

Sayers, Margery

From: Nastasha Knight <nastasha_knight@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:15 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: High Needs

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

I was just informed of the budget constraints and as a special education teacher I am in shock that this is even a possibility. I am fortunate to work with an incredible group of people who are determined to meet the needs of all of their students. However, if the staffing were to decrease and the class sizes were to increase I do not see how that will be possible. We currently need more staff to accommodate not only the academic needs of our students but the behaviors. It would be unsafe to have large classroom sizes and less staff in a building with students who have behavioral concerns. If I am dealing with the behaviors in the building I am now forced to work extended hours to complete my work in a timely manner. As we move forward with the discussion of budget, can we please keep the students in mind. They are the ones who suffer!

Nastasha Knight
nastasha_knight@hcpss.org
999 Winter Sun Rd
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Mandy Crawley <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:14 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Fully Fund the HCPSS Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to fully fund the HCPSS budget. I am a special educator at Gorman Crossing Elementary. It is a fantastic place to work and a caring environment for children to learn. We are at almost max capacity in our school building at 900+ students. Upon hearing about the possibility of larger class sizes due to an unfulfilled budget there was a lot of anxiety among teachers. A class with 26 kindergartners or 33 students in grades 3,4,5 would create undue safety hazards, an inability to individualize instruction and not to mention a problem with physical space to educate children comfortably. As a special educator who was told we are losing a special educator before all these budget talks, I am worried. I am worried that my ability to effectively provide supports and services will be hampered by a lack of staffing and a fully funded budget. I am worried that some of the neediest children in the building may be in an overcrowded classroom or in a gym class with 66 children. Not fully funding our budget means less teachers, but the catch is the number of students stays the same! It makes no sense when we are already at max capacity. We, in fact, need more staffing but do the best we can to educate all students and keep them safe. Please do what you can to make our jobs easier and the education of our kids matter.

Sincerely,

Mandy Crawley
Special Educator, M.Ed
Kindergarten/Second Grade
Gorman Crossing Elementary
Howard County Public School System

Mandy Crawley
mlw3157@yahoo.com
7824 Otterbein Way
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Sayers, Margery

From: Megan Hodgins <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:02 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Hello. I am writing as a HCPSS educator and parent of HCPSS students. I'm concerned about the projected cuts in staffing for our schools and cuts in budget of mental health programs in our schools. Our exceptional education system is a major reason why my family is moving from Carroll County to Howard County for our daughters to begin their educational career. I also struggle to understand how we as teachers can continue to meet the ever changing needs of our students if class sizes increase and support staff decreases. Our children are our future and these projected "solutions" cause more harm than good.

-A hardworking educator and parent

Megan Hodgins
megchory@gmail.com
10510 Hunters Way
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Suzanne Ludicke <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:51 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

As a current HCPSS educator for the past 16 years, I urge you to reconsider the current budget. Reducing the amount of staffing and increasing the amount of students in each classroom would be extremely detrimental to our schools. Cutting the mental health needs is very upsetting. HCPSS prides themselves on providing for our students academically and emotionally. How could we continue to provide for our students without the proper resources? This is unacceptable. I am a kindergarten teacher at CCES, and I am very concerned about the possibility of having up to 26 students in my classroom. Kindergarten is a place to build foundations and relationships. It is the beginning of the learning career. Class sizes should not surpass 20 in kindergarten so we are able to meet the needs of each child especially when the students enter the school and teachers are also learning what they need on a day to day basis. We have a lot of behavioral needs and if class sizes are too large, how we will effectively manage? Thank you for your consideration. Suzanne Ludicke, parent and educator in HCPSS

Suzanne Ludicke
suzanneludicke@gmail.com
11445 lager Blvd
Fulton, Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Mary Ann McCue <mary_ann_mccue@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:49 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

I am a kindergarten teacher and am very concerned with the increase in class sizes and the cutting of mental health support. I am noticing an increase in the need for social emotional learning to be focused upon in kindergarten. We need to be able to provide the support to students starting when they enter school. Early education lays the foundation for all learning in future years. It is crucial and necessary to have the support and resources needed in order for our students to be successful learners and well rounded social emotional needs met.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann McCue

Mary Ann McCue
mary_ann_mccue@hcpss.org
6331 Ema Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Marisa Kavka <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:51 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

As a staff member and as a parent in hcps I feel increasing class size would be detrimental to the success of our school system. Please keep in mind the health and well being of our children and staff.

Marisa Kavka
marisakavka@yahoo.com
10340 Maypole way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Lorna Walls <lorna_walls@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:57 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS Budget Needs

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

I am a parent of students attending public schools in Howard County and a Paraeducator in the county also. I am urging that HCPSS receives the funding necessary to run our schools effectively. As a parent, I have had children in this school system for 15 years. I am have been lucky that my children have mostly had smaller class sizes which has helped with their education. Being a Paraeducator, I see first hand how larger class sizes effects learning. Every class that I have assisted in has children who learn on different levels. My major concern is that the children who are not the top nor the bottom will suffer. It is too much to ask one teacher to educate 33 students who have a variety of learning abilities. My fear is that we will start to see more children fail. I hope that the future of our children will be put first and the additional funding will be granted. Thank you!

Lorna Walls
lorna_walls@hcpss.org
10114 Silver Twine
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Danielle McGee <Danielle_McGee@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 5:10 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Additional public school funds request

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

I work in one of the BEST county's for public education for our students. However, the lack of staffing and funds all go towards the number one goal of teachers and service providers- to give our children the BEST education they DESERVE! Please help us with extra funding to continue in our fight to provide our kids the appropriate education they NEED to thrive and change the world!

Danielle McGee
Danielle_McGee@hcpss.org
11940 Scaggsville Rd
Clarksville, Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 7:02 PM
To: Karah Palmer; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Rafiu Ighile; Sandra Austin
Subject: RE: [External] Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Palmer:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process on the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing. The public is able to submit written testimony until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at BOE@hcpss.org.

Once again, thank you for contacting the Board and providing valuable input.

Kind regards,

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

-----Original Message-----

From: Karah Palmer <knpalmer.palmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:26 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

Greetings,

As a Howard County resident and alumnus of Howard County Public Schools, I want to ensure Howard County children have access to high quality education.

I am writing to express my support for increased funding from the Council. Increased funding should support development of Black and Hispanic student achievement programs, expansion of mental health services and training, and additional staff positions in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the children of HCPSS.

Sincerely,
Karah Palmer

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 7:02 PM
To: Charles Koplik; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Rafiu Ighile; Sandra Austin
Subject: RE: [External] Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Koplik:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process on the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing. The public is able to submit written testimony until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at BOE@hcpss.org.

Once again, thank you for contacting the Board and providing valuable input.

Kind regards,

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

-----Original Message-----

From: Charles Koplik <cmkoplik@alum.mit.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 3:33 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

Hi,

I am a member of Temple Isaiah of Fulton, Maryland and have a grandchild in the HCPSS. Please ensure that there is adequate funding for equity in the HCPSS operating budget. Specifically, ensure funding for expansion of critical mental health services. There are literally lives at stake here.

Second, provide funding for Black Student Achievement and Hispanic Liaisons to support students and families and staff positions in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office to further implement the work. I recently participated with hundreds in the Howard County Courageous Conversations on Race & Religious Bias, and my subgroup (and others) was very focused on the public schools and the increasing and significant gaps present.

Finally, the development of a mandatory anti-bias curriculum was also seen as an urgent priority, by our religiously and racially diverse group. As a Jew, this strikes me as particularly necessary as the explosion of hate crimes and religious and racial intolerance make early education a critical need.

Chuck Koplik
617-571-8602

Sayers, Margery

From: Charles Koplik <cmkoplik@alum.mit.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 3:33 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi,

I am a member of Temple Isaiah of Fulton, Maryland and have a grandchild in the HCPSS. Please ensure that there is adequate funding for equity in the HCPSS operating budget. Specifically, ensure funding for expansion of critical mental health services. There are literally lives at stake here.

