

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Xiang Yu <xyu307@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 1:25 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS education funding

[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 live in part of Howard county and my child attends Pointer Run Elementary.

With reason written below, I would urge the council to provide additional dedicated funding to the school system for agreed teacher salary increase so that current set of revenue increase can be used for increased school population without any program or teachers being cut.

I recently heard that BoE is short of school funding for the upcoming school year FY2020. The Superintendent was forced to make quite a few cut proposals on various programs such as music, gift and talented program or increase class size.

Reading through their budget cut proposal shared by a BoE member, I realized something quite disturbing.  
<https://chaowu.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/05-08-2019-Budget-Work-Session-Document.pdf>

Almost the entire school system's new revenue of \$35M for FY2020 is spent on 4% teacher past salary increase agreement (\$30M), where none of the new revenue is based on the salary increase but based on student population increase and other factors.

It appears that Country Council is not supporting BoE's past negotiated agreement with teachers. Clearly BoE has no taxing power to control the revenue. So without extra revenue to support teacher's salary increase, the only way is to cut other part of operating budget, which already have to cover for inflation and student population increase.

Unfortunately, from the amount of 4% teacher salary, it appears that teachers salary total is over 600M, which would be more than 2/3 of entire FY2020 budget. To cover the 4% increase here would be much greater percentage cut in other much smaller parts of budget. For example, I can see in proposed cut

1. Reduction of elementary GT teacher by 50% and middle school by 66%
  2. Reduction of elementary music teacher by 50%
  3. Reduction of elementary technology teacher by 33%.
- etc. etc

While it might be hard to imaging the impact of reduction of music and technology teachers, Elementary GT is a bit easier to figure out. Most elementary GT is towards GT math, where in Pointers Run, 50% of student of 4th-5th grade attend GT math. Assuming they are the students with better math and only 57.5% of all elementary student are proficient in math, just imaging what would happen to the proficiency rate if GT math is cut 50% because of lack of GT teachers.

From what I read and experienced

- a) We are having a good growing economy right now,
- b) Trump tax cut should resulted in more state and county level tax revenue because state standard deduction is much

lower than federal standard deduction, which many tax payers will now take and then have to take the much lower state standard deduction.

Under such good economical condition, does our teacher still need to lose their jobs and our per student spending(outside teacher salary increase) actually decrease with many programs cut?

I don't think the council can claim to be supportive to education of student when a lot of program and teachers got cut even with minimal budget increase to cover increased student population. A teacher won't be able to teach 4% more students with same quality just because he/she got a salary increase of 4%.

I would urge the council to provide additional dedicated funding to the school system for agreed teacher salary increase so that current set of revenue increase can be used for increased school population without any program or teacher being cut.

Thank you for listening.

--Xiang Yu

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Amanda Reyes <radnama@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 11:30 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please 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.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

My name is Amanda Reyes, and I am a resident in Howard County. There is a reason that Howard County ranks in the top counties to live in the country.

That reason is the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). It attracts a diverse range of people and businesses to settle into the county, which creates a richer experience in every sense (not just economically). The education my children receive in this school is more than "facts and figures." Their lives, including their mental health and resilience, is vastly improved by the involvement of the Music, Technology, Gifted and Talented, and paraeducator staff that may need to be slashed if the HCPSS budget is not fully funded.

Please fully fund the HCPSS Budget. I know you can find a third way.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Reyes

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Simon Plunkett <simon.plunkett1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 11:09 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Music Education in HCPSS

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

Dear County Council Members,

We are writing as parents of two children in the Howard County Public School System to express our dismay at the proposed cuts to programs offered by HCPSS, particularly the proposed cuts to elementary school music education. As one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, where residents pay high taxes to support public services, it is appalling that such cuts are being considered. Howard County rightfully boasts of its excellent school system as a selling point to attract new residents and to retain those who already live here. This hard-won reputation risks being lost if we do not maintain a diverse and rigorous academic program in all subject areas. Music education in particular is a foundation for so much other learning in both the arts and sciences, and by itself is a vital part of educating well-rounded students to be both college and career ready.

The Board of Education and the County Council must find a way to fund important programs in our public schools this year, and must secure funding for those programs in future years to protect them against drastic cuts. To do otherwise would be a dereliction of duty and a violation of the public trust placed by citizens in their local government.

Sincerely,

Simon Plunkett & Jenifer Kirin

[simon.plunkett1@gmail.com](mailto:simon.plunkett1@gmail.com)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Japjit Sidana <japjit\_s@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:49 PM  
**To:** BoE Email; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Sandeep Sidana  
**Subject:** Concerned about proposed budget cuts

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

To Board Members and County Executive Calvin Ball

I am writing as a concerned parent of one, and soon to be two, students attending Pointers Run Elementary School. I have heard and read about the new budget proposal put forth by Dr. Martirano for the upcoming fiscal year 2020. I was quite surprised and disappointed that there are significant cuts to our school budget being proposed, including GT teachers, technology, and music arts, as well as proposals to expand the class size. Our schools are the roots of our society including of our economy. The curriculum at our school fortunately has been robust and competitive, being able to effectively engage our children and help them be successful. I'm afraid that cutting back on the specialized and experienced staff in our schools and adding more burden in the way of additional curriculum and students to our home room teachers will have a definite negative impact on children's' education. This is a feeling that is shared by the many parents with whom I have discussed this issue. I urge you to not to approve the budget cuts to our education being proposed and preserve the quality of our education.

Japjit and Sandeep Sidana

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Steve Luke <steve.luke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:59 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** GT program cuts

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

My wife and I moved to this county specifically for the high quality public education. My children are both in GT at Clarksville Elementary School and have received excellent education from Mr. Bob Schwab and Mr. Weisskind. My wife and I consider the GT program and the overall quality of the public schools here to be the primary value our family receives for our taxes and high property prices relative to other counties.

I am disappointed that despite living in one of the richest counties in the world, we are at risk of losing important educational opportunities for our children. I am confident that education is a top priority for many residents in this county. I worry that cuts to education could cause a downward spiral as motivated families seek cheaper housing elsewhere for comparable educational programs which could result in lower property values and lower tax revenue. I request that you creatively consider alternatives to these planned cuts. If there is anything I could do to help please let me know.

Steve Luke  
5804 Silent Sun Place  
Clarksville Maryland

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:40 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: School overcrowding

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**From:** Kristina Mcdermott <kmcdermott4@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 5:41 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** School overcrowding

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

Opal Jones,

My child entered Kindergarten in the 2018/19 school year into, what I was told was the “greatest county school district in MD” and “top 10 in the nation”. I have involved myself in daily activities at his school and have the privilege to help out in various classes. 21 kindergartners with just 1 teacher is a difficult task and without a full time aid, I’m in awe of what our teachers can accomplish, but the children don’t often get the one on one time that is so vital for young children. Adding extra students into these classes is going to make teaching and learning a nightmarish situation. I understand budgets, but when we live in a county that provides as much tax revenue as we do, one would think that our children would be the last’s to feel budgetary implications.

Kristina Mcdermott  
kmcdermott4@verizon.net  
13448 Long Days Ct  
Highland, Maryland 20777

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:39 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Budgetary cuts

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**From:** April Cooper <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 6:59 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Budgetary cuts

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Sir and Ma'ams,

Please reconsider the proposed budget cuts. We are new to Maryland and where we moved from had a maximum class size of 18. We purchased, and pay extremely expensive taxes, solely for the reputable schools. We will move to Anne Arundel County and pay for private schools if the schools are not properly funded. Please recognize the importance of funding our schools adequately.

Best Regards,  
April

April Cooper  
april.cooper1@yahoo.com  
3267 Fox Valley Drive  
West Friendship , Maryland 21794



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:39 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Furious!!!

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**From:** Leah Poe <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:04 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Furious!!!

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

Opal Jones,

I am a product of the Howard County public school system...we bought a house in the county JUST for the schools and great teachers. My sons school (Elkridge Elem) is already so over crowded, and I'm furious to hear about the teacher cuts and the schools study body getting larger. This makes no sense. I volunteer in the classroom just because his teacher has so many kids (21) and to know that it's going to get larger is not acceptable. His teacher is so relieved to know that I'm coming in, and I help so much with giving attention to the kids. Where is all the money going??? Get it together and get your priorities straight, Howard County leaders!!!

Leah Poe  
ladyleah0303@yahoo.com  
5713 Leaf Lane  
Elkridge, Maryland 21076

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:39 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Budget cuts and class size

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**From:** Jennifer Herson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:31 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget cuts and class size

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

Opal Jones,

Please re-evaluate the decision to cut the school funding budget. We must retain talented teachers and keep our class sizes more manageable to ensure every child in Howard County gets the education they deserve.

Jennifer Herson  
jen.herson@gmail.com  
6344 Gray Sea Way  
Columbia , Maryland 21045

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:38 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Keep class sizes LOW

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**From:** Jhonna Seifert <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:58 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep class sizes LOW

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

Opal Jones,

Education is first! Everything stems from our education system, but with raising class sizes it hurts instruction and feedback. Students need individualized instruction, which will be too hard if class sizes go up.

Jhonna Seifert  
jhonna27@hotmail.com  
7095 Copperwood Way  
Columbia , Maryland 21046

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:37 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Best Schools in the State!

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**From:** Lindsay Edmonds <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:34 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Best Schools in the State!

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

Opal Jones,

Hello!

My family stretched our budget as far as possible and made sacrifices to move into Howard County- just for the schools! Giving our kids the best education we possible can is absolutely my top priority. Every time budget cuts are made to our public school system our children suffer. My home state is Oklahoma, one of the worst states in the nation in education. I am happy to pay more than twice the cost of living to be here, but I don't want to see the prioritization of education slipping further over time. Please keep investing in our future the most important project you work on!

Thank you,  
Lindsay Edmonds

Lindsay Edmonds  
lindsay.renee.edmonds@gmail.com  
2380 Ballard Way  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042-1780

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:36 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS Budget

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**From:** Amy Ashmore <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:40 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget

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

Opal Jones,

Good morning,

I am writing as a parent of two elementary age children. I am very concerned about the inadequate funding of the HCPSS budget. With such a budget shortfall, it is likely that the Howard County Board of Education will raise class sizes at all levels. Larger class sizes will result in lower achievement for our students. I moved to Howard County so that my children can receive the same quality of education that I received when I attended Howard County schools. I vote for council members based on issues around education. Providing for our schools should be the number one priority. I urge you to increase the funding to the HCPSS.

Sincerely,

Amy Ashmore

Amy Ashmore

sewwrapit@gmail.com

2892 Florence Rd.

Woodbine, Maryland 21797

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Neela Penmatsa <connectnow10@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Howard County School Music Programs Budget Cuts

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

Dear Elected Howard County Council Member(s):

I am aware of the May 8, 2019 memorandum, that is available [here](#), to the Members of the Board of Education from Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D. Superintendent with the Subject: FY2020 Operating Budget Revenue Clarification and Potential Savings. Thus, showing my support to provide atleast the required FY2020 funding or more favorably increase the funding to appropriately align with the growing demands in the field of music. It is apparent from schools through out Howard county the time, after school hours, meetings (PTA) and new initiatives put forth by the teachers/staff requesting contributions, donations, and school related purchases (Spirit Wear t-shirts, mugs, etc..) from parents every year as the current funding provided is simply not enough. The consideration of possibly reducing staff, combining strings/band programs, increasing class sizes, and the imbalance of teacher to student ratio to cut costs outweigh the benefits gained from supporting a program that is struggling with insufficient funds. Furthermore, the instrumental role music plays in kids lives shaping their future as well benefiting the economy when hiring for jobs, the additional softer/finer skills learned that education alone can't provide, and equally important the ample amount of research that has advocated the direct relationship between music and academic success cannot be overlooked, which the council is well aware off. Sharing a link discussing music facts <https://nafme.org/the-tremendous-cognitive-benefits-of-teaching-your-kids-to-play-music/> . Eagerly awaiting a final decision from the respected council for a decision that will keep children as the primary focus as there are other alternatives that can be pursued.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Respectfully.

"When words fail, music speaks" - SHAKESPEARE



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:21 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Budget Cuts & Class Size Increases

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**From:** Adam Herson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:19 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Budget Cuts & Class Size Increases

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

Opal Jones,

David Yungman,

Please re-evaluate the decision to cut the school funding budget. We must retain talented teachers and keep our class sizes more manageable to ensure every child in Howard County gets the education they deserve. I am a registered Democrat in the state of Maryland, and I vote in every election.

Adam Herson  
aherson2931@gmail.com  
6344 Gray Sea Way  
Columbia , Maryland 21045

Adam Herson  
aherson2931@gmail.com  
6344 Gray Sea Way  
Columbia , Maryland 21045

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:18 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HoCo School Budget

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**From:** Kathy Broughton <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:21 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HoCo School Budget

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

Opal Jones,

Hello,

We have three young children and five years ago we specifically moved to Howard County because of the reputation of the school system. We love our elementary school -- Dayton Oaks is an incredible school with exemplary staff and resources. My children have thrived.

I am shocked and worried to learn that because of budget decisions positions at the school may be cut next year, resulting in larger class sizes. As it is now, classes are way too big! I am sickened to think that my child (or any child!) may end up in a classroom with 30 other children. Focus, productivity, learning, and behavior will all be impacted given the overwhelming number of students the poor teachers will need to manage. How are we ever to expect the very best in our teachers and students given a situation of having to manage 30 children every day? As it is now, classes are too big! And the solution is to make them even bigger? Shame on you.

This decision is particularly frustrating considering how affluent our county is. How is it even possible that we are in a position where decisions are being made that impact our students? They should always be the priority and all other budget decisions should come second. Perhaps consider cutting positions in your own office first.

Remember that you are elected officials. Howard County is full of passionate parents who turn up when it's time to vote - recent changes to elected positions on the Board of Education are

evidence that we follow through with necessary change if students and teacher needs aren't put first.

Please reconsider what could be a disastrous decision. Classes need to small and manageable!!

Kathy Broughton

Kathy Broughton

kathy\_broughton@yahoo.com

14204 Pioneer circle

Glenelg, Maryland 21737

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:13 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Howard County School Budget

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**From:** Jackie DeBella <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 10:01 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Howard County School Budget

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Respected Members of the County Council ,

I have lived in Howard County and paid taxes for over 20 years. It is very disheartening that now that I have a kindergartener the budget is possibly being cut. My children are the future and deserve the best the county can offer.

I am a teacher in the county and have only had the privilege of working at Title one schools. I can tell you first hand the impact of teaching in an overcrowded classroom. It has been so joyful being at my current school with normal classes sizes thanks to the addition of Hanover Hills. My own children attend Hammond Elementary and the school is older. An increase in class sizes will overcrowd their small classroom. This will impact the quality of their education as there will be a lack of personal and instructional space. In addition , increased numbers add to the teacher workload . I want the teachers at my children's school to not be overwhelmed . They need time to help every child to be successful .

I have been recently been made aware of the possible cuts to the music and the GT programs . I have been an elementary strings teacher in Howard County for 13 years . So now in addition to worrying about my children's future , I have to be concerned with a severe loss of income if my program is reduced . This is how I pay my son 's medical bills. He has epilepsy. Please consider that these decisions impact real human beings . Dr. Ben Carson stated " The choices we make are long lasting and life changing " .

I know there are teachers at each school that have already been informed they will be let go if

the budget is not passed. The teachers at my children's school are like family to me . I don't want anyone to leave. They go above and beyond everyday . I don't want any of my co-workers to be let go. I don't want my fellow GT and music teachers to be let go. These teachers are the heart and soul of Howard County .

Please reflect carefully on restoring the budget and putting human beings first - our children , our teachers , and our future. Think about that special teacher who made you the person you are today. Reflect on what is needed to properly educate our youth in terms of class size and facilities. Your team has the power to do the right thing.

Thank for your consideration to these concerns.

Sincerely ,

Jackie DeBella

Mom of Nico and Francesca

22 year resident of Howard County

Teacher

Jackie DeBella

[jacquelyndebella@yahoo.com](mailto:jacquelyndebella@yahoo.com)

7913 Hammond Parkway

Laurel, Maryland 20723

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 5:06 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Public School Cuts

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

From: Linda Engle <piggywinkle964@me.com>  
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 2:13 PM  
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
Subject: Public School Cuts

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

Hello Mr. Jones,

I would like to express my concerns regarding Howard County Public School's potential program cuts due to the \$30 million deficit. Historically, our county has had one of the top public education systems in the country with diverse programs. We have lost this status over the past few years and are currently not even top rated in the state. I am alarmed at the proposed solutions to the deficit. Elimination of teachers for programs such as band, technology, GT does a disservice to our children. I am appalled that our county is not exploring other resources to address this problem. Please figure out another way. These teachers and staff are necessary for the well-being and educational enhancement of our children.

Thank you,  
Sarah Madison

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:58 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Budget concerns

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**From:** Rachel Tarp <rachel.tarp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 5:10 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget concerns

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

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to you in regards to the possibility of cutting music teachers, GT teachers, and raising class sizes. As a Howard County parent of two elementary aged children, I am begging the council members and HCPSS administrators to find alternatives to meeting the vast shortfall we are facing. While I feel that this discrepancy in funds is due to poor growth management on the part of the county, it should not be our students who suffer at the hands of overdevelopment. I feel that cuts should be made at the administrative and district levels well before teachers.

