budget documents, to ensure full transparency and facilitate the Board's deliberation and consideration. The full budget document is available [online](#) as well as a summary and budget process timeline.

The Board will hold public hearings on the proposed budget at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 30 and Tuesday, February 13. Work sessions will be held on February 1, 6, 13, and 15, all scheduled to begin 1 p.m.

The Board is scheduled to adopt its budget request on February 22 at 3 p.m., and to approve the final FY 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets and FY 2020–2024 Capital Improvement Program on May 31 at 9 a.m. All hearings, work sessions and meetings will be held at the Department of Education, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City.

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