Second, provide funding for Black Student Achievement and Hispanic Liaisons to support students and families and staff positions in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office to further implement the work. I recently participated with hundreds in the Howard County Courageous Conversations on Race & Religious Bias, and my subgroup (and others) was very focused on the public schools and the increasing and significant gaps present.

Finally, the development of a mandatory anti-bias curriculum was also seen as an urgent priority, by our religiously and racially diverse group. As a Jew, this strikes me as particularly necessary as the explosion of hate crimes and religious and racial intolerance make early education a critical need.

Chuck Koplik
617-571-8602

Sayers, Margery

From: Karah Palmer <knpalmer.palmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:26 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Greetings,

As a Howard County resident and alumna of Howard County Public Schools, I want to ensure Howard County children have access to high quality education.

I am writing to express my support for increased funding from the Council. Increased funding should support development of Black and Hispanic student achievement programs, expansion of mental health services and training, and additional staff positions in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the children of HCPSS.

Sincerely,
Karah Palmer

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 6:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: General Ed Students w/issues

From: Joel Trumper <joel_trumper@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 6:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: General Ed Students w/issues

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Our mission as a school system is great. To achieve these goals, additional support staff are direly needed to aide seriously disruptive Gen Ed students. We need a behavior specialist and a team of dedicated assistants to transform our dysfunctional school climate. It is dysfunctional. I may be giving you a dose of unwanted truth... but this is the reality of whats going on in our "world class" Howard County school system.

There are lots of able-minded kids happily jumping around throwing erasers, knocking books off racks, calling out to interrupt lessons because admin says "don't send them to me," and too many are acting this way for one teacher to handle.

Come on! Either hire a behavior specialist for schools in need, or get guidance counselors and school psychologists to do more than have lunch bunches and write IEP's.

Joel Trumper

joel_trumper@hcpss.org

6575 Twilight Glow Dr

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 5:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: opal jones

From: Deborah Costley <debbie_costley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: opal jones

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

I am writing to ask for continued support of full funding for the HCPSS staff. As a paraeducator our salaries are among the lowest . Having lived in Howard County all my life it is a constant struggle to make ends meet. For example even though I live in HUD housing my bring home is far less than my monthly rent.

I have to split checks in half to make rent but always end up with late fees because rent is due by the 5th. Very often I work with other staff who work multiple jobs but based on my age and some health issues that is not possible.

Deborah Costley

debbie_costley@hcpss.org

3294 Corporate Court

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: increased revenue for our schools

From: Georgianne Mcneirney-Rewalt <georgianne_mcneirney-rewalt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 2:21 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: increased revenue for our schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Howard County is a sought after school system .Our students are tour top priority. Increased revenue is needed to keep our school system vibrant .

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for Education

From: Judy Brubaker <judy_brubaker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for Education

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Hello,

I want to express what I see as a need as a teacher and resident of Howard County. Our schools need the proposed budget fully funded to try to gain back what we have lost over the years. I have been a teacher here for over 30 years and a resident for over 10. The quality of education that my daughter is now receiving is lower than prior years. Many students' basic needs are not being met. We need more resources such as school nurses, social workers, counselors, special educators, one-to-one workers, and teachers. Class sizes need to be reduced to provide a better education. Materials need to be provided. Students often come to school needing pencils, paper, and organizational materials. Curricular materials need to be provided as well so teacher's have more time to provide instruction for students rather than running around finding materials and spending hours at the copier.

Teacher's also need to feel valued. By funding teacher salaries, medical coverage, building maintenance, and materials, you are sending a message that teacher's needs are being heard and are valued.

Please fund the budget for this coming year and in the future.

Sincerely,
Judy Brubaker

Judy Brubaker
judy_brubaker@hcpss.org

4550 Vinter Way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Programs eliminated due to budget

From: Jill Reynolds <jill_reynolds@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:15 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Programs eliminated due to budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

As you may be aware, a recent decision by Stephanie Milligan, Coordinator of Elementary Language Arts, to “re-purpose” Reading Recovery teachers and eliminate Reading Recovery, a twenty-year tradition in Howard County, was approved.

The result of such a decision is now impacting all Title 1 schools, where Reading Recovery is implemented. For the 2019-2020 school year, all Reading Recovery positions will be changed into a .5 Reading Specialist position. Due to the cut in Reading Recovery, my 1.0 position (.5 Reading Recovery and .5 Reading Specialist) will turn into a .5 Reading Specialist position. My principal, Derek Anderson, informed me on February 21, I no longer have a full time position at Longfellow Elementary due to this change. Longfellow will be short a .5 reading position. This is a reduction in staffing from the previous years. Cutting the reading positions at Longfellow means fewer students, who are reading below grade level, will receive additional support. School-wide 71 students at Longfellow Elementary are currently receiving additional reading instruction. This number includes some kindergarten and Special Education students.

Ms. Milligan stated she wanted to increase reading positions across the county. The repercussion of such a decision is decreasing support in the Title 1 schools, who have the most in need students. I agree students who need additional support throughout the county should receive help, but should that come at the expense of the neediest students? It doesn't seem logical. Reading Recovery is mandated to serve the lowest achieving first grade

students. What does seem clear is the need for more Reading Specialists while maintaining Reading Recovery in Title 1 schools.

Thank you,

Jill Reynolds

Reading Recovery teacher/ Reading Specialist

Jill Reynolds

jill_reynolds@hcpss.org

3606 Woodbine Road

Woodbine, Maryland 21797

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: For the safety of our students and staff

From: Cindy Wren <CINDY_WREN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:25 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: For the safety of our students and staff

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Hello,

I'm writing to you today with concerns about our staff and students. Howard County is known for it's wonderful Special Education programs. However, if the funding is not available for the programs and staff to run the programs, we will be in crisis. In order for the staff to teach, we must have the funding for additional staffing. This is not just a staff issue, but a safety issue. Please look at the program as a whole and support us with more funding for these programs.

Sincerely,

Cindy Wren

Cindy Wren

CINDY_WREN@hcpss.org

8113 Morning Breeze Drive

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 2:08 PM
To: patricia.lins@yahoo.com; CouncilMail
Cc: BoE Email; Louise Green
Subject: RE: [External] Latin American Council - LAC Testimonies this week on HCPSS Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Silva:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. All testimony has been posted in BoardDocs, and the Board appreciates your valuable input. Once again, thank you for contacting the Board.

Kind regards,

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

From: patricia.lins@yahoo.com <patricia.lins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 6:46 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Louise Green <lgpathiaf@gmail.com>
Subject: [External] Latin American Council - LAC Testimonies this week on HCPSS Budget

Hello, members of Howard County Council, and Board of Education:

Please consider the experience of LAC and our testimonies to the Board of Education Public Hearing on April 25th, for the work sessions Monday, April 29th, on Public Education. Find below attachments with our testimonies.

LAC supports Equity measures to close the growing achievement gap among minority student groups in our school system.

Thanks in advance,

Patricia Silva
LAC Co-President

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Louise Green; BoE Email
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: [External] Teen Interfaith Testimony 2/Mental Health

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Rev. Green:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. We have received your email with the student's anonymous testimony. However, only testimony with a full name is accepted.

Sincerely,

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

-----Original Message-----

From: Louise Green <lgpathiaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 5:10 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>
Cc: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Teen Interfaith Testimony 2/Mental Health

This comes from an Atholton HS student who wishes to remain anonymous, as written testimony for mental health services.

Thank you,
Rev. Louise Green
PATH

Sayers, Margery

From: Aimee Kandelman <aimee_kandelman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 1:21 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS Budget Needs

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Council:

I am writing to advocate for the increasing budgetary needs of the school system. This is my 16th year in HCPSS, and I have been commuting so that I can work here. However, what I observe is so distressing that I fear I may have to leave and I observe good people around me leave every year. One of the hallmarks of this school system was the class sizes ratio. Each year that class sizes increase and special ed staffing decreases (or at least, is not increased), I see our behavior data increase as well as the stress levels of staff. This is detrimental to student learning and untenable for staff.

The amount of time needed to stay in compliance on special education paperwork could be a full time job in and of itself, but teachers must teach! So not all things get done in a timely manner and that is also detrimental. The stress of not being able to keep up on a daily basis takes it toll. On paper, many salary levels appear to look good, but when you look at the hourly wage after factoring in all the overtime, the pay is actually not satisfactory, not to mention the deductions for out of pocket expenses to supplement instructional and behavioral initiatives.