My third grader has personally benefitted from being a part of orchestra and several GT programs this year. She has said that these two opportunities have been the best part of her school year. Please do not take these experiences away from our children.

Howard County's stellar reputation is on the line, our children's futures are on the line. We as a community are counting on you to find solutions to KEEP TEACHERS' JOBS IN PLACE and DO NOT raise class sizes.

Sincerely,

Rachel Tarp

Dayton Oaks Elementary Parent

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:55 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: class size increase / loss of teachers

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**From:** Christine Kaiser <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 5:26 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** class size increase / loss of teachers

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

Opal Jones,

Dear BOE

I've learned from being in HoCo that there is a lot of change and growth. And that one of the biggest businesses are the schools. There is an increase in student number and therefore cutting jobs for teachers confuses me. Also, one of the keys for a good school system is reasonable class size, which I think we have. I'll admit if you go from 25 to 30 students that might not be so bad, but if you get rid of aids and other support for teachers then it becomes a problem.

Consider other cost saving methods. Look at costs of printing cards such as the ones for the GT program and simply pass out certificates; they don't need to be placed in a folder. Go a lot more paperless then the schools are; etc. Everything the schools currently due cost money. Could you save 500K? more?

I'm coming from a school system that would ask for paper donations so that elementary school kids could get some handouts and activities. This is an example of a poor school system. HoCo is at the top extreme of spending. Get creative and maybe instead of cutting jobs with an increasing student body you can keep teachers and programs.



From what I know about the health care you offer you are overpaying for benefits. When a teacher thinks going to an eye doctor and paying \$160+ for an eye exam is normal, maybe it is time to look at a different health care provider.

Finally, transportation costs -- what a mess. I don't know if it is better for the county to run the bus companies instead of contracting out (I've lived in smaller districts that thought it better to run the busses themselves). But, maybe pack the buses as much as possible because by Spring there are a lot more kids driving to school then in the Fall. I've also heard situations where parents may be somehow using someone else's address and that means more students getting on busses when maybe they should not be on that bus.

Also all the after school activities means the buses are more empty then the morning. Not sure how to get creative on saving costs. Don't cut bus driver salaries we need good drivers (I'm not sure I could handle the noise level on a school bus).

This country relies too heavily on increasing property taxes to run the county. Time to really look at where the money is going.

Ultimately more tax dollars should be spent on education not other aspects of running a country

Christine Kaiser

Christine Kaiser

kaiserchris13@gmail.com

10137 Maplewood Drive

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:54 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Concerned Parent

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**From:** Maria Rocco <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:00 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Concerned Parent

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

Opal Jones,

As a parent, resident, and teacher of Howard county I am utterly disgusted by the thought of our budgets being cut and sizes increasing. Now the BOE is threatening to surplus our teachers, cut our music programs and G/T programs. All the things that make Howard County the best school system in the state are being removed because of the failure of our constituents to do their job correctly. I loved specially into this area for the schools. As a former student of the NYC public school systems, I know what's it like to be part of large classes and it's not what I wanted for my children. I want more for them and I pay taxes that are suppose to fund schools properly. Please ensure that our schools won't suffer because of the mistakes of a few.

Maria Rocco  
mrocco61@icloud.com  
10620 Graeloch Rd  
Laurel, Maryland 20723

▪

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:47 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: School music program

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

From: Raana Aghdassi <raghdassi@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:17 PM  
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
Cc: Jaclyn Bryant <jaclyn\_bryant@hcpss.org>  
Subject: School music program

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

Dear Council member Jones,

It has come to my attention that the board of education plans on cutting the Band and Strings program. Calvin Ball has announced a large increase in their budget, and yet, the state of education in this county is getting worse. Previously the county cut foreign language and now they plan on cutting deep into the music program. The counties school programs (i.e music, language and GT programs) are key elements that bring people to Howard county. Many parents are strongly opposed to loosing any more programs.

Clearly something is seriously broken at the board of education. Something is eroding a prized institution that carries a great deal of responsibility. I implore you to save the Strings and Band program in our local school. Our instructor, at Thunderhill Elementary school, is a talented goodsend but she does not have tenure to protect her. The parents at Thunderhill would hate to lose Ms. Bryant or our program.

Calvin Ball has thrown a great deal of financial funding behind the Board or Education yet they keep trimming the quality that makes our system great. Yes, the county needs a new school but the funding seems to be there. The county has been bouncing around ever since they made the poor decision to pay Rene Foose to leave in disgrace. A poor choice to reward such fraudulent behavior. I would hope the county might consider delving deeper and audit the board and hold them accountable for any disparities that might be found. Thank you for taking the time to read concerns from your district.

With great respect,  
Raana Aghdassi

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:47 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Request: Fully fund HCPSS budget

---

**From:** HIMA JAIN <hima.jain@me.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:51 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Request: Fully fund HCPSS budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am contacting you to request that the Howard County Public School's proposed budget for FY2020 be fully funded. If the Council does not fully fund the budget, already overcrowded class sizes will increase, staff numbers may be reduced, and programs may be cut from the curriculum. I am particularly concerned about the impact of lack of funding on HCPSS music and arts, including band and orchestra. As a parent of a student involved in band/orchestra, I see the daily positive impacts of music education on my child. I urge you to preserve the budget to support all teachers, but particularly our instrumental music teachers, whose work teaches the students creativity, teamwork, communication skills, self-discipline and supports student achievement in non-music subjects. Music education also teaches the whole child, providing a source of self-esteem and stress relief, which improves student mental health and wellness. As a Howard County resident, I implore you to support our schools and fully fund their budget request.

Sent from my iPhone. Please pardon my thumbs!

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:46 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Teachers and Students Deserve More

---

**From:** Heather Green <Heather\_Green@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:17 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Teachers and Students Deserve More

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

Opal Jones,

Dear County Council Members,

This is my second letter to you because this budget issue is that important to me.

As a library media specialist in the county at the elementary level, my position is one of the ones on the chopping block every year seemingly. This is due to the threat of increased class sizes each year; my position is based on number of homeroom classes. There are many studies that have been done that show that large class sizes are not beneficial to children of any age. Teachers cannot build those relationships with students in a class of 30+... and with all of the push towards Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL) this year, I do not understand how the first thought on anyone's mind is to add more students into classrooms and cut teachers' jobs.

I understand that, as of right now, nothing has been made final. I understand that there are many proposals on the table on how to get the funding that the school system needs. However, the stress and frustration these potential cuts have caused is ridiculous. There are so many wonderful, powerful, and amazing educators in this county.

Please consider cutting things that do not directly impact our children. Please consider a surplus of positions that do not directly work with our students - including the MSTs and RSTs (mathematics and reading support), except in maybe Title 1 schools where more support is needed. These two positions simply relay information from Central Office to classroom

teachers once or twice a month in team meetings. That could be done through an e-mail or PowerPoint. Classroom teachers are bright enough to take that information from an e-mail and incorporate it into their lessons all on their own.

Consider the proposal of the Central Office staff freeze and all that goes along with that idea. The county does not need all of the staff that it has at C.O. In fact, in my opinion, it has too many staff members. Their salaries could go towards highly needed teachers in order to make Howard County "world class," as it claims to be. If we increase class sizes and decrease the number of staff members that work with children, the idea of "world class" becomes laughable. These children will not be getting a quality education. It will be more like trying to corral animals and throw information at them. Relationship building will decrease. Behavior concerns will rise. Learning will decrease.

I also agree with the proposal to cut down on paper waste. For example, the county does not need to print out calendars for everyone. We live in a digital world, and we can get access to a computer to see important dates when necessary. In addition, there does need to be a focus on utilities costs. At my school, it is boiling hot in the fall/winter and freezing cold in the spring/summer. If the county could keep the temperature of the buildings around 72-73 degrees year-round, they would save money that way. I understand it is hard to heat these large school buildings evenly, but that would be a start at the very least.

As much as I would like to see newer technology rolled out into schools, the Information Technology initiatives need to be put on hold for now. Keeping our staffing at current levels is more important (for those that work with children, that is). One final proposal is fully support is decreasing the pool positions. We need to give priority to the teachers we already have in Howard County at this time. We cannot make promises to newly certified teachers who have not put time and effort into this system - guaranteeing them a job and a position when we cannot even provide that for teachers who have been in the county for years potentially.

If there is a need to cut the teacher positions, I do feel that the band and strings teachers at the elementary level need to be looked at. I grew up and went to school in Carroll County, not that far away or that long ago. Elementary schools had one band and strings teacher, not a person for band and another for strings. The teacher was even part-time and would work at two different schools. Considering the fact that band and strings teachers can only pull from a limited block of time (related arts and content), there is no need for two of them to be at one

school five days a week. In addition, I do not think GT positions should be cut to one full-time person; however, I could see have 1.5 GT teachers if need be.

Finally, I will state that the idea of cutting elementary technology teachers time from 60 minutes to 30 minutes in the related arts block is insane. I say this as a media specialist whose job could be saved if this proposal was agreed upon (since it would increase the need for my position). It takes around 10-15 minutes just for students to log in to the computers, especially in kindergarten through second grade. By the time any instruction was given, the children would have maybe five minutes to work on technology assignments. They would not learn anything, and the classroom teachers do not have time to teach the valuable technology lessons children learn with their technology teachers. These skills include simply learning how to log in, keyboarding, using Google Docs and related items - Slides, Spreadsheets, etc...

I truly hope these 500-some letters have been read or will be. The county council and Board of Education need to think of the lives they are impacting.

Sincerely,  
Heather Green

Heather Green  
Heather\_Green@hcpss.org  
2530 Lawndale Road  
Finksburg, Maryland 21048

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:46 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: School budget

---

**From:** Rosalie Naglieri <naglierr@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:27 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** School budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am contacting you to request that the Howard County Public School's proposed budget for FY2020 be fully funded. If the Council does not fully fund the budget, already overcrowded class sizes will increase, staff numbers may be reduced, and programs may be cut from the curriculum. I am particularly concerned about the impact of lack of funding on HCPSS music and arts, including band and orchestra. As a parent of a student involved in band/orchestra, I see the daily positive impacts of music education on my child. I urge you to preserve the budget to support all teachers, but particularly our instrumental music teachers, whose work teaches the students creativity, teamwork, communication skills, self-discipline and supports student achievement in non-music subjects. Music education also teaches the whole child, providing a source of self-esteem and stress relief, which improves student mental health and wellness. As a Howard County resident, I implore you to support our schools and fully fund their budget request.

Please do not take away programs that are so important. The children should not have to pay for the poor decisions of adults in managing the budget.

Rosalie Naglieri



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:43 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Music Program in HCPSS

---

**From:** rachel coutts <coutts.rachel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 10:14 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Music Program in HCPSS

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

Good Morning,

I was just recently informed that there is a plan to cut music teachers in the elementary school level in order to meet our budget requirements.

Let me tell you, this is absolutely outrageous. HCPSS is the reason people move to this county. If you cut the music program, people will not be as willing to move here.

And the current residents will not allow this to happen. I absolutely oppose this cut, as a long time resident of Howard County and as a parent of HCPSS students.

Thank you,

Rachel Coutts  
Columbia, Md 20145

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:42 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Budget Cuts

**From:** Claire Kachnycz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 11:18 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Councilwoman Jones, Councilwoman Rigby, Councilwoman Walsh, Councilwoman Jung, and Councilman Yungman:

I am writing to add my support to the Howard County Public School System Music and Technology programs. I am aware of the May 8th, 2019 memorandum to the Members of the Board of Education from Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D. Superintendent with the Subject: FY2020 Operating Budget revenue Clarification and Potential Savings. I am disturbed by the possibility of cutting half of the elementary Music teachers, pushing back the start of strings instruction, grouping sectionals by instrument type, and combining strings and band instruction under one Music director. Additionally, with our ever-growing cultural dependency on technology I am concerned about the gross reduction of our technology department and the ramifications it will have on the potential of our student learners.

I can speak from personal experience that music programs, such as the ones currently at risk, changed the trajectory of my life as a young learner and musician. I began taking lessons in a public school third grade string instrument program, and used this talent through high school and college to not only travel the world, but also to earn a scholarship to a music school that I would have otherwise not been able to attend.

While I have been an avid educator for my entire nine-year teaching career, the current 2018-2019 school year is my first teaching in Howard County. I was attracted to Howard County

because of the stunning and long-standing reputation of the Music and Arts programs and staff, as well as the support of these important programs by the leaders of Howard County Public School System. It was clear to me from an early point that this reputation is well deserved.

This school year has been the most inspiring year of my career. My fellow music educators in Howard County are devoted, hard-working, and passionate about their careers, the programs they implement, and especially the students that they serve. This county has a wealth of talented individuals serving the community and it would be a gross disservice to our future young leaders to deprive them of the opportunity to learn from and study with these musicians in a public-school setting.

I am against increased class sizes, faculty reductions, and the proposed budget cuts for the school system, especially for the aforementioned Music and Technology programs, as possible means of cost savings. I implore you to consider the following:

- Advocate for the HCPSS Music and Technology programs
- Insist on more budget from County Executive Calvin Ball and the Howard County Council

Please ensure that our children remain the priority in Howard County by allowing them the opportunity to receive uninterrupted Music and Technology programs.

Claire Kachnycz

Claire Kachnycz

cestyer@gmail.com

9505 Evergreen Street

Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:40 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Music in Our Schools

---

**From:** Alison Gatwood <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 11:19 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Music in Our Schools

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

Opal Jones,

As an award-winning educator, Howard County parent, GT Music program director and HoCo resident for 25 years, I am extremely concerned to hear about the proposed staffing and budget cuts for FY2019-2020. As a vocal/general music teacher I have seen our arts programs flourish due to the great care and collaboration of teachers, administrators, parents and students. Our music students are among the best in the nation, and it is shocking and infuriating to have them threatened after so much time and effort has been invested.

If our music programs are cut, our students will suffer. Music has long been known to have an extremely important impact on the growth and development of young minds and characters. Our programs are rigorous and demand the very best of each student. Having the bar set high is an invitation to excellence which our students joyfully accept.

Music is a great privilege and must be protected. The value of Music in our schools is known to everyone. When we face the possibility of a day without music, we essentially go from education in Technicolor to faded black and white.

Please heed our heartfelt plea and keep the music going.

Alison Gatwood

Alison Gatwood

[afgatwood@gmail.com](mailto:afgatwood@gmail.com)

6473 Onward Trail

Clarksville, Maryland 21029

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:39 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Support HCPSS Music Programs

---

**From:** Jen Sellers <jen@thesellers.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 12:03 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Support HCPSS Music Programs

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

Dear Opel Jones:

I am writing to add my support to the Howard County Public School System Music Programs. I am aware of the May 8, 2019 memorandum that is posted on <http://go.boarddocs.com> to the Members of the Board of Education from Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D. Superintendent with the Subject: FY2020 Operating Budget Revenue Clarification and Potential Savings. I am disturbed by the possibility of cutting half of the elementary Music teachers, pushing back the start of strings instruction, grouping sectionals by instrument type, and combining strings and band instruction under one Music director. I am against increased class sizes, faculty/staff reductions, and the proposed budget cuts for the school system, especially for the Music Program, as possible means of cost savings. I am asking that you:

Advocate for the HCPSS Music Programs.

- Insist on more budget from County Executive Calvin Ball and the Howard County Council.
- Ensure that our children and Music remain priorities in Howard County.

Thank you!

Jen Sellers  
HCPSS Parent of 6th and 3rd grader

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:29 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Howard County Music Education

---

**From:** Candy Cangialosi <candy@umbc.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 2:55 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Howard County Music Education

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

Dear Elected Howard County Council Member:

I am writing to add my support to the Howard County Public School System Music Programs. I am aware of the May 8, 2019 memorandum, that is available [here](#), to the Members of the Board of Education from Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D. Superintendent with the Subject: FY2020 Operating Budget Revenue Clarification and Potential Savings. I am disturbed by the possibility of cutting half of the elementary Instrumental Music teachers, pushing back the start of strings instruction, grouping sectionals by instrument type, and combining strings and band instruction under one Music director. I am against increased class sizes, faculty/staff reductions, and the proposed budget cuts for the school system, especially for the Music Program, as possible means of cost savings. I am asking that you:

- Provide the funding needed to keep HCPSS Music and other important programs in the school system
- Look for other means (e.g., revenue generation from land developers) to fund the budget for 2020 and the long-term.
- Ensure that our children and Music remain priorities in Howard County.

Thank you!

--  
*Candy Cangialosi*  
*UMBC Athletics Payroll*  
*410-455-6344*

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** mail@changemail.org  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** [BULK] 100 more people signed "May 10 CRITICAL CALL TO ACTION: HCPSS Needs Funding-Petition Howard County Council"

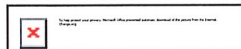
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May 10 CRITICAL CALL TO ACTION: HCPSS Needs Funding-Petition Howard County Council

Petition by CHS Friends of Music · 100 supporters



**100 more people signed  
in the last 12 hours**

[View petition activity](#)

#### RECENT SUPPORTERS



**Bernard Bikki**

College Park, MD · May 11, 2019



It is very important for students to experience arts as an option to make them a more well rounded person

---



**Lisa Wilde**

Ellicott City, MD · May 11, 2019

My child has developed confidence and artistry through his wonderful music teachers

---



**Adria Price**

South Point, OH · May 11, 2019

I was in band

---



**Teri McWethy RN**

Glenwood, MD · May 11, 2019

Teri McWethy

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**Lisa Logan-Roussell**

Ellicott City, MD · May 11, 2019

I am proud that all 3 of my children have benefitted immensely from the excellent music program in HCPSS. From elementary school through high school they have been blessed with strong, caring mentors in their music teachers, teachers who continue to support them years after they graduated from their classes. These teachers taught them discipline, perseverance, self confidence and poise. Skills which have carried and will continue to carry them through their educational careers and adult life. Music has sharpened their math, analytical, listening and collaboration skills. They have developed an appreciation of their cultural heritage as well as the cultural heritage of others through music. No other subject taught in public schools has as high of a return on investment. Cuts should be made elsewhere.

[View all 100 supporters](#)

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:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:13 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** [BULK] 100 more people signed "May 10 CRITICAL CALL TO ACTION: HCPSS Needs Funding-Petition Howard County Council"

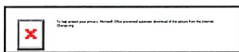
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New signatures

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

May 10 CRITICAL CALL TO ACTION: HCPSS Needs  
Funding-Petition Howard County Council  
Petition by CHS Friends of Music · 100 supporters



**100 more people signed  
in the last 10 hours**

[View petition activity](#)

#### RECENT SUPPORTERS



**Jeffrey Johns**

Olney, MD · May 11, 2019

Music is an integral part of a comprehensive education, and ALL students should have complete and equal access to a full music education.



**Sam Coard**

Woodbine, MD · May 11, 2019

Music matters. Without it there would be silence.



**Bethany Hamilton**

Burlington, NC · May 11, 2019

Music was the only reason I did well in high school. Band was the only class that kept me coming every day. For some kids performing arts are their outlet or escape. We can't take that away from them!



**Debra Sagmiller**

Columbia, MD · May 11, 2019

This was the favorite part of 1-12 grade. Especially once I got to Glenelg Orchestra and Choir. This inspired me to go for a music minor in college and they are by far my favorite memories of high school. Music is needed in schools. It is a creative space for students.



**Kirsten Garrison**

Elon, NC · May 11, 2019

My musical high school experience in Howard County was nothing short of essential to creating the person I am today. I am an educator wishing to instill the same passion, determination, and excellence that I learned through Symphonic band, marching band, and orchestra to my own students. These programs were superior to their counterparts and allowed my talents and passions to come to life. My high school career was well rounded with academics, athletics, and music though without the music program it would have been unremarkable and undriven. Music was my challenge, my safe place, my social group, my "why". Please consider all options to continue to fund and preserve music programs that mean so much to so many.

[View all 100 supporters](#)

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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.](#)

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

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** mail@changemail.org  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 4:07 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** [BULK] 100 more people signed "May 10 CRITICAL CALL TO ACTION: HCPSS Needs Funding-Petition Howard County Council"

[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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 New signatures

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

May 10 CRITICAL CALL TO ACTION: HCPSS Needs Funding-Petition Howard County Council   
Petition by CHS Friends of Music · 100 supporters

**100 more people signed in the last 5 hours**

[View petition activity](#)

RECENT SUPPORTERS

 **Michelle Kvech**  
Ellicott City, MD · May 10, 2019

Michelle Kvech



**Tianzhu Li**

Ellicott City, MD · May 10, 2019

I strongly support the HCPSS music program.



**Andrew Murray**

Clarksville, MD · May 10, 2019

Music changed my life in high school



**Connor Dunlop**

Glenwood, · May 10, 2019



**Katharine Durbin**

Laurel, · May 10, 2019

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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

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**From:** Robert B. Martin <robertbmartin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:21 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for Age Appropriate School Hours

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

Dear Board of Education and County Council,

This is one of the simplest acts we can do as a county to improve the lives of our teen aged students. Please consider the following.

I am writing to you to ask that you please provide funding for an improved bus routing system, as requested in this year's HCPSS budget. Among other benefits, this will allow better identification of start time options that can minimize increased transportation costs.

I strongly believe that HCPSS schools should start later for our teens. Evidence shows that teens are healthier, happier, and do better in school when they receive adequate sleep. Starting school later is one of the simplest acts we can do to improve the quality of education in our schools by allowing students to sleep later. Because the chronobiology of teenagers naturally shifts to staying up later and sleeping later, they cannot get enough sleep by going to bed earlier.

Many other school districts that have implemented later start times for their students have results that are extremely positive. More students get the recommended amount of sleep, resulting in higher test scores and graduation rates, as well as lower rates of suicide, car accidents, drug use, and depression. The rise of mental health issues in our teens needs to be addressed, and adequate sleep is one part of the solution.

Adequate sleep is a baseline foundation upon which any growing body and mind need to build upon. Please consider increased funding towards the transportation costs in order to make this change happen. This way we can start chipping away at some of the root causes in the rise of suicide, obesity, teen road traffic accidents, attention deficit disorders, and so many other related issues.

We want HCPSS to lead the way in promoting the health and intellectual readiness of our students, so let's be the collective catalyst for change.



Please make every effort to implement later school start times for middle and high schools in Howard County. In particular, please provide funding for an improved bus routing system, as requested in this year's HCPSS budget. Among other benefits, this will allow better identification of start time options that can minimize increased transportation costs.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Martin

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Monica Chuppetta <Monica\_Chuppetta@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 3:17 PM  
**Subject:** Reduction in Technology Instruction

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

Dr. Martirano and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposal for the reduction of staffing in Elementary Instructional Technology positions for the 19-20 school year. It is understandable to look for creative ways to bridge the funding gap and I'm sure these proposals were not made lightly. Before any final decisions are made, I would like to share with you a little more about the Instructional Technology position at the Elementary level.

The Instructional Technology position is very unique within the Maryland public school system. It is probably one of the reasons that HCPSS has such high success rates and is often regarded the top school system in the state. Here are a few of the roles and responsibilities that the Instructional Technology teacher performs:

- Teaching students HOW to use instructional tools
- Teaching students WHY and WHEN to use specific instructional tools
- Professional development for teachers
- Collaborating with grade level teams to support classroom instruction
- Supporting classroom teacher technology needs
- Problem solving technical difficulties throughout the school
- Preparing students for computer based tests and tasks
- Teaching students how to be responsible with the use of Technology both inside and outside of school

With a decrease in Instructional Technology, it will be nearly impossible to properly prepare students to be future ready. Technology and STEM are at the forefront of many emerging jobs and roles. The children in elementary school today, will likely need Technology and STEM skills for their future jobs. A decrease in instruction will be a step backward for HCPSS.

The HCPSS Stratic Call to Action states: "Students are at the forefront of every strategy and decision...High-quality learning experiences are grounded in diverse and standards-based curriculum, assessments that inform instruction and multiple pathways to achievement." With this in mind, if students are at the forefront of decision-making, then deciding to decrease Technology instruction directly affects student growth and ability to receive the high-quality learning that HCPSS is well-known for. Technology allows students to learn in multiple ways and show their knowledge in the way that best suits their learning style. It is necessary to teach students exactly HOW to use Technology to be productive. Classroom teachers rely on the Instructional Technology teachers to train the students on various programs such as Canvas, so they can use them seamlessly for classroom instruction. Reducing the Instructional Technology support will directly impact student growth in the classroom as well. Classroom teachers already have a full plate of curriculum to teach. Many will not have the time or ability to teach students the Technology component. Many will opt for the lowest technology option possible and that may not allow students to show their best work. In Technology classes, it is possible for ALL students to succeed. Many students that struggle in other areas, often thrive during Technology classes because they have options to show their knowledge in a variety of ways. If we as a county are being tasked with creating "equity (by) providing the access, opportunities and supports needed to help students, families and staff reach their full potential by removing barriers to success that individuals face", the Instructional Technology program is already doing that on a daily basis through the use of appropriate technology tools.

The final challenge from the Strategic Call to Action is to “ensure academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps”. This challenge is very important to provide the best academic and social-emotional support for ALL students and staff. A Technology teacher with over 800 students, taught in 30 minute blocks each week will not be able to meet the social-emotional needs of those students, let alone be able to deliver effective instruction. In a typical 60 minute class, students have 5 minutes for logging in, 10-15 minutes of typing practice, 5-15 minutes of direct instruction, and the remaining 25-40 minutes is for learning, exploring, and/or producing. In a 30 minute period, valuable learning will be lost. It simply cannot be made up during the increase in Media time.

I invite you, no CHALLENGE you, to visit my Technology classroom to see first hand what and how students are learning before you make such a drastic decision. Our youngest students learn the foundations that will carry them through their elementary years. Our intermediate students learn skills and discernment to make decisions in middle school and in their everyday lives.

Thank you for your attention,  
Monica Chuppetta  
Elementary Instructional Technology- Waverly Elementary

Monica Chuppetta  
[monica\\_chuppetta@hcpss.org](mailto:monica_chuppetta@hcpss.org)  
Instructional Technology Teacher  
Waverly ES 410-313-2819

~Harmony~Developer~Empathy~Adaptability~Communication~

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:36 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: School Cuts

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**From:** Abby Wedeking <ahp728@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:45 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** School Cuts

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

Dear Mr. Jones,

I am writing to express my anger over the budget cuts being considered for Howard County Public Schools. I cannot believe that I pay close to \$6000 in taxes a year only to see that class sizes are going up, staff levels of academic programs and music instruction are being reduced.

The Gifted and Talented (G/T) and Instrumental Music programs directly effect my daughter's education at Howard County Public Schools. The GT staffing levels in schools is already too low. In Elementary schools, the baseline staffing is currently 1.5 positions. This barely gives the teachers time to offer curriculum enrichment opportunities and put up to 34 kids in a 5th grade GT math class. Just because a student is deemed "smart" or "above average" does not mean they deserve less instruction than any other student. The National Association for Gifted Children has a wonderful website with statistics on the importance of providing exceptional GT-level education to those students that are deemed "above average" -

[Why Are Gifted Programs Needed? | National Association for Gifted Children](#)

**Why Are Gifted Programs Needed? | National Association for Gifted Children**

Gifted and talented students and those with high abilities need gifted education programs that will challenge th...

In addition, my daughter has THRIVED in her strings instruction since 3rd grade. The Music Director at her school, Ms. Jackie Byrant, is beloved by the students and families at Thunder Hill. She goes above and beyond daily to make sure every student receives the highest level of instruction possible. She is an asset to our school community and losing her position or seeing her position reduced in unacceptable. Knowing that future 3rd grade students may need to wait an additional year and then have their sectional and full orchestra instruction lumped shows that Howard County does not value the benefits a child gains when they are exposed to instruments.

A music advocacy group, the NAMM Foundation, has information on their website about music benefiting ALL students and helping bridge the performance gap that HCPSS claims is cares so deeply about.

[How Children Benefit from Music Education in Schools | NAMM Foundation](#)

**How Children Benefit from Music Education in Schools | NAMM Foundation**

The first 8 bullet points on this web page highlight the importance of music as a factor in improving the education of ALL students.

The reputation of Howard County Public Schools was the main reason our family chose to settle here. Over the years, I have seen the quality of the curriculum decline and I have seen the Central Office/Bureaucrats funding go up. The decision makers of this county need to get their priorities straight - small class sizes, a robust music/arts program and adequate support staff levels. Anything beyond that (excessive salaries paid to Superintendents and their entourage) should not be considered until the basics are fully funded consistently.

My husband and I are watching this discussion closely. We are deciding if Howard County is the place we want to continue raising our daughter. We are considering who to vote fir in upcoming elections. We hope our voice will be heard and that NO CUTS are made from the current list of horrible ideas.

Thank you for your time,  
Abigail Wedeking  
Oakland Mills resident

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:36 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Decrease class sizes and support our teachers

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**From:** Ann Aspnes <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:00 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Decrease class sizes and support our teachers

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

Opal Jones,

We moved to Howard County for the excellent school system, but we are feeling discouraged by the planned increase in class size. Keeping the student to teacher ratio low is one of the clearest ways to make sure that all students get the attention and support they need. It also protects our teachers from burnout. There is NOT A MORE IMPORTANT issue for us than ensuring the best possible education for our boys.

Ann Aspnes  
aspnes@gmail.com  
10137 Cape Ann Dr  
Columbia , Maryland 21046

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:36 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS school class size concerns

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**From:** Melissa Barone <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:45 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HCPSS school class size concerns

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

Opal Jones,

I am a concerned parent writing to ask that class sizes NOT be increased following the budget cuts. My husband and I moved to Howard County last year specifically for the excellent educational opportunities. It is incredibly disheartening to hear that after moving our children out of their home to a new city there are significant changes to the class size that will no doubt affect the quality of their education. Teachers can not possibly attend to the needs of 35 children adequately. I understand that budget cuts must be made; please reconsider the increase in class size for an alternative option that might not directly affect the quality of education at our schools. Thank you for your consideration. -Melissa Barone

Melissa Barone  
melissaldecker@gmail.com  
5746 Western Sea Run  
Clarksville, Maryland 21029

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:24 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Start School Later

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**From:** Jim Reynolds <jb.reynolds32@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:29 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Start School Later

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

Dear Opel,

Please support later start times for the health of our children. The facts say we as a county need to act on this immediately. We can't ignore the facts and these warnings by AAP and CDC for the health of our children.

**Restoring traditional school start times, as [recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, and the Centers for Disease Control](#), is a practical and necessary solution with broad and immediate benefits for children of all ages.**

This is a [call to action](#) for educators, health professionals, parents, students and public officials to work together for safe, healthy communities.

James Reynolds  
Elkridge, MD 21075



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:08 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: We need your help

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**From:** Nancy Putman <nancy\_putman@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 6:33 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** We need your help

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

Opal Jones,

The reputation of Howard County schools is a huge factor when someone is choosing where to live in the area. As a teacher of 30 years, I have seen the support for our schools dwindle. If we want to maintain the quality of our schools, we have to invest in them. The current budget shortfall threatens to impact the quality of the services we can provide. I already spend 2-3 hours beyond the school day on average completing paperwork, contacting parents and colleagues, and making lesson plans. An additional child or two in the classroom will make it more difficult to meet the needs of every student in the class. It also threatens to create a climate in which teachers do not feel valued or effective. I urge you to replace \$10 million dollars in our budget so we can meet our basic budget requirements.

Nancy Putman  
nancy\_putman@hcpss.org  
3913 Sharp Rd  
Glenwood, Maryland 21738

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 2:00 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Music Education

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**From:** Katy Do <katycdo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 10:02 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Music Education

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

Regarding Music education and the teachers you all provide why do we need to cut jobs. This is hard on our children already. Cutting their opportunities for cutting edge education is reducing their chances to succeed in the arts and their futures. Especially in the elementary schools, where they have a chance to advance and get a head start on life. If this happens you have to let kids go to the schools that offer the programs they want in elementary school. This is a hard bargain. I say cut Gym in HS I don't particularly care for Gym and Health in High school. The kids have already had this from Preschool till 8th grade, if you can't get it done by then why even have it. They don't even want to do it in High school and there are so many activities, and clubs that they can get into that it is not going to help by then. Let them work on an education that puts them in a better bracket for College. Gym is only a HS credit for graduation it doesn't help you get into College and that is what they are working toward in HS. If its not giving them an advanced education, I don't see the point.

Katy Do

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:57 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Howard County Budget Problem

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**From:** Josie Wedeking <jwedek5352@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 12:19 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Howard County Budget Problem

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

Dear Mr. Jones,

Hello. My name is Josie Wedeking, and I am 11 years old. I attend Thunder Hill Elementary School currently, but next year I am going to attend Oakland Mills Middle School. Word has gotten out that Mr. Ball is proposing to cut orchestra and GT. I would like to inform that I have been doing cello for 3 years now, and I will be taking all 5 GT classes in middle school. But, with the proposed budget cuts, I don't know if I will get to grow as an academic student without the GT students and orchestra. Please don't make Mr. Ball cut orchestra and GT.

Sincerely,  
Josie Wedeking

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kelly Green <green0923@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:56 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** GT Funding

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

To whom it may concern:

Like many other families, we saved our money and moved to Howard County for the excellent educational opportunities the county has to offer our children. Both my husband and I grew up without these opportunities and education is a top priority in our family.

We are saddened by the huge budget deficit the county has been dealing with in the education system. We implore you to continue the high standards of learning in this area as it really is at the heart of what makes this county so amazing and what draws so many families to want to live here.