Lastly, I am concerned about increasing safety concerns, not just resulting from inadequate staffing to address student needs, but also deferred maintenance of buildings that is sorely needed.

There are many priorities in the county, the school system is but one, but the education and safety of our children is absolutely paramount - and will only create additional problems if not adequately addressed.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and all the work that you do!

Aimee Kandelman

aimee_kandelman@hcpss.org

6907 Meadowlake Road

New Market, Maryland 21774

Sayers, Margery

From: Steven Lewis <steven_lewis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 1:09 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS BUDGET NEEDS

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for funding the HCEA negotiated agreement. I am writing to you in regards to the lack of overall funds that leaves gaps in several high need areas such as: additional staffing in special & general education, professional training, behavioral supports, and equity initiatives. We need your support to meet the needs of all our student's in the HCPSS.

Sincerely,

Steven Lewis

Sixth Grade SS Teacher

Mount View Middle School

Steven Lewis

steven_lewis@hcpss.org

7638-A Stony Creek Lane

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Deborah Vo <deborah_vo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 12:50 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: High needs in HCPSS.

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Council members,

Please know how important it is that in HCPSS we receive the recommended additional staffing in special & general education, behavioral supports, and equity initiatives. There is no way we can continue to provide the education our students need without this necessary funding.

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Beth Goodman <BETH_GOODMAN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 12:44 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Need funding for additional counselors at our school

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Hello All!

I am a teacher at Oakland Mills High School, and I love my job and my students. As you may know, from being in Howard County, we have many students at our school who experience trauma before they ever arrive at our doorstep. In order to teach our students, they need to be ready to receive instruction. Students who are experiencing trauma need more than teachers are able to provide in a classroom of 20-32 students. Even with additional training in how to help students who are experiencing trauma, we would not be able to meet these student's needs. Our school really needs specialized counselors available specifically to work with students whose personal lives require more than we are able to provide in a 55 minute class period.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth Goodman

Beth Goodman

BETH_GOODMAN@hcpss.org

8706 Yellow Bird Ct

Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Brian Donoughe <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 12:08 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Please increase the money going to HCPSS students.

Thank you

Brian Donoughe
bdonoughe@gmail.com
6171 Clearsmoke Court
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Colleen Morris <cmorris@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Council,

Last year the 11M that the County gave to HCPSS in one time funds was directed to rising employee health care. This is a reoccurring cost and thus, we need it again this year. Please try your best to, again, provide additional funds so that our BoE does not have to cut essential supports that will hurt our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Colleen Morris

River Hill

Colleen Morris

cmorris@hcpss.org

6432 Quiet Night Ride

Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Hamdorf-Torrens <JENNIFER_HAMDORF@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:30 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Help your teachers

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Please come visit our classrooms and sit down to talk with teachers about their needs (not a panel of selected teachers, a real, true, Q&A): 1) smaller class sizes 2) Less personnel at Central Office taking away funds from classrooms 3) updated technology 4) more flexible scheduling to allow for personalized learning models such as Summit Learning Program 5) more flexible scheduling to help middle school students navigate the new world they exist in. We cannot continue to exist on the funds we have; you are asking way too much of teachers. The burnout is real and the replacements are few.

Sincerely Jen Hamdorf-Torrens

Jennifer Hamdorf-Torrens
JENNIFER_HAMDORF@hcpss.org
3 Fairfield Drive
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Donna Cerbo <donna_cerbo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:22 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Fund our schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Please fund our schools so we can hire additional staff and supports for our students. Thank you for the funds for the negotiated contracts.

Donna Cerbo
donna_cerbo@hcpss.org
3005 John Bernard Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Roger Thibaudeau <Roger.Thibaudeau@howard-autism.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 6:57 AM
To: BOE@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Cc: Kathleen V. Hanks; Melissa Rosenberg; loriscottrn1@yahoo.com; superintendent@hcpss.org; Terrell Savage; william_barnes@hcpss.org; Patrick Boxall; lisa wilson
Subject: Work Session on FY20 Budget
Attachments: 20190429 - HCPSS Budget Testimony 2nd Letter.pdf; 20190121 - HCPSS Budget Testimony Letter final.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good Morning,

Please see attached a letter from the Howard County Autism Society regarding the special education portion of the FY20 budget. Our previous January testimony to the BOE is also attached to this email.

Yours Sincerely,
Roger Thibaudeau
Chair, Education Advocacy Committee
Howard County Autism Society



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

April 29, 2019

To: Howard County Public School Systems (HCPSS) Board of Education (BOE)
Howard County Council
Howard County Executive

CC: Dr. Michael Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent
William Barnes, HCPSS Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Terri Savage, HCPSS Executive Director of Special Education
Lori Scott, Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Chair

From: Education Advocacy Committee – Howard County Autism Society (HCAS)

Subject: HCAS Testimony Related to HCPSS Portion of FY20 Howard County Budget

References: (1) January 21, 2019 HCAS Written Testimony on FY20 Budget to BOE

Dear HCPSS BOE Representatives, Howard County Council Members, and County Executive Dr. Ball,

On behalf of the Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) and specifically its Education Advocacy Committee, I am writing to you today ahead of the upcoming budget work session to express our concern for the adequacy of funding for special education services in the FY20 budget.

The gap between what HCPSS believes we need and what the county believes we can afford is large. \$84,000,000 large. The budget put forth by the County Executive Dr. Ball provides approximately \$605 million for the school system, which is significantly below the BOE budget request of \$689 million, and even further below Dr. Martirano's initial budget request of \$723 million in County funds. It is clear that there is a lot of work ahead to finalize a school budget. While the school team goes back to look at places to cut, I also urge county leadership to look for ways to increase the proposed school budget so that we can continue to invest in our future in Howard County.

HCAS has long been concerned about the lack of adequate staff and training to serve our students in Howard County receiving special education services. That is why we stood in strong support for the special education portion of the budget request put forth by Dr. Martirano, Dr. Savage and their staff. Our January testimony (included with this submittal) details that support, highlighting three key areas:

1. The addition of key behavioral support positions
2. The increase in staff to support our K-12 students, and
3. The apparent shift from Temporary Employee (TE) positions to Student Assistant (SA) positions.

We believed all three of these helped to address the staffing and training gaps and positioned HCPSS to better handle the growing complexities of needs of the students and work towards the best practice of meaningful inclusion.

Providing Support • Promoting Awareness • Advocating for Change

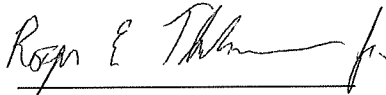
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410-290-3466 • www.howard-autism.org • info@howard-autism.org

Howard County Autism Society

Since that testimony, the BOE revision cut the special education additional staffing request nearly in half and, given the County Executive proposed budget, it is inevitable that the request will be further reduced. However, we fear too many more cuts in special education will severely hamstring the ability to make the needed improvements spelled out in the special education strategic plan and stunt our opportunities for improvement. As a county, it is in our long term best interest to give these students as many opportunities as possible to become supportive members of society. We can pay for it now, or we can pay for it later with higher unemployment and higher needs for community assistance as the population ages out of school.

Make no mistake, we understand that that fiscal realities of the county revenue sources do not allow for funding of the full budget put forth by HCPSS. We understand there will need to be more cuts across the board. And we understand there are many worthy programs that deserve funding. We just ask that our most vulnerable students, who have been marginalized in past budgets under previous school leadership, be taken into special consideration as new cuts are considered.

Yours sincerely,



Roger E. Thibaudeau, Jr.
Chair, Education Advocacy Cmte
Howard County Autism Society

Melissa Rosenberg
Executive Director
Howard County Autism Society

Patrick Boxall
President, Board of Directors
Howard County Autism Society



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

January 22, 2019

To: Howard County Board of Education

CC: Dr. Michael Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent
William Barnes, HCPSS Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Terri Savage, HCPSS Executive Director of Special Education
Lori Scott, Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Chair

From: Education Advocacy Committee – Howard County Autism Society (HCAS)

Subject: HCAS Support of HCPSS Budget Request Related to Special Education

Dear HCPSS Board of Education Representatives,

On behalf of the Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) and specifically its Education Advocacy Committee, I am writing to you today to express our strong support for the special education portion of the FY20 Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) Budget submitted by Superintendent Dr. Martirano.