Please maximize the county council funding to fill the budget gaps including funding for the outstanding G/T program in our county. This program is so much more inclusive than the program I was exposed to in Baltimore Co. back in the 80's. It offers all children in the county the opportunity to expand on their learning and push themselves to their fullest potential. My girls have truly benefited from this program - they have expanded their minds and worked on projects they never would have had the opportunity to explore in a regular classroom setting. They've learned valuable legal skills on Debate Team, enhanced their mathematics training in Math Club and opened their minds in Math Olympiads. What they've learned and experienced has had an impact on their self-confidence and will stay with them indefinitely.

Cutting staff positions in G/T while also offering all children access to the program's fast-paced learning environment is only going to set our children up for failure in this program in the future. All access learning requires ample staff and resources to provide children with the support they need to achieve the successful opportunities they deserve. The experiences that come out of this program are crucial in helping them understand who they are, what they enjoy and what challenges them and excites them. The G/T program has all of this and is instrumental in giving our children the tools they need to pursue successful careers and lives.

Please take this plea to heart and do all you can to ensure that the most important part of our county - our children and their education - receives the funding it needs to continue with such high standard of excellence.

Thank you for your time,  
Kelly Green  
Concerned Parent and Citizen of Howard County

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:55 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Elementary Instrumental Music Program

**From:** Christa Bucks Camacho <cyjcamacho@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 6:13 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Elementary Instrumental Music Program

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

Dear Elected Howard County Council Member:

I am writing to add my support to the Howard County Public School System Music Programs. I am aware of the May 8, 2019 memorandum, that is available [here](#), to the Members of the Board of Education from Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D. Superintendent with the Subject: FY2020 Operating Budget Revenue Clarification and Potential Savings. I am disturbed by the possibility of cutting half of the elementary Instrumental Music teachers, delaying the start of strings instruction, grouping sectionals by instrument type, and combining strings and band instruction under one Music director. I am against increased class sizes, faculty/staff reductions, and the proposed budget cuts for the school system, especially for the Music Program, as possible means of cost savings. I am asking that you:

- Provide the funding needed to keep HCPSS Music and other important programs in the school system.
- Look for other means (e.g., revenue generation from land developers) to fund the budget for 2020 and the long-term.

I have two children who love to play their instruments because they started playing in third grade. They play for fun! They give up screen time on the Ipad, computers, and Xbox to play music. The instruments is allowing my children to gain skills while building relationships. There are three years between my children; yet, the older one teaches the younger one. They play their instruments together to bring joy to others. I am asking you to find the funds to support the continuing at least at the same budget level the Elementary Instrumental Music Program.

Ensure that our children and Music remain priorities in Howard County. Thank you!

Christa Bucks Camacho

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:46 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Problems with increasing classes

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**From:** Soo Kang <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 7:50 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Problems with increasing classes

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

Opal Jones,

I do not speak English well, but I know what the problem is with the drop in the children's academic environment and the efficiency of their teachers.

I think that if the hard work of teachers is going to work, there will be many influences on children and neglect the part that cares for children as much.

If we are left with neglect and interest in education that we deserve from childhood and education, there will be many problems in the growth process of children.

There will also be confusion among children. It is busy in the established educational environment and has more voices (harsh voices) that will be bound to more rules and will be more tense

Soo Kang  
yeunee1206@yahoo.com  
3004 Lancelot cross  
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:46 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Please save our music program

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**From:** Ye Yan <yanye75@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 11:14 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Please save our music program

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

Dear Mr. Jones,

I am a Howard County District 2 resident. I have lived in Howard county for 10 years. I have 2 kids in HCPSS elementary schools. I want to express my great concern about the Board of Education Superintendent's "Potential Savings Items" presented to the Board on May 9th. I am especially concerned about the potential cuts to the elementary school music program, which would decrease the number of teachers from 52 to 26, combine band and orchestra teacher and make other fundamental changes to how instrumental music is taught in HCPSS. My daughter has been in Waterloo elementary school String orchestra for 3 year. I can't emphasize enough how important music is for her. She has also attended Howard county string festival for 3 years. While I understand that the Board must make difficult choices, I am against increased class sizes, faculty/staff reductions and the proposed cuts as a means to cost savings. I urge you to preserve our instrumental music programs, which support creativity, teamwork, communication skills, self-discipline and student achievement in non-music subjects. Music education also provides a source of self-esteem and stress relief, which makes good on the HCPSS commitment to improve student mental health and wellness. As a Howard County resident, I urge you to prioritize music and arts education and keep music alive in Howard County schools. Please Save our Wonderful Music Program.

Thank you,

Ye Yan

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Beth Stolte <elizabeth.stolte@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:45 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** boe@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** FY2020 Budget - HCPSS

[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 encourage the County Council restore to the County Executive's proposed HCPSS budget at the very least the \$27 million in salary increases for the next year that come from the new HCEA contract. This will allow the CE to fulfill his campaign promise to adequately pay the teachers in Howard County. While I am also dismayed at the mismanagement of funds and lack of accountability from the previous HCPSS supt and BOE administration, it is not the fault of the current supt nor the current BOE nor the teachers, staff and students of Howard County.

I have and will continue to encourage HCPSS to not reduce, not add, Central Office positions.

Please fund the school system to what the CE and CC promised during the campaign.

Beth Stolte



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:34 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: I support HoCo school Music programs

**From:** kathy Younkin <kyounkin@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 9:03 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** I support HoCo school Music programs

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

Dear Councilman Opel Jones:

I have lived in Columbia for 34 years and witnessed my children and grandchildren throughout Howard County receiving a wonderful Music education. I sincerely hope that Music enrichment will continue for future Howard County students.

I am aware of the May 8, 2019 memorandum, from Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D. Superintendent with the Subject: FY2020 Operating Budget Revenue Clarification and Potential Savings. I am disturbed by the possibility of cutting half of the elementary Instrumental Music teachers, delaying the start of strings instruction, grouping sectionals by instrument type, and combining strings and band instruction under one Music director.

I am asking you to:

**Audit the current Music Department spending** looking for any negligent over-spending that could make-up the differences needed.

Ensure that our children and Music remain priorities in Howard County.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kathy Younkin

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:32 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: #SupportHCPSSMusic and other Critical Programs for Our Students  
**Attachments:** #SupportHCPSSMusic -OJ.docx

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**From:** Liz and Dave <tierneyfrommer@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:14 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** #SupportHCPSSMusic and other Critical Programs for Our Students

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

Please see attached letter in support of the HCPSS Music program and the other important student-focused programs. Thank you.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:32 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: #SupportHCPSSMusic and other Critical Programs for Our Students  
**Attachments:** #SupportHCPSSMusic -OJ.docx

---

**From:** Liz and Dave <tierneyfrommer@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 8:14 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** #SupportHCPSSMusic and other Critical Programs for Our Students

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

Please see attached letter in support of the HCPSS Music program and the other important student-focused programs. Thank you.

Dear Howard County Council Member Jones:

I am writing to add my support to the Howard County Public School System Music Programs. I am aware of the May 8, 2019 memorandum, that is available [here](#), to the Members of the Board of Education from Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D. Superintendent with the Subject: FY2020 Operating Budget Revenue Clarification and Potential Savings. I am disturbed by the possibility of cutting half of the elementary Instrumental Music teachers, pushing back the start of strings instruction, grouping sectionals by instrument type, and combining strings and band instruction under one Music director. I am against increased class sizes, faculty/staff reductions, and the proposed budget cuts for the school system, especially for the Music Program, as possible means of cost savings. I am asking that you:

- Please provide the funding needed to keep HCPSS Music and other critical programs like Gifted and Talented, Mental Health Services, Para-educators, Information Technology In Elementary Schools and Title 1 School Support in the school system.
- Look for other means (e.g., revenue generation from land developers) to fund the budget for 2020 and the long-term.

Please ensure that our children and Music remain priorities in Howard County. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Liz Frommer

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Hui Liu <hui.liu6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:28 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Oppose the proposed cut of GT/music/PE programs at HCPSS!!

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

Dear County Executive,

This is Hui Liu. I am a resident of Howard County. I am writing this letter to express my strong opposition to the proposed cut of programs and staffing level at HCPSS to meet the budgetary goals. In particular, I am outraged about the plans to lay off GT teachers across the county at all levels.

We are facing great challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to prepare our children for what they will face when they grow up -- automation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, you name it. Yet, the county not only refuses to provide the funding necessary to accelerate growth in student achievement, especially for those whose needs are already not sufficiently met, it threatens reducing the resources by further depriving the students and schools and laying off GT teachers. How can we expect our children to remain competitive if this is the attitude taken by the decision makers at our county level?

We choose to move to Howard County not because of its location, environment, or diversity, but because of its top-rated public school system. Our children's education is of paramount importance to us and is not what we are willing to sacrifice or compromise. Regarding the proposed cut of GT teachers, I just want to make it clear that gifted children are children with special needs too. They often find it difficult to relate to peers, have trouble paying attention, have motivation issues when they are not adequately challenged, and can develop anxieties simply because they are gifted and seek perfection. In other words, similar to students who have learning disabilities, gifted students require special attention from trained professionals. HCPSS is fortunate to be able to hire so many capable GT teachers who are passionate about what they do. They are great resources that the community uses daily. Should the decision be made to lay off most GT teachers, the County Council will have to face the voters and explain why they disregard the needs of 1/5 of the students countywide who are taught and positively influence by these wonderful GT teachers.

Whenever the county faces a budgetary dilemma, it seems that the politicians always look at reducing public school funding to solve the problem. Our children had nothing to do with creating the budget problems and shall not pay for the mistakes or miscalculations by the elected officials.

Again, I strongly oppose any plan to slash funding for students and schools. Our children's future cannot be undermined. Our children deserve better than this. I will most definitely be voting with their futures in mind!

Sincerely,  
Hui Liu

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Yi, Xin <yi.sheen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 1:21 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** HC BOE: Save the Music and GT program

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

Dear Council and BOE members:

We've heard our precious Music and GT programs at HCPSS are risking being cut or reduced. Funding for education is not sufficient for our kids. Facing an increased student population, we ask that Howard County Council allocate enough funding to BOE as necessary please. Having enough GT programs attracts top students and higher school performances. Many residents move to Howard County because of high performances from our schools. If the schools starts to go downhill, it's not hard to see people moving elsewhere, property values & taxes reducing, leading to more fiscal burden for this county.

Please do not let this domino effect happen in Howard County, and save our Music and GT programs for HCPSS. Thank you very much!

Sheen Yi

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kristy Castonguay <kristycastonguay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:52 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Maximize funding for HCPSS

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

Dear County Council,

I urge you to maximize funding to fill the budget gap for HCPSS, including funds for the GT Program. As a parent of several students benefiting from the GT programs, I see the increased challenges and results of the rigorous curriculum the GT program offers students in their ability to perform well on standardized tests, communicate through various mediums to share what they have learned as a result of their projects and how this is preparing them for successful careers in the future. These students are great role models for their peers and they do great things for HCPSS which are often recognized by the media. Please find ways to continue to fund the future of Howard County.

Thank you very much for your consideration,  
Kristy Castonguay

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sherman Canapp <SCanapp@vosm.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:52 PM  
**To:** BOE@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Debra Canapp; Sherman Canapp; Amy Syversen; Patricia K. Hammer; esorchestra@hcpss.orgemail; gjsegala5@verizon.net  
**Subject:** HCPSS Elementary School Music Program Funding

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

Six years ago we moved our family from Montgomery County to Howard County due to the incredible public school system. Both our children (Isabella 5th Grade and Caden 10th Grade) are extremely gifted in music and have excelled due to the strong programs and teachers in Howard County.

My wife and I have established our businesses in Howard County and are strong supporters of the community. Recently, we were informed that the funding for elementary school music programs may be discontinued. This is appalling and unacceptable. We feel strongly that music and arts are essential in establishing a well rounded education, that there is great synergy between music and other academic disciplines (such as mathematics), and that it provides tremendous social support, adolescent growth and enrichment. We have personally experienced these positive effects in the lives of our children who began music in elementary school.

With the HCPSS being one of the strongest programs in the country it seems reasonable that you should be further developing the program, not dismantling it. You are in the process of removing one of the the treasures that brought our family as well as others to Howard County. We strongly hope you will reconsider this action.

Respectfully,

Drs. Sherman and Debra Canapp

Sherman O. Canapp Jr., DVM, MS, CCRT  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation

Chief of Staff,  
Veterinary Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Group

President & CEO,  
Orthobiologic Innovations, LLC  
R&D in Regenerative & Sports Medicine

Founder & CEO,  
Project GO (Global Orthopedics)  
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<http://www.vosm.com>

<http://www.ortho-bio.com>

<http://www.project-go.org>

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Trudy M. Grantham <Trudy\_Grantham@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:37 PM  
**To:** jramosromero@clubztutoring.com; BoE Email; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Please Fund Bus Routing System Improvements

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

Good Afternoon,

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](mailto:BOE@hcpss.org).

Note, the Board is scheduled to have a budget work session with the County Council on Wednesday, May 15 (at the Council's Offices), and also on Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m. All meetings will be televised and web streamed live.

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

Kind regards,

Trudy Grantham  
Executive Assistant  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Phone: 410-313-1584  
Fax: 410-313-6833

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**From:** Joanna Ramos-Romero <jramosromero@clubztutoring.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 6:39 PM  
**To:** BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; CalvinBall@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** [External] Please Fund Bus Routing System Improvements

Dear Board of Education and County Council,

I am writing to you to ask that you please provide funding for an improved bus routing system, as requested in this year's HCPSS budget. Among other benefits, this will allow better identification of start time options that can minimize increased transportation costs.

I strongly believe that HCPSS schools should start later for our teens. Evidence shows that teens are healthier, happier, and do better in school when they receive adequate sleep. Starting school later is one of the simplest acts we can do to improve the quality of education in our schools by allowing students to sleep later. Because the chronobiology of teenagers naturally shifts to staying up later and sleeping later, they cannot get enough sleep by going to bed earlier.

Many other school districts that have implemented later start times for their students have results that are extremely positive. More students get the recommended amount of sleep, resulting in higher test scores and graduation rates, as well as lower rates of suicide, car accidents, drug use, and depression. The rise of mental health issues in our teens needs to be addressed, and adequate sleep is one part of the solution.

Adequate sleep is a baseline foundation upon which any growing body and mind need to build upon. Please consider increased funding towards the transportation costs in order to make this change happen. This way we can start chipping away at some of the root causes in the rise of suicide, obesity, teen road traffic accidents, attention deficit disorders, and so many other related issues.

We want HCPSS to lead the way in promoting the health and intellectual readiness of our students, so let's be the collective catalyst for change.

Please make every effort to implement later school start times for middle and high schools in Howard County. In particular, please provide funding for an improved bus routing system, as requested in this year's HCPSS budget. Among other benefits, this will allow better identification of start time options that can minimize increased transportation costs.

Yours gratefully,

Joanna Ramos-Romero

Mother of students at West Friendship Elementary School and Mount View Middle School

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:36 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS Budget & Instructional Technology

**From:** Brian Smith <Brian\_Smith@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:22 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget & Instructional Technology

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

Dear County Council Member Jones,  
I am writing to you today in regards to the proposed budget cuts to the elementary instructional technology program at Howard County Public Schools. I cannot stress enough the importance of our program and the time needed to implement this worthwhile instruction.

Students in our increasingly digitally connected world need a variety of skills to be successful and ready for their future careers. Our program teaches them a variety of skills that students will use now and into the future. We teach students how to be safe, and responsible digital citizens. Students need to know how to handle cyberbullies, keep personal information safe, and know the impact their digital footprint and the decisions they make now can have on their future. We teach students how to collaborate with others in an increasingly digitally connected world. We teach students how to creatively communicate using a variety of tools. We teach students how to make choices about how to use a variety of tools in their educational careers. We teach students how to find information, determine fact from fiction, and put the sources together. We teach students how to solve problems creating new, useful, and imaginative solutions. We teach students how to solve problems using technology tools. All of these skills are skills that not only elementary students' future teachers will value, but their future employers will value. This is just one example of the great education HCPSS provides to its students...preparing students for the future.

The above skills need time to develop and teach to students. Cutting the Related Arts Instructional Technology time to 30 minutes is not a useful use of time. Kindergartners, especially, need more time. These students are learning their letters and numbers, and putting them together into a username and password combination takes a great amount of time. It can take these students 15 to 20 minutes just to log in. That leaves about 5 to 10 minutes left for instruction if there is only a 30 minute block of time available. Logging in to a computer is a basic, worthwhile, and useful skill that kindergartners need to learn before they can begin preparing for their future careers as mentioned above. The idea that classroom teachers can replace this instruction is not realistic. The demands placed on classroom teachers is not realistic as it is, plus adding more does not help. Not to mention that this proposed cut would change the planning and preparation time available for classroom teachers in an increasingly demanding field.

I encourage you to reexamine our program, see how useful and important it is to our students and their future, and restore the proposed cuts in Elementary Instructional Technology program.

Brian Smith  
Technology Teacher  
Stevens Forest Elementary School  
6045 Stevens Forest Road

Columbia, MD 21045  
410-313-6900

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Trudy M. Grantham <Trudy\_Grantham@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** panyongmei@gmail.com; BoE Email  
**Cc:** superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Hcpss budget

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

Good Afternoon,

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](mailto:BOE@hcpss.org).