As the county population grows, so too does the number of special education students being supported by HCPSS. The FY20 budget predicts 5500 students age 6-21, and over 1500 students under age 6 will be receiving special education services administered by HCPSS. For K-12, that is a 12% growth in just two years. For early intervention, that percentage is nearly 19% over the same two years. Along with sheer growth in numbers, we have also seen a rise in the complexity and diversity of needs of students across the county. When you add to that the effects of ineffective leadership and program underfunding in the previous HCPSS administration, the result is a critical shortage of resources supporting our special education students.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Dr. Martirano, Mr. Barnes, and especially to Dr. Savage and her team for working diligently to develop the budget we as a community requested; one that takes an honest look at what is required to properly support some of our more vulnerable students. This is what we have been asking for. This is what the system believes it needs to properly provide the Free and Appropriate Public Education that is an inherent right for each and every one of our students.

We would like to call your attention to three areas of the special education portion of the HCPSS budget:

1. *The addition of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and the behavioral support positions.* With increasing numbers of students, growing complexity of needs and the importance of proper behavioral interventions before escalation, it is key to get additional supports for staff. This provides key steps towards ensuring proper development of Behavior Intervention Plans

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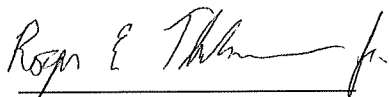
Howard County Autism Society

- (BIPs), training of staff on the proper implementation of BIPs, and ongoing, more frequent, review of BIPs.
2. *The approximately 139 additional special education staff requested in the K-12 grades.* This number is what is required to adequately cover the students currently in the system as well as provide the proper supports to those students. If we want to include our children in their home schools and have them benefit from learning alongside their peers, then we need to ensure they are properly supported. This staffing increase request is critical to providing the needed support for Grades K and above in our schools and ensuring the best practice of meaningful inclusion that was once a hallmark of HCPSS.
 3. *Included in the staffing plans both in early intervention and K-12 services appears to be a focus to move the 'TE' (temporary employee) positions to 'SA' (student assistant) positions.* While in some cases there is not a net gain in student supports, there is a long-term gain in the efficacy of those supports. We believe that by directly employing those who provide the day-to-day and hour-to-hour supports for our students we get the double-benefit of reduced turnover of staff as well as additional training opportunities that are not otherwise available with contracted services. This helps to address the areas of increased consistency and proper training that are highlighted as needs in the HCPSS Special Education Strategic plan.

Make no mistake. This budget request is a large number. However, the growth in the special education portion is an acknowledgement of the shortfalls we are facing in our current operational budget to address the gaps in resources required to give our children the proper education to which they are entitled. We also understand that this is only the beginning. With the growing staff comes the need for increased training, and we appreciate that training is a key performance indicator identified throughout the special education sections of the budget document.

Once again, we thank the HCPSS leadership for addressing the needs of our special education students in this FY20 budget request. We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts with Dr. Savage and all those at HCPSS who serve the special education community.

Yours sincerely,



Roger E. Thibodeau, Jr.
Chair, Education Advocacy Cmte
Howard County Autism Society

Melissa Rosenberg
Executive Director
Howard County Autism Society

Patrick Boxall
President, Board of Directors
Howard County Autism Society

Sayers, Margery

From: patricia.lins@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 6:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; Louise Green
Subject: Latin American Council - LAC Testimonies this week on HCPSS Budget
Attachments: Cesar Lucero BOE April 2019.docx; ThaisMoreira_04252019 BOE.docx; Patricia Testimony April 2019 BoE Edited Dora.docx; Fiorela Testimony April 2019-2 -Edited.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello, members of Howard County Council, and Board of Education:

Please consider the experience of LAC and our testimonies to the Board of Education Public Hearing on April 25th, for the work sessions Monday, April 29th, on Public Education. Find below attachments with our testimonies.

LAC supports Equity measures to close the growing achievement gap among minority student groups in our school system.

Thanks in advance,

Patricia Silva
LAC Co-President

Hello, my name is Cesar Lucero. One of the biggest needs that I find are communications between school systems and parents. It can be difficult for parents to get involved with their child's life if they don't receive or understand information from schools sometimes. For example, my oldest brother, class of 2014, had little to no help from my parents when it came to finding scholarships, what colleges to go to, or knowing what kind of opportunities he could have had if he worked towards something starting his freshman year. My parent's primary language is Spanish, their English is not the best. So, when it came to check up on how my oldest brother was doing, all that they really understood was to attend parent teacher conferences, it was good enough for them at the time. Needless to say, without that much guidance, he would only preoccupy himself with the grades. As long as he made sure his grades were fine, everything was okay. Until his late junior and early senior year, he realized what he had done throughout high school wasn't much to work with when it came down to finding scholarships and other opportunities for other colleges. Even when it came down to just applying for colleges, he had to figure it out himself. Even now as the third child, things aren't that much better. However, with LAC (Latin American Counsel), my parents and I did get better understandings of what was to come later on when I would reach senior year; the colleges, scholarships, and careers. But even then, accessing all this information still isn't that feasible, but it doesn't necessarily mean the information isn't out there, but it's not always communicated or reached. If parents could have all this information from various resources easily, they could play a huge role for their child when it comes to developing their future, instead of the child trying to do it all themselves where they could feel lost or not know what actions to take.

Cesar Lucero

April 25th, 2019

Dear HCPSS BOE,

Thanks for the opportunity to share my views about the proposed budget.

I am Dr. Thais Moreira and am a resident of Howard County Maryland. My son is enrolled in the HCPSS; he is the 11th grade at Centennial High School. Like lots of parents in our school district and some of the board members, I am an immigrant. I left Brazil to attend graduate school and adopted the USA and my home country.

Today I am here to discuss the enormous achievement gap present in our school. HCPSS does have an impressive 92 percent four year graduation rate; however, the graduation rate of Hispanic/Latino students is significantly lower. I want to remind the board members that 25 percent, of Hispanic/Latinos, dropping out of High School. Besides, of the students in English as a Second Language program, ESOL, of which Latinos/Hispanics are the majority, only a quarter finish high school. In my opinion, the BOE should be looking at this statistic with a sense of urgency to change the outcome. To borrow from the Black Life Matter movement: All students matter, all students. However, based on the BOE actions I cannot see that Latino/Hispanic students matter for you, we are invisible in this community.

The HCPSS does talk quite a lot about equity; HCPSS even has a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group. Again, I want to point out that when Dr. Martirano asked for TWO new Hispanic Achievement Liaison position in the budget he submitted to the BOE, you cut one position, there was a 50% reduction on the resources designated to help Latinos. It is not enough to talk about equity. The BOE needs to take budgetary actions which will reflect a preoccupation and commitment to decrease the achievement gap. If HCPSS believes in operating through the lens of equity, the number of resources designated to support Latino and Hispanic student's academic achievement must increase. The school cannot narrow the achievement gap without an increase in resources. To do so, you need to act. Your budget decisions cannot be made based on who is advocating the loudest but based on where resources are needed the most.

Our students have incredible potential; they are hard work, they have global awareness and, in most case, they are bilingual. My question for the BOE is what are your actions to decrease the achievement gap in the Hispanic and Latino students?

Dear Board of Education Members, Dr. Martirano, Students and Parents,

I would like to take a moment to thank our Board of Education members and Dr. Martirano for all that you do to strengthen our school community.

My name is Patricia Silva. I have been a Howard County resident for almost twelve years now. My youngest daughter is a 7th grader at Ellicott Mills Middle School. Tonight, I would like to testify as a Latino community advocate and to lay out my hopes as such.

This school year, I have been an engaged advocate and citizen of Howard County. Through volunteering in various advisory committees, I have learned that our school system is in “crises”. I have learned about the depths of the achievement gap among minority student groups and how community engagement influences accessibility to school resources.

Equity gap however is not a new concept to the Board of Education or to Howard County educators in general. In fact, equity gap is the big elephant in the room which folks from different venues hope will magically disappear if they avoid looking into its eyes. However, equity gap grows at an exponential rate, and has reached a point that people can no longer ignore it. What made it so easy then, in the past, for all of us to overlook this alarming situation?

Promoting equitable measures for our school system goes beyond the rush of “budget time”, when availability of funds, new positions justification, program cuts are discussed. Of course, all the requests you heard (and will hear) tonight are valid and genuine needs from the community. But when resources are as limited as they are now, how to prioritize it? That’s when the equity mindset should come into play, to seek the most critical needs and make efficient and measurable decisions on how to act upon them.

Many of the Latino students and their families desperately need assistance to be able to interact with their children’s teachers and school. Two more Hispanics Achievement Liaisons in our school system will be very welcomed. However, the Latino community’s needs are bigger than that. Many students are struggling with ESOL classes, as well as in English and Math classes. They need more computers, more counselors, and mental health providers. As a possible result of the achievement gap, the Latino population has the lowest rate of continuing into college after graduation. An assessment of community needs has been long overdue to identify and address equity gaps in our school system.

Times are different. The Hispanic population is one of the fastest growing minority in our country. Howard County demographics are changing. So did the face of the Board of Education after last election. In the face of all the challenges, I hope that this diverse BOE will make a bold move and be the lead on how to make a long plan to close equity gaps. To address these needs that have been neglected over the years, sacrifices will be necessary from everyone. Sacrifices which, in the long run, the entire Howard County community will benefit from.

Thank you for your time and for having this open dialog!

Patricia Silva

Dear Board of Education members and Dr. Martirano,

My name is Fiorella Camacho. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify. I have been living in Howard County for 17 years with my husband and children. We have one child who graduated from Centennial last year, my middle daughter is a Senior this year and my youngest is a 5th grader at Veterans Elementary School.

I am here tonight to speak on behalf of many Hispanic families and their children. For ten years now, I have volunteered with the Religious Education at the Saint John's Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Columbia.

This experience has given me the opportunity to interact with many families whose children attend different schools in our county. I can say that those families have lots of needs that range from getting basic information from the school system to receiving healthy lunches during the school year and Summer programs.

Many Hispanic families do not speak English. This makes communication with teachers very difficult. As a result, they do not know how to give extra support for their children to learn and get better grades. Additionally, most of the Hispanic families make a living out of low paying jobs, and to be able to afford to live in Howard County both parents must work seven days a week. That means their children are left at home alone, unsupervised or without transportation, eating unhealthy foods. Many times, childcare for Hispanic families means older siblings taking care of the younger ones.

Everyone knows that Howard County has good and competitive schools. The Hispanic youth are very smart, but they need extra help to catch up on English and Math. Private after-school courses are available in our county, but they cost too much money for the average Hispanic family. What happens to those children who cannot afford to pay for that? By the time a Hispanic teenager gets to High School chances are that he or she will have some academic deficiencies, they start to fall behind, and the next thing the parents see is their kids stressed, anxious and depressed.

I will finish by saying that Hispanic students and family's needs have not been addressed for too long. Hispanic families are hardworking people that pay their taxes. Many of them are immigrants who did not have the chance to attend college in their native countries. But they value education and dream to see their kids with a degree and a better future. It's the American Dream and we want to live it but need your help.

Fiorella Camacho.

Sayers, Margery

From: Louise Green <lgpathiaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 5:13 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Additional Teen Interfaith testimony, to BOE, cc to Council/mental health
Attachments: SKM_754e19042511400.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

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Respected School Board Members, Hello, my name is Ben Hult and I am a freshman at Wilde Lake High School and a member of the Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative Group working with PATH to advocate that the Board of Education earmark increased funds to expand mental health education and resources in the high schools.

Our Teen Interfaith group draws students from all over Howard County from different faiths, neighborhoods, schools and economic and social backgrounds, yet notwithstanding all our diversity, we all share the same very real concern about the increase in mental health issues affecting teens.

We have spent the past year sharing our own stories about friends, family members and many of ourselves who have experienced anxiety, mood disorders and depression. We stress about school work, grades, getting into college, social interactions, we stay after school for sports, clubs and the activities we want to join with our limited free time, then stay up late to get all our homework done, only to wake up incredibly early, very tired and lacking sleep to do this all over again. Add to it the pressures of social media and it is the perfect storm for many of us and our peers to develop mental health issues. We see it in the halls of our high schools every day.

Depression and anxiety have continued to increase among high school teens at the same time that funds and resources are being cut. The National Alliance on Mental Illness cites statistics that 1 in 5 students ages 13 to 18 have or will have a serious mental health illness; 20% live with mental health conditions with another 8-10% having anxiety disorders and behavior or conduct disorders, and many, many more cases go undocumented or are hidden by students afraid of the stigma or who just don't know where or how to find the resources.

Our guidance counselors do the best they can to help students deal with these issues, but they are already overloaded with all of the academic advising and scheduling they must do and in a school like Wilde Lake, they have the added workload of a large transient populations with students enrolling and leaving throughout the school year, coupled with students that experience housing insecurity and there are just not enough hours in their day or days in the week for them to also adequately help students that come to them with anxiety and/or depression.

We need more resources in the school and there must be resources in each school and better education and mental health checks by teachers or counselors when they see a student withdrawn or struggling.

Sayers, Margery

From: Louise Green <lgpathiaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 5:10 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Teen Interfaith Testimony 2/Mental Health
Attachments: April26TIIfinal.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

This comes from an Atholton HS student who wishes to remain anonymous, as written testimony for mental health services.

Thank you,
Rev. Louise Green
PATH

From a student at Atholton High School who wishes to remain anonymous

Earlier this year, I sat on the lobby of the guidance suite waiting for my friend who was talking with her guidance counselor about her friend who she believed to be suicidal. I sat in that chair gazing at the various college banners displayed around the room. On a bulletin board, my eyes roamed across the far too familiar "If you see something, say something" sign.

I scoffed--that sign hung on the obnoxiously bright butcher paper while my friend walked in teary-eyed to the office and approached the secretary, while she mustered about the courage to ask to speak to her counselor, it hung there while the secretary asked if it was really urgent, if she could come back later, her counselor was in a really important meeting, it hung there while she said yes it is urgent, it hung there as her counselor spoke with her about she shared her friends deep and troubling struggles, and it hangs there while she came out of the meeting still upset and at a loss as to what to do next, and it hung there while students are shuttled in and out for brisk and impersonal scheduling meetings, and it hangs in that room as students walk the halls overstressed, overtired, overworked, it hangs there while students feel alone and unimportant and unmotivated and small and confused and desperate.

We are letting our students down. We cannot afford to wait until it has gotten to the worst to start caring. We cannot put up posters with taglines and ask our students to compensate for the rest. For the lack of support and resources provided for mental health in our schools. We are addressing the issue in the completely wrong way. We do not neglect our physical health and hope it works out. We teach our students healthy eating habits, we sign our kids up for after-school sports and encourage playing outside, we have yearly checkups and physicals, we teach our students what substances are safe to put in our bodies, we brush our teeth, we wash our hair, we take vitamins. Why are we waiting until our students are dying?

Our mental health needs upkeep and care and love and support just like our bodies do. We have neglected our mental health for far too long and it is costing us the next generation. It is not only the students who have tragically taken their own lives, it is the students routinely forgetting their homework, always looking down in the hallways, it's the students falling asleep in class, procrastinating their way through the evening to avoid the overload of homework, it's the students scrolling and texting and tweeting and posting instead of talking, it's the students crying from stress, it's the students that resort to drugs and alcohol. There are students slipping through the cracks and if we do not act soon, it is going to be too late.

The students who are going to be the next innovators and thinkers and creators and move and shakers are breaking, we are burning out, we are falling, we are giving up, we are grasping for help and we need you. When we come to school we need to be supported and right now this comes in the form of as much funding as possible for mental health resources in the school system.