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

Kind regards,

Trudy Grantham  
Executive Assistant  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Phone: 410-313-1584  
Fax: 410-313-6833

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

**From:** panyongmei@gmail.com <panyongmei@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>  
**Cc:** Superintendent <superintendent@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** [External] Hcpss budget

Dear superintendent, boe, county council members

As a HCPSS parent, I just surprisingly found that the 2020 HCPSS budge only increases 0.9% (although claiming not even enough to maintain the regular school operation in the coming year. There are estimated 800-1000 more students

coming into HCPSS in the new year, with around 11.5 million more cost according to BOE. By contrast, the increase of HCPSS budge is only 5.1 million, half to cover the increased expense caused by more students!

The big shortage of HCPSS could be at the cost of increased class size, according to BOE's plan to solve shortage of school budge. Larger class size means more efforts managing big groups of kids instead of being able to really teach them. It means compromise of our teaching quality and losing excellent teachers. As a tax payer and HCPSS parent, I'm proud of supporting our high-quality school system which is attributed to our small class size! I hope tax payer's money can be appropriately managed and used for our kids.

I noticed other departments, such as Public Works, Police, Howard County Community College and Library System have higher increased budget, ranging from 6.2% to 2.5%. With more residential developments and more residents coming in Howard County, I would assume the tax income would increase? I'm wondering how HCPSS budge only increases by 0.9%? How much is the income increase for budge year 2020?

I would appreciate any feedback from you.

Thank you  
Yongmei Pan PhD  
Proud parent of 2nd and 6th HCPSS students

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 11:51 AM  
**To:** rschaaf@ndm.edu  
**Subject:** Funding HCPSS - Technology, Technology Teachers, and OIT

**First Name:** Ryan  
**Last Name:** Schaaf  
**Email:** [rschaaf@ndm.edu](mailto:rschaaf@ndm.edu)  
**Street Address:** 6234 Ducketts Lane  
**City:** Elkridge  
**Subject:** Funding HCPSS - Technology, Technology Teachers, and OIT

**Message:** Greetings Howard County Leadership, My name is Ryan Schaaf, Associate Professor of Educational Technology at Notre Dame of Maryland University and faculty at Johns Hopkins University. I am also a former teacher of Howard County Public Schools and a proud citizen of this fine county for almost four decades. I now act as a vice-chair for the Office of Instructional Technology's advisory board. As you deliberate an elaborate budget, I must advocate for the teachers and programs for Howard County Schools -specifically the technology and digital learning program. Our students, the ones that will inherit the globalized world will require essential, next-generation skills to flourish and be successful. Drastically decreasing the budget to the schools will have an adverse effect on the technology tools and teaching talent Howard county can deploy in its classrooms. New technology tools and replacement plans are now delayed or canceled – technology and computer science teachers are worried their jobs or placements are in jeopardy. Send the right message to the citizens of Howard County. Communicate that skills such as coding, programming, project-based learning, robotics, online learning, and other digital applications are valued by this council and its leadership. Please fully fund HCPSS and its Office of Instructional Technology and Digital Education. Ryan Schaaf Associate Professor of Educational Technology School of Education rschaaf@ndm.edu 410-274-7814



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Nicholas Rausch <nicholas.j.rausch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 11:38 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Reduction of Elementary Technology in Howard County

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

Esteemed Howard County Council,

As you are aware, the Howard County Public School System Board of Education (HCPSS BOE) and Howard County Superintendent, Dr. Michael Martirano, are on the verge of reducing the number of Technology Teachers in our elementary schools. I understand the need to ensure our schools operate within current fiscal constraints, I'm significantly taken aback by this likely approach to balancing their budget. I'm significantly concerned that our county's educational leaders would choose to take a step backward in applying contemporary educational practices by reducing and/or removing Technology Teachers from our elementary schools.

If there is such a thing as a "federally focused" version of the Silicon Valley, it exists in our backyard. Howard County alone has hundreds, if not thousands, employed as technology focused contractors supporting agencies such as the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) that resides at Fort Meade, amongst others. Yet, the HCPSS BOE is moving to reduce and/or remove Technology Teachers from our schools.

Just south of Howard County, where discord runs rampant, our Nation's leaders can at least agree that our educational system *must* increase their emphasis in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education. This increase is necessary for the next generations if our great country is to keep pace with other nations around the world from both an economic and security standpoint. Yet, the HCPSS BOE is moving to reduce and/or remove Technology Teachers from our elementary schools.

Learning in the digital environment, such as through the employment of "Gamification", is being recognized as an efficient, motivating, and effective means of reaching learners of all styles and abilities. Technology classrooms enable access to music and the visual arts in an expansive and interactive way like never before. The Technology classroom enables individualized problem solving and various ways and means to express what students have learned that are nearly impossible within the physical environment. Yet, the HCPSS BOE is moving to reduce and/or remove Technology Teachers from our elementary schools.

The Technology classroom removes barriers for children from across the socioeconomic strata of Howard County. The playing field is leveled for those students who don't have ready access to technology in their homes. Within the educational concept of "equity versus equality," technology levels the playing field like no other tool in our schools. Yet, the HCPSS BOE is moving to reduce and/or remove Technology Teachers from our elementary schools.

The myriad reasons to maintain the current, or better yet increase, the ratio of Technology Teachers in Howard County elementary schools goes on and on.

I request the council please consider working to keep Howard County from moving backward in the quality and relevance of foundational skills we are providing our children in today's environment. Removing or reducing technology in our schools should be a last resort, not a "first cut."

Very Respectfully,

Nicholas Rausch  
Parent of a Howard County Elementary School Student

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Trudy M. Grantham <Trudy\_Grantham@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 11:10 AM  
**To:** Joanna Carpenter; CouncilMail; BoE Email  
**Cc:** Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Please fund the budget

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

Good Morning,

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](mailto:BOE@hcpss.org).

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

Kind regards,

Trudy Grantham  
Executive Assistant  
Board of Education of Howard County  
Phone: 410-313-1584  
Fax: 410-313-6833

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**From:** Joanna Carpenter <joannasc70@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 2:15 PM  
**To:** councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>  
**Subject:** [External] Please fund the budget

Dear Board of Education Members and County Council Members,

My name is Joanna Carpenter and I am a graduate (1988) of Howard County Public Schools. I have been teaching instrumental music in Howard County since 1992. I currently have the privilege of teaching elementary band and strings at Running Brook Elementary School. My children attend Elkridge Elementary School and Elkridge Landing Middle School.

I am asking that you please fully fund the budget for the school system and to not increase class sizes or decrease elementary instrumental music, GT and Technology positions. Every day I am proud to see what my students can accomplish in music classes and how much joy music brings to their lives. My own children are thriving in their music education at their schools.

I realize that these are difficult financial times, but please keep HCPSS the exemplary school system that it is. I had a quality education here and I want the same for my children and all the children of HCPSS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanna Carpenter

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Rigby, Christiana  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:10 AM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Cutting music programs in Howard County Elementary Schools

**From:** Kathleen Corley <1happybusymom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 8:08 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin B <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cutting music programs in Howard County Elementary Schools

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

[DJung@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:DJung@howardcountymd.gov)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Kathleen Corley <[1happybusymom@gmail.com](mailto:1happybusymom@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sun, May 12, 2019 at 8:04 PM  
**Subject:** Cutting music programs in Howard County Elementary Schools  
**To:** <[BOE@hcpss.org](mailto:BOE@hcpss.org)>

I just received notice of this ridiculous decision to cut out our music programs in our Elementary Schools. Living in such a wealthy county that touts itself as being "The best in the country for education" I'm appalled that it was even suggested that our music programs be cut! Education is not only about Math, Science and Literature, it is a culmination of many subjects. One can argue that one is not more important than the other and they would be correct.

We have more than enough money in our budget to meet our children's' needs. The children should not have to suffer, if anything, the Board should take a cut in THIER budget. The amount of money that the staff of The Board of Education makes is astronomical. Many industries at times have to alter their spending budget or refrain from increasing salaries for a period of time. I think that THIS SHOULD BE the answer and NOT taking away fundamental educational programs from our children.

How do you explain to your child, " I'm sorry you can't play an instrument at school this year because we have to make that we have enough money to pay the staff that work for Howard County Schools!?"

Come on folks, use your head and think hard about how your impulsive decisions can have a negative effect on our children.

"Every time you make a decision you mess with someone's life." What is a world without music? "Without music life would be a mistake. Music takes us where words cannot."

These quotes from *Here Comes the Boom* and are quite appropriate for the discussion at hand.

Kathleen Corley  
Northfield Elementary  
Mother of a 5th grader (about to move onto middle school)



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Sarah Bi <zhou\_sarah@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 10:03 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS proposed budget for FY2020

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

Dear Howard County Council,

As a Howard County resident, I am writing to you to request that Howard County Public School's proposed budget for FY2020 be fully funded.

I am very concerned about the direct impact if the budget will not be fully funded. Without a fully funded budget, many good programs including GT program and music program will be cut or reduced. Many families like ours move to Howard County because of the education quality and opportunity this county provides. Howard County GT program and music program are two key parts that make HCPSS stands out among other counties in the state.

Cutting down these programs is a statement showing everyone that Howard County is no longer able to provide the same level of high standard education it used to be.

Following the program cut, more good teachers will be leaving because of the unstableness of the job environment, more students and families will be leaving to pursue better education, less students and their families will want to move into the county. You can clearly see the potential negative impact on this county.

Therefore I urge you to support our schools and fully fund their budget request. Thank you!

Best Regards,  
Sarah and Christian Bi  
Residents of Howard County

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Sarah Melvin <Sarah\_Melvin@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2019 9:06 AM  
**Subject:** Elementary Technology Teachers

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

My name is Sarah Melvin and I am an elementary school technology teacher. I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a master's degree in Educational Technology. I have taught in Howard County for thirteen years, eight of which has been as a technology teacher. I believe that I teach some of the most valuable lessons that students can learn in elementary school. While it is their classroom teachers who are responsible for teaching them to read or write or solve math problems, I am responsible for teaching them how to display that knowledge in a 21st century format. I teach students how to collaborate with their peers and with the global community using a variety of digital tools. I teach students how to act safely and responsibly online, skills that will carry them through adulthood in this digital age. I teach students how to use computational skills and creativity to help shape a future that is currently beyond our imaginations. I have the privilege of teaching these skills to students beginning in kindergarten! Many adults are amazed at the technology skills of young people today, but it is because they have great technology teachers that are providing them with a strong foundation of skills that go way beyond watching a video on YouTube or playing the latest gaming app on their parent's smartphone. The technology course in elementary school has come along way in twelve years. Our current curriculum is based on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards. It is engaging, innovative, and meaningful. Classroom teachers cannot be expected to incorporate these standards into their already full language arts, math, and content areas to full extent that technology teachers can. I understand that Howard County is in the middle of a budget deficit and I know that cuts must be made to correct it, but I urge you find another way than to cut elementary school technology teachers. Think of today's students who need to be prepared for tomorrow's society when you make your final budget decisions.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Melvin

**Sarah Melvin**  
Technology Teacher

Pointers Run Elementary

\*Empathy\*Developer\*Communication\*Includer\*Harmony\*

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Elise Allen <allen\_elise@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 10:59 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fund HCPSS Budget Now

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

Dr. Martirano, Dr. Ball, Ms. Walsh, Members of the Board of Education, Members of the Howard County Council,

I don't know how we got here. I am a former Howard County Elementary School teacher and a parent of 3 children currently in the HCPSS. The state of our education system in this county is devastating. The teachers and students of this county are being negatively affected by lack of funding that stems from mismanagement and misappropriation of funds by the previous HCPSS administration and uncontrolled growth and housing development by the County Council. The list of suggested proposals for cutting the HCPSS budget Dr. Martirano outlined in his memo to the BOE on May 8, 2019 are not acceptable.

These are the questions I think of as a parent and former educator when I read Dr. Martirano's proposals.

Do I want my Kindergartner in a larger class when his teachers and paraeducators are already over-worked and understaffed? Do I want him to have his time in Technology class, his favorite related arts class and often the only way I can cajole him to school on a Tuesday, cut in half? Do I want him miss out on the LIFE-CHANGING musical experience my older children had, when the elementary music program is cut in half?

Do I want my 8th grader's two favorite teachers, Frank Owens and Beth Berkeley surplused or let go through NO FAULT of their own because there is not enough money for them? Do I want teachers all over the county who pour their time and energy into a profession that is rarely treated as one, once again be shown by society that they aren't valued? Actions such as these just force the good teachers, the ones who care, work hard, and go above and beyond, out of teaching to find another career. I resigned from HCPSS 6 years ago because I was tired. Tired of being worked to the bone and given enormous responsibilities, but no respect or belief from administration that I was actually capable of performing them. I was tired of being lumped together with individuals who worked half as hard as me and made twice as much, just because they had seniority. We want to keep the good teachers, not push them away.

Do I want to see the HCPSS Music Program, which has some of the most dedicated professionals in music as directors, gutted at the elementary level thus diminishing the quality of the music program in the upper grades...if one continues to exist at all? My 8th grader attended Junior Allstate as a 7th and 8th grader and has been a member of the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestra in 7th and 8th grader due to the exceptional teaching of HCPSS Band Directors like Frank Owens, Brent Flinchbaugh, and Matthew Dubbs. He wants to be a professional musician, but cutting the music program is simply an indication to him that his passion doesn't matter and isn't valued in our county.

Do I want my 10th grader to be in even larger classes when there currently aren't enough seats for students in the ones she is in? Do I want her teachers to become even more overworked as they struggle to contend with a growing number of children to teach, reach, and care for?

What kind of questions are these? We live in an affluent county in good economic times. Why can't we provide the essentials for our children and for their education? We should be discussing ways to enhance our public education. Education and educators gets lip service from politicians and residents, but when it comes down to it, no one wants to do the dirty work to make the difficult decisions to give our students the education they deserve and our educators the compensation, respect, and work conditions they deserve.

Please, stop the explanations. Stop telling us you understand, you are on our side, you hear our concerns. Stop telling us your hands are tied. Just make it work. That is your job. Create a plan that will benefit the students and educators of this county.

Sincerely,

Elise Allen

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** thismtbox@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 9:02 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS Music Program cuts

[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 am writing to express my concern at the possibility that Howard County schools will be reducing its music program in the elementary grades. We currently have a fourth grader at Thunder Hill Elementary School who absolutely loves the band program and hopes to participate again next year. Last year he got an excellent introduction to music through the third grade strings program. The individual instruction students may receive from a young age through Howard County public schools is one of the reasons we chose to buy a home here instead of in a neighboring (and less expensive) county. Private music instruction is costly in this area -- prohibitively so for many working families.

My husband is an amateur musician who greatly benefited from the musical opportunities offered in the community where he grew up (in another state). I am a music lover, also not a Maryland native, who always hoped my own children would have opportunities to become musically literate, and who would like to see all children in this state -- in this country -- have equal access to musical education. Learning to play instruments with their classmates during the school day helps our children build social relationships through the arts and creates well-rounded citizens for our future. Please do not cut this important program from our community's public schools.

Sincerely,

Merilee Thompson

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Amanda D. Rausch <Amanda\_Rausch@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 7:34 PM  
**To:** superintendent@hcpss.org; Mavis Ellis; Kirsten Coombs; Vicky Cutroneo; Christina Delmont-Small; Jennifer Mallo; Sabina Taj; Chao Wu  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B  
**Subject:** Proposed Reduction of Elementary Technology

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

Dr. Martirano and Esteemed Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

First, I appreciate you taking the time to consider my input regarding the proposed reduction in Technology Teachers at the elementary level. Although I could be viewed as biased as a Technology Teacher myself, I provide a unique perspective as I sit directly at the point of learning in this area.

Although historians will tell the story more precisely, most can agree our world has experienced or is experiencing a third industrial revolution. This revolution is based on the rapid sharing and expression of information through the advancement of personal technology and the internet. It is within this world that today's youth will find their future professions and live their daily lives. Given this reality, I am disappointed and surprised the body responsible for making decisions regarding our children's preparation for their futures would even consider the reduction of technology instruction in our elementary schools.

In an era where we find our National leaders imploring our schools to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in order to keep pace with other nations around the world and future workforce needs, we see the leaders of Howard County Public Schools considering a drastic move backwards. It is in the technology classroom that students can explore STEM early and efficiently. On any given day, you can walk into an elementary technology classroom in Howard County and find students creating, problem solving, coding, collaborating with their peers, learning to keyboard, and integrating classroom content into exciting and innovative technology products. Our technology students are creative and excited about their learning.

It is also in the elementary technology classroom where our learners gain the skills they need to be 21st century learners in other curricular areas. We teach students how to be safe on the internet, how to be positive digital citizens today and for the future, how to use a host of tools like G Suite and authoring tools like Wixie, and teach our students how to use the chosen learning management system for HCPSS; Canvas. Handicapping us from being able to do our job well and completely will be a detriment to our classroom teachers. Kindergarten teachers depend on us to train the youngest learners to log in to the computers and to safely and efficiently navigate websites so that their students can use computers in their classrooms. Intermediate teachers depend on us to teach digital citizenship, G Suite, and Canvas so their instructional time is used efficiently. Teachers are allowed to USE the technology in their instruction because we have done our job in teaching our students HOW to use the technology. It is so very disappointing you would even consider removing our ability to do that.

Reducing our class time from 60 minutes to 30 minutes effectively destroys our program. On a good day (when the computers are working correctly and batteries aren't dying), it takes a room full of intermediate students (3rd-5th graders) around 5 minutes to log in to their computers. When you include time for instruction (5-10 minutes if it's a simple task and little student interaction), students are left with maybe 10 minutes of work time before things need to be wrapped up and students need to log out. This doesn't include the keyboarding time of 10-15 minutes per class period we currently provide for students. This also doesn't include any time for building relationships with our students, any type of transition difficulties that students frequently have, or any

kind of technological difficulties that increase every year because of the chronic underfunding of our equipment.

In a time when our county is focusing on equity, I find it troublesome that you would consider reducing students' exposure to technology. Many students in Howard County do not have regular access to the kinds of technology and tools we provide to them weekly. Our students work with robotics, computer science, and create innovative solutions to problems regardless of what is available to them at home. If you cut our program as drastically as you are considering, some of our students won't lose out. Their parents will still pay for them to take coding classes, and attend summer camps where they can create and explore with technology. However, we have so many vulnerable kids that will lose that access. The access to technology that is helping to level the playing field will be gone. Those students will be lagging behind their peers in yet another area. Our elementary technology classrooms have no socio economic barriers.

I understand you have very tough decisions to make in the weeks ahead. As you move through this process, I implore you to consider areas which will impact fewer students. Cutting the elementary technology program will negatively impact every single elementary student in Howard County. All of them.

Thank you for all you are doing on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Rausch  
Elementary Technology Teacher  
Clemens Crossing Elementary School

\*\*\*\*\*

Amanda D. Rausch  
Instructional Technology  
Clemens Crossing Elementary  
410.313.6866

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jason Obe <jrobedrummer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 6:54 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** School Funding

[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 insist the board of Education should not cut funding to the music department. Band is important to myself and my elementary school comrades because the music program helps younger kids to understand how to act in a professional environment. This year, I participated in the Howard County GT band for the first time. This accomplishment taught not only to be a better player but also to prioritize my work. These lessons are also applied in band sectionals when a professional conversation is crucial to playing at your full potential. All and all, the music program not only produces great musicians but better people with the life lessons music can teach. The music program plays an important role in creating great students in the Howard County Public School System.

Jason Oberly  
Fifth Grade, Centennial Lane Elementary School  
9945 Springfield Dr.  
Ellicott City MD 21042

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Joanna Ramos-Romero <jramosromero@clubztutoring.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 6:39 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please Fund Bus Routing System Improvements

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

Dear Board of Education and County Council,

I am writing to you to ask that you please provide funding for an improved bus routing system, as requested in this year's HCPSS budget. Among other benefits, this will allow better identification of start time options that can minimize increased transportation costs.

I strongly believe that HCPSS schools should start later for our teens. Evidence shows that teens are healthier, happier, and do better in school when they receive adequate sleep. Starting school later is one of the simplest acts we can do to improve the quality of education in our schools by allowing students to sleep later. Because the chronobiology of teenagers naturally shifts to staying up later and sleeping later, they cannot get enough sleep by going to bed earlier.

Many other school districts that have implemented later start times for their students have results that are extremely positive. More students get the recommended amount of sleep, resulting in higher test scores and graduation rates, as well as lower rates of suicide, car accidents, drug use, and depression. The rise of mental health issues in our teens needs to be addressed, and adequate sleep is one part of the solution.

Adequate sleep is a baseline foundation upon which any growing body and mind need to build upon. Please consider increased funding towards the transportation costs in order to make this change happen. This way we can start chipping away at some of the root causes in the rise of suicide, obesity, teen road traffic accidents, attention deficit orders, and so many other related issues.

We want HCPSS to lead the way in promoting the health and intellectual readiness of our students, so let's be the collective catalyst for change.

Please make every effort to implement later school start times for middle and high schools in Howard County. In particular, please provide funding for an improved bus routing system, as requested in this year's HCPSS budget. Among other benefits, this will allow better identification of start time options that can minimize increased transportation costs.

Yours gratefully,

Joanna Ramos-Romero  
Mother of students at West Friendship Elementary School and Mount View Middle School

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Zhuo, Jiachen <JZhuo@som.umaryland.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 6:23 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin  
**Cc:** superintendent@hcpss.org; BoE Email  
**Subject:** Regarding HCPSS Budget cut

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

Dear County Council members and Dr. Ball,

I am a mom of two HCSPP student (4th and 6th grader). I am writing this email due to serious concern of the new proposed HCPSS budget, which propose to increase class size, cut music instrument teacher and GT teachers.

We move to Howard County because of HCPSS. The school system is something that all howard county parents are proud of. That is also the reason there is increasing flux of new students every year. However seems the county is not providing enough budget to cover the increasing student counts in the county.

The 2020 HCPSS budge only increase by 0.9%, much lower than previous years, while there is an estimate of 800 more students enrolling in HCPSS in 2020. A question will be, WHY? What priority is the county put in terms of the development of the Howard County.

I urge the County Council and Dr. Ball to look at other ways to cut your budget, if there is a shortage for county fund. The **\*\*LAST thing\*\*** that should be on plate is the HCPSS budget. And the **\*\*LAST thing\*\*** that is to be considered for cutting is teachers who educate and inspire our students everyday!

I appreciate your consideration.

Jiachen

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Jiachen Zhuo, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Director – Clinical MRI Physics  
Co-director - MRI Fellowship Program  
Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine  
University of Maryland School of Medicine  
670 W Baltimore St., Room L129  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Phone: 410-706-2697  
Email: [jzhuo@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:jzhuo@som.umaryland.edu)



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** eric oberly <ericoberly@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 5:56 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fully Fund HCPSS - impacts to critical

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

Council Members,

It has come to my attention that not only is the HCPSS proposed budget not being fully funded, but that the county is not even funding the schools at last year's level! I can't understand this action! There's a significant amount of housing development in this county, and especially high-density housing added in my neighborhood. I'm certain the school population will be significantly more from last year, so how could the county council decide to underfund schools by \$10+Million from last year's budget?! This is a non-starter for our schools, our housing market, and our local economy. Underfunding HCPSS has started the discussion of chopping Music, GT, Paraeducators, Technology and other highly sought-after school programs. Additionally, there's discussion of increasing class size due to your budget cut to our currently successful schools. Young professional families seek our highly performing school district, and gutting these amazing programs will quickly affect the reputation of our schools and community, devalue our properties, and ultimately slash county income.

County council shouldn't have approved new housing developments if they weren't going to be able to secure funding for our already overcrowded schools and tight school budget.

Make the right choice, and fully fund the requested budget submitted by the HCPSS.

Eric Oberly  
9945 Springfield Dr  
Ellicott City MD 21042  
410-461-5523

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kim Oberly <kim.oberly@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 5:20 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fully Fund HCPSS - affects on Music Program

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

Dear Council members,  
Please include this as comment to Monday 13 May's 1300 budget hearing:

County Council needs to fully fund our HCPSS! Due to the potential of significant funding shortfalls, the Board of Education has started strategizing where to cut their budget and the areas affected are alarming. Gifted and Talented, Technology, and Music staffing and programs appear to be in the line of fire for cuts. I do not have the depth of knowledge regarding the GT and Technology programs, but I do have extensive parent level experience with our amazing music program. My oldest son is a Sophomore and plays trumpet at Centennial High School. My youngest is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and plays percussion at Centennial Elementary. The extent these boys have benefited from music can't be put into words! It's remarkable how much the music programs have shaped them throughout their school experiences.

The music program positively affects self-esteem. Music allows students to self-identify as more than just another HCPSS student and can increase student confidence and pride in themselves. Music students are 'Trumpet players,' 'Jazz Band members,' 'Artists,' 'Marching Band musicians' etc. The Music program offers something more than the required, rigorous, and structured necessity of being a good student or a well-behaved kid. Music allows them self-actualization of something unique to be proud of themselves. My son's friends identify him as a 'Trumpet Player' and this gives him an extra dimension to relate to others and make a name for himself.

The Music program has introduced my student to professional situations. The Wind Ensemble musicians from Centennial High School were able to attend a professional Music conference, with vendor expos and technical break-out sessions. This experience gave my Sophomore a glimpse of the importance of networking in one's profession, something I didn't have an opportunity to do until about 5 years into my career. He has seen the value of attending professional conferences, making professional contacts, and learning about latest innovations through vendor expos. No other curriculum has afforded him that exposure.

Music has connected my kids to different cultural and economic communities. My oldest has interacted with other students his age from all around Maryland through All-State Band participation, and both boys have made friends throughout Howard County through their GT Band rehearsal and concert experiences. They've gained first-hand knowledge of the diversity, both culturally and economically, of our county and state. This personal immersion into other's cultures and some regional life's challenges would otherwise not have happened, but spending a weekend or several evenings rehearsing and coming together brought diversity awareness to my boys.

HCPSS Music program is much more than learning to play an instrument, perform concerts, or even practice teamwork. The HCPSS Music program is developing students who are self-confident, professional, and tolerant. HCPSS Budget cuts will force the school to reduce elementary music programs and drastically negatively impact our student population.

Fully fund Howard County Schools! Keep our school reputation strong through world class music, GT and technology programs, and teachers. In turn, you'll be keeping our community reputation strong, property values strong, and county revenue strong... don't skimp on our children's music, GT, or Technology education opportunities.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Kim Oberly

9945 Springfield Dr

Ellicott City MD 21042

H: 410-461-5523

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Van T. Doan <tdoan.law@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 3:14 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; BOE@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Funding for bus routing system

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



Dear Board of Education and County Council,

I am writing to you to ask that you please provide funding for an improved bus routing system, as requested in this year's HCPSS budget. Among other benefits, this will allow better identification of start time options that can minimize increased transportation costs.

I strongly believe that HCPSS schools should start later for our teens. Evidence shows that teens are healthier, happier, and do better in school when they receive adequate sleep. Starting school later is one of the simplest acts we can do to improve the quality of education in our schools by allowing students to sleep later. Because the chronobiology of teenagers naturally shifts to staying up later and sleeping later, they cannot get enough sleep by going to bed earlier.

Many other school districts that have implemented later start times for their students have results that are extremely positive. More students get the recommended amount of sleep, resulting in higher test scores and graduation rates, as well as lower rates of suicide, car accidents, drug use, and depression. The rise of mental health issues in our teens needs to be addressed, and adequate sleep is one part of the solution.

Adequate sleep is a baseline foundation upon which any growing body and mind need to build upon. Please consider increased funding towards the transportation costs in order to make this change happen. This way we can start chipping away at some of the root causes in the rise of suicide, obesity, teen road traffic accidents, attention deficit orders, and so many other related issues.

We want HCPSS to lead the way in promoting the health and intellectual readiness of our students, so let's be the collective catalyst for change.

Please make every effort to implement later school start times for middle and high schools in Howard County. In particular, please provide funding for an improved bus routing system, as requested in this year's HCPSS budget. Among other benefits, this will allow better identification of start time options that can minimize increased transportation costs.

Yours gratefully,

Van Doan

Atholton HS

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Joanna Carpenter <joannasc70@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 2:15 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; BOE@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Please fund the budget

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

Dear Board of Education Members and County Council Members,

My name is Joanna Carpenter and I am a graduate (1988) of Howard County Public Schools. I have been teaching instrumental music in Howard County since 1992. I currently have the privilege of teaching elementary band and strings at Running Brook Elementary School. My children attend Elkridge Elementary School and Elkridge Landing Middle School.

I am asking that you please fully fund the budget for the school system and to not increase class sizes or decrease elementary instrumental music, GT and Technology positions. Every day I am proud to see what my students can accomplish in music classes and how much joy music brings to their lives. My own children are thriving in their music education at their schools.

I realize that these are difficult financial times, but please keep HCPSS the exemplary school system that it is. I had a quality education here and I want the same for my children and all the children of HCPSS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanna Carpenter

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** panyongmei@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 11:37 AM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Re: Hcpss budget

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

Dear superintendent, boe, county council members

>

> As a HCPSS parent, I just surprisingly found that the 2020 HCPSS budge only increases 0.9% (although claiming 3.5% with most of increase only for health insurance deficit) not even enough to maintain the regular school operation in the coming year. There are estimated 800-1000 more students coming into HCPSS in the new year, with around 11.5 million more cost according to BOE. By contrast, the increase of HCPSS budge is only 5.1 million, half to cover the increased expense caused by more students!

>

> The big shortage of HCPSS could be at the cost of increased class size, according to BOE's plan to solve shortage of school budge. Larger class size means more efforts managing big groups of kids instead of being able to really teach them. It means compromise of our teaching quality and losing excellent teachers. As a tax payer and HCPSS parent, I'm proud of supporting our high-quality school system which is attributed to our small class size! I hope tax payer's money can be appropriately managed and used for our kids.

>

> I noticed other departments, such as Public Works, Police, Howard County Community College and Library System have higher increased budget, ranging from 6.2% to 2.5%. With more residential developments and more residents coming in Howard County, I would assume the tax income would increase? I'm wondering how HCPSS budge only increases by 0.9%? How much is the income increase for budge year 2020?

>

> I would appreciate any feedback from you.

>

> Thank you

> Yongmei Pan PhD

> Proud parent of 2nd and 6th HCPSS students

>

> Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** panyongmei@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Hcpss budget

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

Dear superintendent, boe, county council members

As a HCPSS parent, I just surprisingly found that the 2020 HCPSS budge only increases 0.9% (although claiming not even enough to maintain the regular school operation in the coming year. There are estimated 800-1000 more students coming into HCPSS in the new year, with around 11.5 million more cost according to BOE. By contrast, the increase of HCPSS budge is only 5.1 million, half to cover the increased expense caused by more students!

The big shortage of HCPSS could be at the cost of increased class size, according to BOE's plan to solve shortage of school budge. Larger class size means more efforts managing big groups of kids instead of being able to really teach them. It means compromise of our teaching quality and losing excellent teachers. As a tax payer and HCPSS parent, I'm proud of supporting our high-quality school system which is attributed to our small class size! I hope tax payer's money can be appropriately managed and used for our kids.

I noticed other departments, such as Public Works, Police, Howard County Community College and Library System have higher increased budget, ranging from 6.2% to 2.5%. With more residential developments and more residents coming in Howard County, I would assume the tax income would increase? I'm wondering how HCPSS budge only increases by 0.9%? How much is the income increase for budge year 2020?

I would appreciate any feedback from you.

Thank you  
Yongmei Pan PhD  
Proud parent of 2nd and 6th HCPSS students

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 9:46 AM  
**To:** Krolmobile@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Budget

**First Name:** Cara  
**Last Name:** Krol  
**Email:** [Krolmobile@yahoo.com](mailto:Krolmobile@yahoo.com)  
**Street Address:** 11412 Barley Field Way  
**City:** Marriottsville  
**Subject:** Budget

**Message:** Dear Mr. Ball and County Council members, I propose the Howard County Council increase funding to HCPSS to, at a minimum, cover the negotiated salary increases, to fully fund the Health fund, and to provide enough funding for staff and resources needed for expected enrollment growth without increasing class sizes. I appreciate the difficulty of balancing the budget but know we are all dedicated to maintaining the world class educational system Howard County enjoys. Respectfully, Cara Krol 11412 Barley Field Way Marriottsville 21104



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Elisabeth Holloway <lisybean@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 8:49 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** County instrumental program

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

I am very disappointed and concerned to hear about the cuts happening to the instrumental program in Howard County. I have 3 children in the school system and work for the school system. I watch my children and many more grow and flourish due to rich instruction in their instruments. The pride that comes from seeing their own improvements and being able to show their hard work at concerts is irreplaceable. The students are only able to do what they do because Howard County has such a robust instrumental program now. To cut this and stretch teachers so thin with show in the quality of the program and affect the students who are no longer able to grow so quickly and strong. School arts programs keep kids son school and feeling confident about their learning. No part of education is the place to make budget cuts. This is our future and their continued success! Please reconsider all cuts and especially cuts to the arts programs. We need well rounded and confident students to lead us into the future and grow a strong nation. That is what the arts does for our schools, our students and our communities!

Elisabeth Holloway

Building resilience by nurturing creativity. Art Where We Are [www.artwhereweare.org](http://www.artwhereweare.org)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** chowdhurysaroj@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Saroj Chowdhury  
<chowdhurysaroj@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2019 7:34 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** I support complete streets in Howard County

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

Dear Howard County Council,

Too many of our streets are not accessible or safe for walkers, cyclists, transit riders or people with disabilities. We need safer places for biking, walking and riding transit NOW.

We need strong funding to achieve this, including for the Bikeway.

We also need strong laws. Please support a Complete Streets Bill that will require new developments and public spaces to have better places to bike and walk. This will improve our quality of life.