I have spent fourteen of my sixteen years in this county and I believe in Howard County, I believe in the messages shared by those in power in our community, I believe in strong public education, I believe in the meaningful relationships that I have built in this county, and I believe in the twelve years of learning and experience this school system has given me.

I believe that *you* care about us and our future before our grades and our scores. And finally, I believe that the funding implemented in this budget will have an impact. On the students. On their families. On our community. The amount of funding you choose to implement will determine what impact it will have. Thank you.

HoCo Teen Interfaith Initiative
A program of PATH

Contact:
Rev. Louise Green, Lead Organizer
Lgpathiaf@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Louise Green <lgpathiaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 4:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; Rev. Tyrone Jones; Paige
Subject: PATH testimony this week on HCPSS budget
Attachments: april25BOEfinal.docx; april24CCfinal.docx; april24CCTIIfinal.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello members of the Howard County Council, and Board of Education:

Please find attached the statement PATH made at the Board of Education public hearing last night, April 25.. We also testified at the Council hearing Wednesday April 24, and have attached these as well.

Thank you for your hard work on the budget. We send this as you prepare for the Education Work Session Monday am.

We urge you to keep equity front and center for HCCPSS students and their families.

Rev. Paige Getty & Rev. Tyrone P. Jones, Co-Chairs of PATH

Rev. Louise Green, Lead Organizer

People Acting Together in Howard, PATH,
An Affiliate of Maryland Industrial Areas Foundation
www.pathiaf.com
www.metro-iaf.org

Testimony on HCCPSS Operating Budget

By Guy Moody, Strategy Team

People Acting Together in Howard, PATH

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Good evening. My name is Guy Moody, a Strategy Team member of *People Acting Together in Howard, PATH*. I am a 42-year resident of Columbia.

PATH is a multi-racial, multi-faith, non-partisan, citizens organization rooted in local congregations and organizations. We are broad-based—organizing more than 20,000 strong—and are allied with many other County organizations on the issues we bring before you tonight.

Organizing for equity in the HCPSS is building, across the congregations of the Howard County Clergy Alliance we sponsor, and among groups with whom we stand: The African American Community Roundtable, the NAACP, Conexiones, FIRN, Latin American Council, Jewish Community Relations Council, Dar Al-Taqwa Mosque, and many others.

We are committed to quality educational opportunities for all of the students in our county. ALL children—including with low incomes, children of color, and immigrants—should get the benefits of the best education possible. We must level the playing field, and it must start with supporting the education of our children most at risk. Their lives are impacted right now, and the choices you make will affect their futures directly.

Children of color, immigrants, and low-income families, regardless of race, are among the most vulnerable in public education. Without proper support, they are more likely to be left behind, as statistics show clearly. The graduation rate of our Hispanic students in HoCo is decreasing right now. Our children of color, immigrants, Jewish and Muslim students report frequent racism and bias. Children living in poverty are 6 times less likely to graduate.

You have tough decisions ahead, and a collective bargaining agreement to honor. We know the budget process thus far leaves you with a shortfall. We ask you to make the moral and financial decision to support the children who are at risk, or left behind, time and time again. They and their families have waited long enough.

1. The proposed \$2.7 million to support students affected by **mental health and wellness issues** is critically important. We believe you must fund at the highest level possible here. Challenges in this area impact every single student. Immigrant children and children of color are both more likely to need support. You have heard multiple testimonies about the realities: the HCPSS mental health staffing is simply not adequate, and student and family lives are being damaged, even lost, right now.

2. Allocating **\$425,000 for 3 staff positions around restorative practices and diversity, equity and inclusion work** is a crucial step, and must be maintained in your final budget. It is not optional, it is the vehicle for change. This is the foundation for creating a more just system that understands impact on students at risk.
3. PATH members and allies are once again urging immediate and steady progress on the development of a **mandatory anti-bias training and curriculum**. We don't see adequate progress here, over several *years* of asking! This is critical in a time of rising anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and anti-immigrant bias in Howard County and the country. We will follow up with Dr. Gilbert and Dr. Martirano for concrete next steps, and resources needed here.
4. The proposed **\$2.5 million for equity in classroom technology** is only a start. HCPSS is dangerously behind the technology curve for preparing students with a 21st century education. For example: Title 1 elementary schools, all middle schools, and high schools must advance in allotting Chromebook carts for students needing computer access. We are glad some schools have them. Now, let's make sure all our children have the same advantages.
5. Finally, the **proposed \$520,000 to support minorities, international students, and students in poverty** must be funded. At the heart of this issue is the achievement gap. If you truly believe every student deserves to succeed, then those with racial, ethnic, economic, and immigrant challenges simply must be supported to achieve equity. For example: Fund 1 additional Black Student Achievement Program Liaison and 1 Hispanic Achievement Program Liaison as a bare minimum. We state this knowing that 2 positions do not nearly meet the need.

PATH leaders know well that you face hard choices. We also know that such choices often maintain the status quo, resulting in fewer advances and opportunities for those who need them most. Now simply cannot be one of those times.

PATH member institutions and allied organizations will work *with* you to change our educational system. We must start with issues of equity for all students. We will continue working for equity for all students, and concrete line item investment—this year, next year through the elections, and beyond. We ask that the Board of Education stand with us.

Thank you, Guy Moody for the PATH Strategy Team

PATH, www.pathiaf.com

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, lgpathiaf@gmail.com

My name is Sharon Shaw.

I am a member of the Strategy Team for *People Acting Together in Howard County*, and speaking for PATH tonight.

We ask you to consider the highest level of funding possible for our school system, in order to address long-time and persistent gaps in achievement, resources, and support systems. We stand for *all* of our students and want every child to succeed. PATH addresses social justice issues for those who are most marginalized and disenfranchised. Racial and economic equity in resources is a central value around which we organize communities.

PATH member institutions are asking the County Council to implement the most visionary funding the County can designate for our public schools.

We support Superintendent Martirano's decision to clearly lay out broad areas of need in his proposed budget for 2020. After meeting the obligations of negotiated contracts, and maintaining effort where adequate, these needs exist in many key areas. His proposed budget showed the gaps. Seeing this full picture allow us to move together towards remedies over time.

In this political arena of the County budget, a range of groups apply pressure, and there is a need to cover many bases. We understand that fully. The County Executive's budget balances a lot of competing interests, yet the Council may still raise the funding level for HCPSS. We view the world as it is and want to move toward the world as it should be. In that world of disparities, equitable is not necessarily equal. **Therefore, we call for bold funding decisions that benefit the students who most need resources.**

PATH priorities are in three areas where we know HCPSS wants to provide maximum changes to meet the gaps:

Our first issue is the equitable allotment and management of Title I school resources, particular in technology upgrades.

Not all schools are equal in Howard County, this we know. Those with the most diverse populations, and centralized in Columbia, operate with fewer resources. Many students do not have personal computers in their homes, and over 500 lack permanent housing at all. They need to receive updated equipment and technology that allow teachers to engage the minds of students with innovative programs and software applications. Every student deserves to experience and receive the exemplary standard of education for which Howard County is most known.

The second area is the expansion of critical wellness and mental health services.

Our congregations want to help end the stigma on mental health care and break the silence that can isolate and imperil students and caregivers. Adverse childhood experiences are the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today. Students exposed to a high number of traumatic events come to school frightened, angry, and depressed. Sadly, almost two-thirds of these young people do not receive the mental health services they desperately need.

I am a school counselor at Wilde Lake High School, so I hear daily about this situation. A number of students in my caseload are struggling with anxiety, depression, and other forms of mental illness that hinder their ability to be successful in and out of the classroom. Not all of my students have the means or transportation to access much needed mental health services.

School-based mental health providers can be the difference between a student's being home or in a mental health facility. To address fully the mental health needs of our student population, additional counselors and school psychologists are needed in our schools, with more referral coordination as needed. We need many more health providers in place.

Our third issue is providing ongoing training in diversity, equity and inclusion policies. As congregations united across many differences, we are working against racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-immigrant bias, and economic class tensions in Howard County. We want there to be adequate money available in HCPSS to expand important work in restorative justice, provide family and student support via BSA and Hispanic liaisons, and to develop the anti-bias curriculum we have sought for several years. We support the work of Dr. Keven Gilbert's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office in HCPSS, and believe this of vital importance to the future of our schools.