Please make this an immediate priority.

Sincerely,  
Saroj Chowdhury  
6199 Llanfair Dr Columbia, MD 21044-3848 chowdhurysaroj@hotmail.com

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Blackman, Gabrielle <blackman@kennedykrieger.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 3:49 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Scott Blackman  
**Subject:** HCPSS budget and programming

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

We are parents of 2 daughters in HCPSS, one in 7th grade and one in 9th grade. Both are in gifted and talented programming, which is key to their academic progress, and in music programs, specifically choral programs. For our older daughter, chorus class is the highlight of her day. Our younger daughter's chorus recently was invited to be assessed at the state level in Montgomery County, due to excellent ratings at their earlier county-level chorus assessment. We were shocked that parents were asked to pay for the bus in order for the chorus to take advantage of this great opportunity, as the county was unable to provide funding. Both of our children benefit from the performance opportunities, which build self-confidence that are a part of their music programs. I am asking that as you consider the HCPSS budget, you do not make cuts to the gifted and talented or music programs.

Thank you-  
Gabri and Scott Blackman

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The materials in this e-mail are private and may contain Protected Information. Please note that e-mail communication is not encrypted by default. You have the right to request further emails be encrypted by notifying the sender. Your continued use of e-mail constitutes your acknowledgment of these confidentiality and security limitations. If you are not the intended recipient, be advised that any unauthorized use, disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender via telephone or return e-mail.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** fuller.evan@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 3:37 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B  
**Subject:** Please Fund HCPSS at a Greater Level

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

Dear Dr. Ball and council members,

I am late in addressing this issue, but I urge you to increase funding for our schools in Howard County. The school system here is one of the things that makes Howard County great, and is part of why we chose to live here. Education is listed as the top priority in the proposed operating budget, which I appreciate. However, I am concerned about the gap between HCPSS requested funding and the amount likely to be granted. In particular, I worry that the school system will decrease in quality if it is forced to lay off many teachers and paraeducators to fit within the granted budget. This is not the time to lose GT teachers, music, or technology resources and instruction. These are all critical to preparing our kids for life in the changing world. I recognize that there are difficult budget tradeoffs and no easy way to find the additional funding for HCPSS, but I feel that we need to be investing more in education and that this will pay dividends in the long-term success of Howard County.

I would support increasing taxes in order to properly fund our schools. You all have greater experience and knowledge of the budget, so I hope you can come up with ways to increase funding and avoid weakening the school system.

Thanks,  
Evan Fuller  
858-205-8203  
10786 W Crestview Ln  
Laurel, MD 20723

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kim Wissman <wissman6@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 2:48 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding arts/music budget cuts

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

To whom it may concern:

Cutting the Howard County arts program budget would be a tragic disservice to the children and families involved in music. Studying and performing music is so much more than learning and playing notes on a page. It requires focus, dedication, perseverance, and team-work which are all extremely admirable social-emotional skill-sets foundational to success in any endeavor. Studies have shown that children who study music are better students all-around. I think that if you surveyed the top-performing students in Howard County that you would find that they also study music. I *know* that this is true of my own children. I believe that much of their career success is due not only to the synapses that processing music formed inside their brains, but it is also due to the self-discipline and learned collaboration that was required. For music requires working together to produce something that is beautiful, meaningful, inspiring and for the common good. Imagine any of life's most precious and memorable moments without music. What would a wedding, a funeral, a faith-filled service, a holiday or any celebration for that matter, be without music? Can you even imagine day-to-day activities without music? Riding in the car? Watching a movie? A half-time show? If you cut any music at all from budget, you are essentially cutting opportunities for growth and learning which have been a strong backbone for the Howard County school community and its place in national rankings. I truly believe much of Howard County's renowned success stems from its music and arts programs. But more importantly, cutting any music education from the budget is in effect slicing away at the soul of our humanity. For learning the common language of music is above all, a source of joy and inspiration that can and should be shared in order to make the world a better place.

Please reconsider this proposal!

Respectfully, a former HCPSS Parent of four,  
Kim Wissman

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Helen Y <85halfnotes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 2:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Public Concern about HoCo Education Budget

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

Dear elected official,

My name is Helen and I'm a senior at Centennial High School. I recently heard about the May 8 memorandum proposing cuts to the elementary school music programs in Howard County, and I was shocked. However, I realized that perhaps our representatives may have not personally experienced what music is like in Howard County, so I wanted to give my perspective:

**Two of the main proposals that I was very surprised by were 1. the possibility of combining orchestra and band instruction under one teacher and 2. removing sectionals by individual instrument.**

I've played clarinet since 4th grade. My elementary school band director, Mr. Beall at Northfield ES, played a huge role in developing my love for music that has lasted my entire life so far. I received an incredible music education even in elementary school specifically because Mr. Beall specialized in band instruments and could give specific, personalized help to every single one of his students during sectionals. No student ever felt left behind, and every Northfield alumni I've talked to fondly remembers how we fell in love with music in elementary school band.

**Additionally, cutting the music programs in elementary school greatly affects the middle and high school ensembles down the road.**

I currently play in the band at Centennial HS, and our amazing director Mr. Matchim always reminds us to be thankful to our elementary and middle school directors, who fostered us and helped us become the musicians we are today. Just like any other educational program, the experiences we gain when we are younger, especially in elementary school, provide the backbone for our future. The music program isn't separated into elementary, middle, and high school; each provides for the next, and every director plays a critical role in developing and preparing their students as musicians.

**I was also extremely surprised by the timing of this proposal, which happens after a year of amazing achievements in music throughout the county.**

In particular, our Centennial HS Wind Ensemble auditioned for the Midwest Clinic last year and were selected as one of five high school bands to perform in Chicago, which is one of the highest honors an ensemble can receive. We were the first high school band from Maryland since 1973. I understand that budget cuts are necessary for Howard County to financially succeed, but I was shocked that one of the proposals was to cut music after such a huge event where we were extremely proud to represent Centennial, Howard County, and Maryland at the Midwest Clinic. Music has always been a huge part of Howard County, especially this year, so I was devastated and felt as if our representatives do not value our achievements and recognize the importance of music to us.

**Finally, I wanted to talk about music in general and why I hope our representatives can understand what music means for us.**

Music has played a huge role in my life. Playing in a musical ensemble has helped me gain self-confidence and overcome anxieties, taught me how to communicate and lead, and provided me a supportive community and family. For many others in Howard County like me, music isn't just another class in school. We aren't only learning how to play instruments and read sheet music. We're learning how to listen to each other and make compromises as a team. We're learning how to take the initiative to learn and improve. We're learning how to make music by making a community.

I know I've written a lot already, but I also wanted to attach one of my college essays that I wrote this year about my experience with band these many years:

When asked what I'll miss most about high school, I always say "definitely not the crowded hallways," followed by my actual answer: "band." Even after playing clarinet at CHS for four years, I still struggle to describe our unique atmosphere. While our director is our hilarious friend who tells stories about kissing plasma balls in high school, he's also our incredible conductor who improves our music immensely. While we laugh together at silly mistakes, jokingly calling accidental squeaks "extra flair," we're also perfectionists who work to transform every black dot on a page into beautiful music.

Last year, our band auditioned for the Midwest Clinic in hopes of becoming one of the five high school bands selected to perform at the world's largest music conference. After a year-long journey of not only striving for perfection in playing together as a group but also discovering the power of self-expression through music, we got in.

After another year of intense rehearsal and preparation, it was finally time to go. In December, I survived our thirteen-hour bus ride to Chicago, lost myself in hundreds of musical exhibits, and met John Mackey, a composer who has inspired me for years. After our performance, standing awestruck as our last note echoed across three thousand seats, I realized how important music has been in my life.

From making my first squeaks on the clarinet to performing at Midwest this year, band has developed my personality tremendously. Playing clarinet has given me self-confidence and made me unafraid to express myself. Being a musician in our band has taught me how to reconcile differences and always strive for improvement. **Grateful for the incredible opportunities I've had to pursue my passion for music, I hope to spread my love for the arts even as I pursue a STEM field.**

In particular, I'd like to emphasize my last line. Howard County has always been incredibly supportive of the arts and music, which is what makes us unique and is something to be proud of. I'm so, so, so glad that I was raised in this music-loving county and want students in the future to have the same opportunities that I did.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration!

Helen Yang

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Michael D. Kilberg <Michael\_Kilberg@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 11:58 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Teacher of the Year's Thoughts on the Tech Budget Cut Proposal

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

Members of the County Council,

I recently won Teacher of the Year in Use of Technology through the Maryland Society for Educational Technology (MSET). It has come to my attention that one of the proposals for the budget crisis is to eliminate some of the technology teacher positions and drop us to 30 minute instruction times. I just want to share some of what I put together for the MSET award so that you can understand all that we do.

We not only teach internet safety, which is extremely important in today's world, but we also teach all of the skills that future employers are looking for in their employees. We teach kids how to fail and learn from the failure. We teach kids how to problem solve. We teach kids how to use their creativity to show off their knowledge. The 30 minute timeframe would amount to roughly 5 minutes of actual work time for a student as we are also teaching typing skills for 15 minutes a class period. After 15 minutes of typing and 5 minutes of instruction on the project we would be working on, that would leave roughly 5 minutes of work time for my students. All of the amazing coding projects, business websites, American Revolution websites, science magnet coding operations would go by the wayside. It is unfortunate that it is even considered to remove one of the classes that devotes all of the energy into teaching students the skills they will need for the future. This does not even mention the fact that we give access to technology for those who socioeconomically would never afford the technological devices we provide and teach how to use the learning management system they will need for middle and high school.

We bring real-world application to the curriculum. My students have used GIS mapping to study our school campus and figure out the best location for solar and wind energy in order to light a city as well as to figure out the biodiversity of our school grounds and figure out ways we could improve the school grounds.. We have developed magnet systems in order to save one robot from being stuck in the muck. We have developed websites in which actual businesses have been created and students sold things during the summer. We have had students teaching other students how to code using python. We have developed animations that show off American Revolution knowledge. None of these things mentioned will take place if we are reduced to 1 tech teacher and 30 minutes and that would be a true shame. Students who do not always thrive in other areas always seem to shine in this environment of student driven projects that allow time for creativity.

Below you will find websites and videos of the work I just mentioned. Please find another way to cut money without taking out the heart of creative education for our students. I hope you take the time to look at some of these examples to see the types of things that we do. I also hope after you see all of the amazing things these students produce, that you find another way to solve this budget problem. Thank you for your time and ingenuity in finding another solution.

Michael Kilberg  
Technology Teacher  
Centennial Lane Elementary

[MSET Video](#)

[5th Grade Animation of American Revolution](#)



## [GIS BioBlitz Module](#)

### [Dash Saving Dot](#)

My school was asked to participate in a pilot BioBlitz program. In this program, the students use the ArcGIS Collector App on a mobile device to record data about the biodiversity of our school grounds. The program as written did not allow for teaching the students about GIS (Geographic Information Systems). I created a student facing module using Canvas, the learning management system for our county, in order to teach the students about GIS. I did not want the students using technology in a stand-alone function of recording data without understanding why they were doing it. In this module, students;

[Learn the meaning of GIS](#)

[Students create a simulated GIS map](#)

[Students explore and analyze data using GIS maps.](#)

[Students learn about other uses of GIS specifically to help solve problems and then brainstorm ways they could use GIS in order to solve a identified problem.](#)

Students came up with [questions for an expert in the field](#) and [virtually met with an expert in the field](#) to ask questions about their career.

### [Makerspace MSET Artifact Website](#)

The Makerspace website linked above is a compilation of work done with the Makerspace movement in my classroom. It shares some of the projects that we have done in the three different types of Makerspace theories; free build time, directed making, and content driven making. Much of the work done there is through content driven making as part of conscious effort to keep it from becoming a craft area. However, the students do have some time for free building and directed making which has prompted other projects derived by the student's creativity. In addition to the projects themselves, there is also a section for [student voice](#). Students were able to share why they enjoyed the making activities and how it benefited their learning. Below you will find direct links to many of the projects included on the site:

[Kindergarten/First Grade: Plants for Earth Day](#)

[Second Grade: Ozobot maps for urban suburban and rural communities](#)

[Second Grade: Recreated coded fables using Scratch Junior and recorded to be shared with parents using Zoom conferencing](#)

[Third Grade: Business websites](#)

[Fourth Grade: Paper circuits](#)

[Fourth Grade: Animal inspired technology inventions through biomimicry](#)

[Fifth Grade: 3D printed logos for social activation projects](#)

[Fifth Grade: American Revolutionary class websites](#) with content that includes:

[Google trivia quizzes](#)

[A personality quiz matching you with the Revolutionary figure you most resemble](#)

[Scratch stories](#)

[Scratch games](#)

[A garageband rap](#)

[A garageband original song](#)

[Green Screen Movies](#)

[Posters](#)

[Comic Strips](#)

[Google Slideshows](#)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Andrea Bento <afbento1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 11:17 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David  
**Subject:** Please fully fund HCPSS

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

Dear Howard County Council and County Executive Ball:

I am contacting you to request that the Howard County Public School's proposed budget for FY2020 be fully funded.

If the Council does not fully fund the budget, already overcrowded class sizes will increase, staff numbers may be reduced, and programs may be cut from the curriculum. I urge you to preserve the budget to support all teachers, including our instrumental music teachers, whose work teaches the students creativity, teamwork, communication skills, self-discipline and supports student achievement in non-music subjects. Music education also teaches the whole child, providing a source of self-esteem and stress relief, which improves student mental health and wellness. Similarly, paraeducators, liaisons for underserved populations, and many of the other positions "on the chopping block" provide necessary tools and supports to ensure that all of our students can learn and engage in their education and community in a meaningful and healthy way. These are essential functions of any education system and underfunding them will lead to disastrous consequences in our schools, which will impact the entire county and community in which we live.

As a Howard County resident, taxpayer, and parent, I implore you to support our schools and fully fund their budget request. The budget woes our schools are seeing do not reflect current mismanagement or waste, but instead reflect an attempt to operate a responsible school system in light of high development with low impact fees exploding our student population as well as a history of mismanagement of the employee health fund by the previous administration. Although we need to be fiscally responsible, we also need to protect our students from being punished for problems they didn't cause. Please do the right thing and fully fund our schools.

Sincerely,

Andrea F Bento

9673 Old Annapolis Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
[Af Bento1@gmail.com](mailto:Af Bento1@gmail.com)  
443-812-0558

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sarah Cheng <sarah.cheng1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 10:46 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** funding for HCPSS budget

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

Hello,

I am a parent of three children in Howard County elementary schools. I'm appalled to see the cuts being proposed to HCPSS programs for next year. Please consider fully funding the HCPSS budget to help prevent these cuts. Our children are our future; investing in our kids is the most important thing we can do.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Cheng

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Sarah Cheng  
[sarah.cheng1@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.cheng1@gmail.com)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 9:49 AM  
**To:** taobailuo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Stop Cutting Elementary GT and Music Teacher#

**First Name:** Tao

**Last Name:** Bai

**Email:** [taobailuo@gmail.com](mailto:taobailuo@gmail.com)

**Street Address:** 6434 Galway drive

**City:** Clarksville

**Subject:** Stop Cutting Elementary GT and Music Teacher#

**Message:** I have two elementary school age kids. They both are in GT classes. When I heard Howard County will cut # of GT teachers and many other teachers such as music. I am extremely shocked and appalled at the fact that in 2019, there are still people who may first consider cutting resources for primary education. Please let this stop.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Janna Spranza <janna@ten-15.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 9:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Regarding proposed HCPSS budget cuts

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

Dear County Council and Board of Education,

I am writing regarding the proposed budget cuts to the upcoming budget. Specifically regarding the cuts proposed to the instrumental music program.

I have 2 sons in our local elementary school, Thunder Hill Elementary School and they are in 4th and 5th grade. My sons have participated in instrumental music starting with strings in 3rd grade and moving to band in 4th and 5th. They have had an incredible experience with the program at our school. I have been so impressed with the program as I have seen them learn to read music and play their instruments well. We have even had out of town family members join us at the concerts and our family members have remarked on how impressed they were with the program.

Music is so important to learning. The discipline of learning to play an instrument is valuable for a student in so many ways- the discipline of practicing regularly, the achievement of performing, the joy of music. HCPSS has been known for our outstanding music program but unfortunately if these cuts are implemented it would negatively impact the program in a big way. Please reconsider these budget cuts and do not cut the instrumental music program at the elementary level in such a drastic manner.

Sincerely,

Janna Spranza

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Charles Sellers <chad@thesellers.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 8:58 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Education budget

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

Hello County Council folks,

I am a resident of Ellicott City and a parent. Please fully fund the HCPSS budget. Please especially do not cut the music budget. If my taxes have to go up to cover this, I am happy to pay more. If budget cuts must come in other areas, that's fine too. Please just do not cut back on education.

Thank you,  
Charles Sellers

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Candy dx <candyliman@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:50 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support full funding to HCPSS

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

To whom it may concern,

As a parent, I want to support the full funding to HCPSS which did a lot of valuable things for students in our county. Pls try your best to make it.