PATH leaders ask that the issue of equity stays central in public school funding. We want our County Council leaders to offer bold funding decisions that are both aspirational and just, as we work together for all student.

Thank you, Sharon Shaw for the PATH Strategy Team

www.pathiaf.com

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, lgpathiaf@gmail.com

Nashrah Rahman, Vaniya Khan
County Council Public Hearing -- 4/24/2019

My name is Nashrah Rahman, I'm a sophomore at Mt Hebron High School, and in the Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative, a program of PATH.

This evening I'm going to express our concerns regarding mental health in our County. As a teen in the Howard County public school system, we are constantly dealing with stress in order to balance all of our daily activities, such as school and homework, sports, playing an instrument, family, etc. In turn, this can negatively affect our mental health as we're developing both emotionally and physically, which can lead to bigger issues such as anxiety or depression.

We need to bring more attention to these issues, as they're more serious than the school system is recognizing. HCPSS needs as much funding as possible for mental health services.

We need to take action now, to help our students who are already battling poor mental health. When students don't have resources in school they can trust, it typically leads to them either bottling up their emotions or resorting to their friends for help.

There are a few problems with this: keeping to ourselves in times when we need support will only make it harder for us, and when dealing with a friend who is struggling with their mental health, realistically there's only so much we can do for another teenager. We're already dealing with our own problems by ourselves.

This is very common because a majority of students feel they can't go to their families when it comes to issues dealing with their mental health, so schools should provide that guidance for us. Some families don't really understand the matter, or they aren't willing to provide better help for their child.

Mental health is a silent problem that is resulting in losses of loved ones for far too many of us. It is time to abandon our ignorance and take action.

Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative
A program of PATH

www.pathiaf.com

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, lgpathiaf@gmail.com

My name is Vaniya Khan, I'm a sophomore at Wilde Lake High School, and also in Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative, a program of PATH.

Teenagers can be genuinely insecure and tend overthink everything. This is factor which impacts mental health incredibly. Even though the things we think about ourselves aren't necessarily true, once we convince ourselves enough, it seems like our reality. It is very challenging to change that mentality once you have it established.

Essentially, you become your biggest hater when you're depressed. I know from my own personal experience, and I'm diagnosed with depression. Around a year ago, my best friend was suicidal, and she told nobody but me. Eventually, our friends found out but didn't do much. I felt pressured to make sure she was okay at all times, and I was constantly living in the fear that maybe I would lose her sometime soon as she wasn't receiving the help she needed.

The counselors at our school checked her wrists for any scars, which she did have, and then sent her back to class. Had we had access to better resources in school, they wouldn't have brushed off my friend's obvious self-harm. They should have at least checked up on her more often.

I felt like I was responsible for her because nobody else, even adults, were acknowledging she needed help. I felt terrible, which then resulted in my grades dropping, I lost motivation for everything, and my relationship with my family wasn't the best either.

My point isn't to call out the guidance counselors. They just aren't effective enough since there are so many students in a school and such few counselors. We need to provide better funding for the sake of our students. Mental illnesses are a tough battle to deal with, and many people deal with them their entire lives.

If we work towards offering more effective mental health resources in schools, we can make our schools a more comfortable environment for students once again. We need maximum funding to expand the resources available at HCPSS.

Thank you.

Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative
A program of PATH

www.pathiaf.com

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, lgpathiaf@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Johnson <ljohnson@summerlearning.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 7:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for FY20 HCPSS Budget, Laura Johnson, parent and NAACP representative
Attachments: FY 20 Budget Written Testimony.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening Councilmembers:

Please see my attached written testimony in support of the FY20 HCPSS proposed budget.

Thank you,

Laura Johnson
6924 Little Brooke Ct
Elkridge, MD 21075

Written Testimony on the
Howard County Public Schools FY20 Proposed Budget
Laura L. Johnson, NAACP Howard County Branch Education Committee Chair
6924 Little Brooke Ct
Elkridge, MD 21075
April 24, 2019

As a mom of a seventh grade son at Thomas Viaduct Middle School and the Education Chair of the NAACP Howard County Branch, I strongly support the direction and priorities of the proposed FY20 budget for Howard County Public Schools (HCPSS) as presented by Superintendent Dr. Michael Martirano and adopted at the level of \$972.7M by the Howard County Board of Education. In the midst of very significant budget challenges, the increased County funding level of \$605.2M for HCPSS as released by Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball is a major step in our community's collective, moral imperative to invest in our children and their futures.

Some media news accounts, Board of Education members and community leaders have characterized the HCPSS FY20 budget as historical – and it is; ambitious – and it is. We've heard Dr. Martirano often say, "what gets measured gets done," and we've often heard community demands to see the Return on Investment on every line item. I offer today a slightly different perspective. In the words of Nelson Mandela: "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

Why wouldn't our investment in our Howard County children be historical or ambitious if we desire to sustain and grow an education system where teaching and learning is exceptional at every level and every child thrives – not just some and where the Return on Investment (not always so cut and dry) might be evidenced by:

- Investment in training and staffing that fulfills a vision around the best student centered practices that allow every student to graduate ready to succeed in the workforce beyond high school – not just the 93 percent of graduates we proudly tout
- HCPSS as the employer of choice in the country with the boldest, brightest and most diverse educators wanting to come here
- Robust early detection, interventions and staffing supports for students with unique developmental and intellectual needs
- Welcoming school environments where hate has no place and culturally diverse curriculum and staff as well as professional development practices help all students recognize their unique contributions to society, respect our differences and understand our connectedness as part of the human race
- The smart integration and access to technology that unleashes pedagogy to meet learners at every level and to prepare them for the radical developments in automation and artificial intelligence, for example
- No child going hungry or feeling stigmatized by poverty in the halls of any Howard County Schools
- Every student and their families feeling connected and utilizing mental well-being supports and services that help them manage stressors and live a healthy life
- Investments that do what's right by our children and their learning growth like aligning with the research that supports later start times for middle and high school students
- A reduction in the deep disparities in suspensions and expulsions for students of color, often disciplined more harshly than their non-white peers for the same infractions

It is our singular focus of the NAACP Education Committee to ensure that all students and particularly, historically underserved students, are on the pathway to college or a successful career by ensuring access to great teaching, equitable resources, and a challenging curriculum. With this goal in mind, we want to also make our position and priorities known and need our leaders to be transparent, fiduciary stewards in:

- ensuring district funding (per pupil spending) is fairly allocated to support our highest need schools in our community and that our investments align with the increased student enrollment that continues to grow in its diversity
- advancing the diversity, equity and inclusion professional development efforts at the administrative level along with services/programs supported by the Black Student Achievement Program and their growing portfolio of students that require their support
- easing overcrowding and recognizing the research that supports academic and social-emotional gains associated with small class size for the early grades and disadvantaged students

It is my firm belief that our students here in Howard County will make an indelible mark in this world – through your strategic, creative and equitable investment in their educational foundation. An exceptional education in Howard County is not optional...it requires exceptional vision, exceptional leadership, exceptional creativity and exceptional sacrifices. I urge the Howard County Council to reimagine ways to bring community stakeholders together to take a hard look at more creative strategies to address its budgetary challenges and to reimagine what an exceptional community of learners and leaders can do in this world with the right investment and public will to make HCPSS a beacon for the nation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Johnson

Sayers, Margery

From: Joseph Smith <jms92405@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY20 Capital and Operating Budget Testimony

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to support Jonathan Edelson's testimony regarding the Capital and Operating Budget for FY20 as it pertains to Oakland Mills. I support being proactive and preparing to address the deferred maintenance for Oakland Mills Middle and High Schools. We are very pleased to be a part of the Oakland Mills Village and look forward to our children attending these schools in the coming years. Many neighbors in our Thunder Hill neighborhood take pride in their homes, their schools, and their their community. Please help our schools by getting out in front of this much needed maintenance.

Thank you,
Joe Smith & Nikki Werner

Sayers, Margery

From: David Smith <acmdas@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2019 10:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Talbot Springs Elementary School

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am a Howard County resident and have lived for six years near Talbot Springs Elementary. I would like to add my voice to my fellow Oakland Mills community residents in encouraging you to provide the necessary funding to move ahead with existing plans to rebuild TSES.

David Smith
6146 Commitment Court
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: GWEN MARTINSEN <gwmartins19@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 7:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Talbot Springs Elementary

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I have lived in Oakland Mills for 15 years. A few years ago, I was attending meetings of the OM Board and was shocked at the Board's lack of ability to attain equitable improvement to facilities in OM. At that time, the TS pool needed improvements to its shower & rest rooms which the CA Board declined to fund to the extent needed and had no consideration regarding parity with other pools in the area.

It would be even more egregious and unfair to children and their families not to improve the elementary school to the extent needed and in a way comparable to improvements in other elementary schools.

This community strongly supported your election. It behooves you to pay attention to the needs of this often neglected community.

Thank you for your service and your consideration of the requests regarding improvements to TS Elementary.

Sincerely
Gwen Martinsen, Ph.D.

Sayers, Margery

From: Sheila Robinson <sheila_robinson@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 11:07 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: Support for equality extending to OM Schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council members,

I want to remind you that Oakland Mills children deserve equitable treatment, which includes facilities of similar quality to those recently constructed or planned in other communities.

Sincerely,

**Sheila Robinson
9430 Wandering Way
Columbia, MD**

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 8:26 AM
To: James Schatz; CouncilMail
Cc: Harris, Michael; Bailey, Najee
Subject: RE: OAKLAND MILLS ELEMENTARY

James,

I fully support the rebuilding of TSES!

Opel Jones

Councilmember, District Two
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
ojones@howardcountymd.gov
(410) 313-2001



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From: James Schatz <jrschat@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 12:42 PM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: KATHRYN Schatz <jrschat@gmail.com>
Subject: OAKLAND MILLS ELEMENTARY

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council,

I'm a 35 year resident of O.M. I have a vested interest in your attention to revisiting and voting for more money to go to the schools in Oakland Mills. They have been under funded and overlooked ever since I have lived here since 1979 and paid CPRA taxes.

I strongly urge you all to properly fund the much needed funds for Talbott Springs Elementary.

Sayers, Margery

From: Audrey Simmons <abmsimmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 8:56 PM
To: Jones, Opel
Cc: CouncilMail; Harris, Michael; Bailey, Najee
Subject: Re: Talbot Springs Elementary school

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Thank you!

On Sat, Mar 30, 2019 at 9:24 AM Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Audrey,

I fully support the rebuilding of TSES!

Opel Jones

Councilmember, District Two

Howard County Council

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

ojones@howardcountymd.gov

(410) 313-2001



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From: Audrey Simmons <abmsimmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 8:26 AM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Talbot Springs Elementary school

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning,

I am writing to ask for your total support for the rebuilding of Tallbot Sorings Elementary School. The school is over crowded and we can expect the numbers to continue to increase due to housing densities.

Sincerely,

Audrey Simmons

6528 Seapearl Ln, Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: James Schatz <jrschat@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 12:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: KATHRYN Schatz
Subject: OAKLAND MILLS ELEMENTARY

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council,

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 9:25 AM
To: Audrey Simmons; CouncilMail
Cc: Harris, Michael; Bailey, Najee
Subject: RE: Talbot Springs Elementary school

Audrey,

I fully support the rebuilding of TSES!

Opel Jones

Councilmember, District Two
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
ojones@howardcountymd.gov
(410) 313-2001



[Sign up for our newsletter!](#)

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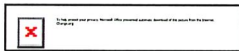
Sayers, Margery

From: mail@changemail.org
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 12:28 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: [BULK] 100 more people signed "boe@hcpss.org : High School #13- Why Not Here? Why Not Now? Why Not Jessup?"

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

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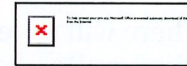
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New signatures

County Council – This petition addressed to you on Change.org has new activity. See progress and respond to the campaign's supporters.

boe@hcpss.org : High School #13- Why Not Here?
Why Not Now? Why Not Jessup?



Petition by Becky McKirahan · 100 supporters

100 more people signed

[View petition activity](#)

RECENT SUPPORTERS



Audrey Owens

Jessup, MD · Mar 01, 2018

I am a Mission Road resident and teacher in the Elkridge/Jessup area. I support the building of high school #13 off Mission Road b



Francisca Sarfo

Elkridge, MD · Feb 21, 2018

I am signing because it would prevent further overcrowding in our schools, and would boost property equity in our neighborhood.



Wayne Davis

Columbia, MD · Feb 20, 2018

The Mission Road site is a safe and cost effective location for the 13th high school.



Edwina Balentine

Clarksville, MD · Feb 12, 2018

Mission Road is the right place for a new high school in Howard County.



Annalisse Daly

Columbia, MD · Feb 08, 2018

There will never be a site that is 100% ideal, but I believe that the Mission Road site is a better option overall than the proposed Elkridge site, especially in the long term. If there is one of the negative aspects of the Mission Road site that is particularly objectionable to the committee, we simply want to have that objection stated openly so that everyone can discuss pros and cons, rather than deciding against it in closed meetings. What we are really asking for is transparency in the decision making process.

[View all 100 supporters](#)

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

On Change.org, decision makers like you connect directly with people around the world to resolve issues. Respond to let the people petitioning you know you're listening, say whether you agree with their call to action, or ask them for more information. [Learn more.](#)

This notification was sent to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov, the address listed as the decision maker contact by the petition starter. If this is incorrect, please [post a response](#) to let the petition starter know.

Change.org · 548 Market St #29993, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401, USA

Sayers, Margery

From: mail@changemail.org
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: [BULK] 100 more people signed "Howard County State Delegation: Protect taxpayer dollars. Charge developers market-based school surcharge fees."

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

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change.org New signatures

councilmail@howardcountymd.gov – This petition addressed to you on Change.org has new activity. See progress and respond to the campaign's supporters.

Howard County State Delegation: Protect taxpayer dollars. Charge developers market-based school surcharge fees.



Petition by APFO Reform · 100 supporters

100 more people signed

[View petition activity](#)

RECENT SUPPORTERS



Kristin Johnson

Ellicott City, MD · Feb 15, 2018

No more fees in lieu of. Developers need to pay their share. Representatives need to represent their constituents, but just the ones with deep pockets.



Nancy Carlsen

Columbia, MD · Feb 14, 2018

Developers who profit from their successes in our community should take a more proportionate responsibility for their impact on our community.



Mary Antonio-Pham

Ellicott City, MD · Feb 10, 2018

It is ridiculous to continue building in areas where schools are already overpopulated and where there isn't room to build a new school.



Tiffany Gaugh

Fulton, MD · Feb 05, 2018

My feeder school is overcapacity and development needs to take a break.



Helen Murphy

Ellicott City, · Feb 05, 2018

I actually read one planner's comment that downtown Columbia should have bad traffic to make it feel more urban. Ridiculous. Developers should provide funds to mitigate the traffic problems they're causing.

[View all 100 supporters](#)

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

On Change.org, decision makers like you connect directly with people around the world to resolve issues. Respond to let the people petitioning you know you're listening, say whether you agree with their call to action, or ask them for more information. [Learn more.](#)

This notification was sent to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov, the address listed as the decision maker contact by the petition starter. If this is incorrect, please [post a response](#) to let the petition starter know.

Change.org · 548 Market St #29993, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401, USA

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:43 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding

From: Jennifer Smith <jennifer_a_smith@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:07 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Christiana Rigby,

Good morning,

I hate that educators have to continue to grovel and beg for funding in this county in order to meet the growing demands. Howard County Public Schools are known for the quality of education. As the population increases, the staffing needs to increase too.

I would assume that County Council would support funding for the additional personnel, programs, and materials in order for Howard County Public Schools to remain the leader in education.

Sincerely,

JA. Smith

Jennifer Smith

jennifer_a_smith@hcpss.org

1158 Elm Road

Halethorpe, Maryland 21227