Thank you!

Mannie

发自我的 iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 4:44 PM  
**To:** Paula.Mergler@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Education funding crisis

**First Name:** Paula  
**Last Name:** Mergler  
**Email:** [Paula.Mergler@yahoo.com](mailto:Paula.Mergler@yahoo.com)  
**Street Address:** 4125 Hogg Court  
**City:** Ellicott City  
**Subject:** Education funding crisis

**Message:** Dear Mr. Ball and County Council members, I propose the Howard County Council increase funding to HCPSS to, at a minimum, cover the negotiated salary increases, to fully fund the Health fund, and to provide enough funding for staff and resources needed for expected enrollment growth without increasing class sizes. I appreciate the difficulty of balancing the budget but know we are all dedicated to maintaining the world class educational system Howard County enjoys. Respectfully, Paula Mergler 4125 Hogg Court Ellicott City MD 21043



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen\_Hanks@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 4:42 PM  
**To:** Kathryn Branstad; CouncilMail; BoE Email  
**Cc:** Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Proposed Funding Cuts

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

Good Afternoon:

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](mailto:BOE@hcpss.org).

Note, the Board is scheduled to have a budget work session with the County Council on Wednesday, May 15 (at the Council's Offices), and also on Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m. All meetings will be televised and web streamed live.

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](mailto:kathleen_hanks@hcpss.org)

**From:** Kathryn Branstad <kebranstad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 3:09 PM  
**To:** councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>  
**Subject:** [External] Proposed Funding Cuts

Dear Board of Education and Council members-

I would like to advocate against the proposed budget cuts to middle and high-school level gifted-and-talented teachers and elementary school-level instrumental music teachers for fiscal year 2020, as these cuts would devastate these valuable, enriching programs.

In your literature, you laud the excellence of Howard County public schools and the impact of enrichment offerings. Your own budget proposal proudly listed the participation rates in G/T programs on page 14, and

above-state-and-national average test scores on page 8 (<https://www.hcpss.org/f/aboutus/budget/fy20/fy20-boe-requested-operating-budget.pdf>).

Gifted and talented programs contribute to the future success of participating young people. Please see: <https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-education-practices/why-are-gifted-programs-needed> or <http://ftp.iza.org/dp10836.pdf> They also offer much needed challenge to students who might otherwise grow bored, detached, or even troublesome in the classroom.

Please do not forget the proven impact that enrichment programs such as school music have on student achievement: <https://nafme.org/advocacy/what-to-know/music-education-and-academic-achievement/> Elementary school level music programs are a gateway to the arts at a critical time in development. Without these introductory opportunities, you would essentially be gutting the middle and high school level music programs as well.

When you threaten to gut these much-loved programs, you make a strong, undercutting statement that these opportunities are not valuable enough to deserve their funding. You are telling students that their passions and growth mean nothing. It also sends a message to some of your best teachers that they should seek work elsewhere if they care about dependable employment.

I must admit that I am firmly biased. My sons have participated in both instrumental music and gifted and talented programs while in Howard County schools. Both enrichment opportunities were among their favorite school activities. Both will have lasting impacts as my boys plan to follow these pathways - should they still be extant - throughout their school careers. In addition, teachers such as Mr. Daniel Carter (instrumental music; Lisbon Elementary School), Mr. AJ Nath (GT; Lisbon ES), and Ms. Nancy Cornelius (GT math; Glenwood Middle School) should be congratulated for inspiring a love of learning - rather than threatened with dismissal.

Please consider a different path as you seek to rectify the budget shortfall for fiscal year 2020.

Respectfully,  
Kathryn Branstad  
Parent of Howard County Public School students

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen\_Hanks@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 4:38 PM  
**To:** sara hammer; BoE Email; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Budget concern

[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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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](mailto:kathleen_hanks@hcpss.org)

**From:** sara hammer <hammersa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 12:26 PM  
**To:** BoE Email <[boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)>; [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)  
**Subject:** [External] Budget concern

Hello, my name is Sara Hammer and I am a constituent and a parent of 2 children who attend school in the county. I am writing in response to hearing that our schools may decrease the scope and strength of our music program. Both of my children have benefitted and continue to benefit from this program. Please do not harm the program by underfunding it- music is such a huge part of why my children have enjoyed and learned. It's part of what makes this county's school system as great as it is. There needs to be a better way to fix our budget issues so that children and their teachers can continue to make this county such a wonderful place to learn and attend school. Increasing class sizes and eliminating music programs is not the way. Thank you for listening.  
Sara Hammer  
410-370-3131

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen\_Hanks@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 4:14 PM  
**To:** Kristen Farina; BoE Email; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Budget Cuts

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

Good Afternoon:

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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](mailto:kathleen_hanks@hcpss.org)

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**From:** Kristen Farina <[kristen\\_menz@hotmail.com](mailto:kristen_menz@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 9:00 AM  
**To:** BoE Email <[boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)>; [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)  
**Subject:** [External] Budget Cuts

Last week, many Howard County schools held meetings for their staff to inform them and discuss the possible challenges that may occur with proposed school funding for 2019-2020. Some of the topics discussed was the potential surplus of staff and the increase of class sizes across all grades and additionally cutting key arts programs such as instrumental music instruction.

I am a parent of several children in the county and an educator in another county. Class sizes and teacher cuts should be a last resort only in dire financial situations. Children need small class sizes to ensure their needs are recognized and addressed by a multitude of staff members who are there to help and guide them to be their best

and thus provide our county with a bright and successful future.  
Increasing class sizes should not be on the table at this time.

Arts are critical to children's development. Music and art programs increase their knowledge base and aid in developing well-rounded children. For many students this is their only exposure to such music and art programs and it can not disappear!

Larger class sizes and removing important programs is not a solution that will help our students. We need to maintain our level of academic excellence and always try to improve. Howard County prides itself with "being one of the best educational systems in the state and nation"- such choices in our children's future does not reflect that of a high level educational system that puts students first.

Initially, I reached out to the County Council and I received several responses indicating that the school budget has been increased over last year and that the BOE is proposing these options to balance a budget. The County Council blames the Board of Education for suggesting these changes with the provided budget. The BOE is stating that they can't fully fund everything necessary and increase teacher pay with this limited increase. We need both sides to work together for the county's children, they are all OUR CHILDREN and we need to continue to provide the best educational system for them as it will benefit us all.

Cutting staff, increasing class sizes and hampering our children's academic and developmental growth is not a way to improve a budget or our future. Please go to bat for our kids and keep them at the forefront of your decision making. Keep class sizes small and our great educators with our children at their current levels.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Farina

(My husband and I are graduates of Howard County Schools K-12 and we worked hard to insure our children were educated in this county as we had faith in the system which helped us, please keep the schools a top priority)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen\_Hanks@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 4:12 PM  
**To:** J J; BoE Email; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Save music program for our kids

[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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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](mailto:kathleen_hanks@hcpss.org)

**From:** JJ <jerry@jjey.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:54 AM  
**To:** BoE Email <[boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)>; [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)  
**Subject:** [External] Save music program for our kids

Hello all,

As parents of music students were are utterly astonished and appalled at the proposed budget cut to elementary school music education. This is not the first time that the HCPSS has been in the position of cutting programs or staffing to meet the allotted budget. It seems like every year treasured programs and important educational staff are cut to meet an increasingly tight budget while continuing to attempt past debt reconciliation.

County Council members must help the HCPSS by finding a way to fund important programs this year. Then, they must do the difficult job of assessing the revenue stream. It is unacceptable to slice important music

programs to balance the budget. These programs are unique and cannot be easily added back into a budget once they are gone. Our talented staff will be forced to find alternative employment and our younger students will lose years of education while the level of music is catastrophically destroyed in our system.

Sincerely  
Jerry

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen\_Hanks@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 4:10 PM  
**To:** kpetty79@aol.com; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; BoE Email; superintendent@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Concerns About Howard County's Budget, Especially As It Relates to HCPSS' Budget

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

Good Afternoon:

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](mailto:BOE@hcpss.org).

Note, the Board is scheduled to have a budget work session with the County Council on Wednesday, May 15 (at the Council's Offices), and also on Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m. All meetings will be televised and web streamed live.

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](mailto:kathleen_hanks@hcpss.org)

**From:** kpetty79@aol.com <kpetty79@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 11:53 PM  
**To:** councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; CalvinBall@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Superintendent <superintendent@hcpss.org>  
**Subject:** [External] Concerns About Howard County's Budget, Especially As It Relates to HCPSS' Budget

Dear County Executive Ball, County Council Members, Board of Education Members, and Superintendent Martirano:

My husband and I moved to Howard County 15 years ago with the plans of starting a family. Although we were both raised and educated in Montgomery County, we purposely chose Howard County because of the excellent reputation of its schools. Now that we have children in elementary school, I must say we have been disappointed by what we have experienced thus far. The teachers' morale has always seemed low and it seems that the schools are lacking in resources. We were hopeful that teacher morale would increase after former Superintendent Foose's exit. While the teachers appear receptive to Superintendent Martirano and he has made positive changes, the morale continues to suffer



because of the constant threat of budget cuts, surplussing of teachers, and elimination of necessary resources and programs brought on by the lack of funding by the county.

Over the last few weeks or so, we have been following the hearings concerning the county's budget, especially as it relates to the money allotted to the school system. We were incredibly disappointed to hear that one of the proposals to accommodate the lack of full funding requested by HCPSS was to increase class sizes. Presently, my children are at an elementary school that has over 940 students, requiring 8-10 portables to accommodate them all. This means that each child's class size is already very large and my older child is "sprinkled" into related arts classes. As it stands now, I have no idea how my children are able to get the quality education advertised by HCPSS with such large classes. If you increase class size even more, I am greatly concerned that my children will become just a number and that they will fail to get individualized assistance from the teacher when necessary. Further, I do not understand how you can expect teachers to reach all of the students in the classroom and effectively teach them the curriculum. This seems like an unworkable proposal that will ultimately lead to many disappointed residents questioning why they moved to this county in the first place. I think you will also find that our quality teachers will ultimately leave their jobs and move on to something less stressful.

I am also disappointed to hear that the school is considering cutting the GT programs and surplussing GT teachers at the elementary level. If you shrink the GT program, I think it will negatively impact HCPSS' reputation. From what I understand, the GT curriculum is not something that can be easily absorbed by the homeroom teachers. Thus, you will hurt teacher morale again as they are forced to take on more kids and more complicated curriculum with less resources. This equation is not conducive to a positive and supporting learning environment that exemplifies the caliber of students in this county.

At the end of the day, the County Executive, the County Council, the Board of Education and the Superintendent need to come together and figure out how to balance the budget so that the kids will not suffer further. Please think outside of the box and consider what needs to be done to not only balance the budget now, but also what is needed for the future so this untenable situation is not repeated every single year for years to come. For instance, the County Executive and County Council need to focus on recovering more money from developers in our county that can be passed on to the schools. The County needs to stop allowing exceptions for developers to build in areas where the schools have reached capacity. It is unconscionable that the County has allowed overdevelopment which in turn has caused a lot of the overcrowding and underfunding problems we see in the schools. The unchecked development has also caused a lack of infrastructure to support the increased population caused by the developers' desire to build on every green space. The constant uncertainty in this county as to whether it will have enough money to fund the county resources and programs, including its schools, is going to cause residents to flee to cheaper counties where class sizes are smaller, especially if Howard County residents do not feel they are getting the value of their very high property taxes. While those neighboring counties may not presently have as good of a reputation as HCPSS, their smaller class sizes where kids get individualized assistance is growing more appealing by the day.

My husband and I are watching how you handle these issues. We do not vote party lines or for incumbents simply because their name is familiar. Rather, we cast our vote based on what you have done to improve Howard County, especially the schools. We hope that you will focus your efforts on improving Howard County and not let special interests persuade you to take actions detrimental to its residents, including its youngest residents, the children.

Thank you for your time.

/s/

Katy and Derek Petty  
6935 Newberry Dr.  
Columbia, MD 21044

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Sherri Sloat <Sherri\_Sloat@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 3:37 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Potential Budget Cuts

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

To whom it may concern:

This week, teachers were recognized and appreciated by their students and administrators for all that we do. However, as budget cuts are looming and teachers are in fear of losing their position (technology, GT, and paras), we are not feeling valued or appreciated by the HCPSS School Board, HCPSS Superintendent or the County Council.

I have been employed by HCPSS since 2007. I was a classroom teacher until being moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> technology position at my school 2 years ago. I absolutely love my current position...it was what I was born to do. I will even be graduating with a MEd in Technology this summer. Sadly though, my position is on the chopping block and I will be forced to move back to the classroom which will ultimately force another teacher to be surplus.

It is clear to me, that those in charge do not actually understand what being an elementary technology teacher entails. A 30-minute class once a week is absurd. So many of our students come to us without any computer knowledge. We often spend 15-20 minutes just getting our kinders and 1<sup>st</sup> graders logged in. I'm also not sure how we are expected to get students logged in, teach the lesson, and allow work time in a 30-minute class and that's only if they do not attend band or strings instruction during our class time. A 30-minute class will make it impossible for the students to work with robotics or learn to code as well.

I assume that you would still expect elementary technology teachers to do SLOs as well. Have you thought about how that's going to work with a 30-minute class? My SLO was with my kindergartners this school year. Considering time to log in and log out, it would be virtually impossible to get the SLO test completed.

Technology teachers also support classroom teachers and deliver professional development to staff. We repair computers that are having issues (I have requests for this numerous times a day). We maintain the technology inventory in the Central Inventory Database and inventory every piece of technology at the beginning and end of the school year and with a school the size of Elkridge that is not easy.

Cutting the elementary technology position to one per school will make it impossible for our students to maintain their progress and learn new things without our instruction.

I invite you to visit an elementary technology class and see for yourself just what we do. I am sure it will open your eyes and make you think twice about cutting the position.

Howard County can do better than this...we NEED to do better!

Regards,

Sherri Sloat  
Technology Teacher  
Elkridge Elementary School

Developer~Empathy~Adaptability~Belief~Input

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Donna Trang <donna.trang@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 3:33 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fw: Howard County Parents FOR School Music

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

This is the second email I am writing in 2 weeks because our students stand to lose the excellence that is advertised in Howard county education . We moved here from San Antonio, Texas last fall and specifically chose to move to mount view middle and marmots ridge high school specifically for their music programs. My oldest child is not an athlete and music is his thing. That does not matter though. Music like art, technology, gt and physical eduction and any of the "extra programs" that are not considered essential have been proven over and over to enhance a childs learning , to increase self confidence and to make them more creative. Creativity has been mentioned over and over in the media lately on how essential it will be to our future workforce. My children in the short time we are here have benefitted from HCPSS music program . I also have a 4th grader who has just been introduced to the euphonium . We love our music programs and you know as well as I do how incredibly beneficial and crucial they are for our children. i implore that you keep funding our music programs they are essential to our childrens growth and development please do not cut them. Please consider increasing HCPSS budget.

Thank you,  
Donna Trang

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** heather.urner@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 3:31 PM  
**To:** Rigby, Christiana  
**Cc:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Re: Putting Our Children and Teachers First

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

Good Afternoon Ms Rigby,

County Council determines the funds BOE gets. Yes, mismanagement happened before. The budget is still below what is needed. At this point no new teachers can be hired. County Council needs to give BOE more funds to school. We have a new BOE and new Superintendent, it is not an issue of mismanagement in present. Teachers, Students, Parents, Constituents are watching give beyond MOE.

Thank you

Heather Urner

On Fri, May 10, 2019 at 3:00 PM, Rigby, Christiana  
<crigby@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Heather,

Thank you for reaching out regarding County Executive Ball's Education Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020. Your concerns for our children and teachers are being heard, and I am dedicated to advocating on our community's behalf. Over the past several years, there has been significant mismanagement of the education budget, and we all need to work together to provide long-term solutions for these issues.

As a lifelong advocate for public education, I am committed to fighting for additional funding for our school system, both at the local and state level. This year, I advocated for the Maryland General Assembly to fund the Kirwan recommendations for our schools and enable the Howard County Council to increase school facilities surcharges on developers.

I will be introducing legislation to raise school surcharge fees on developers, which will provide critical funding for our school system and increase available funds for the future. These solutions are vital for our school system, which has experienced significant overcrowding and delayed school construction. As an HCPSS graduate and a mom of children who attend Howard County Public Schools, I am extremely conscious of the needs of our students, teachers, and families.

With nearly **\$30 million in *increased overall funding*** for the HCPSS operating budget in FY20, I was beyond disappointed that the OBRC, Superintendent, and the Board of Education threatened class size increases and teacher cuts before exploring other options with their additional funds. I am glad to see they are now looking at options that are not harmful to our children and teachers.

The Howard County Public School system is receiving an overall 3.5% increase in funding this year, and education remains the majority of the entire County budget, demonstrating Howard County's dedication to funding our schools and ensuring that our system is one of the best in the country. While the County Executive sets funding from the County, the decision to increase class sizes and allocate funding to different priorities falls to Dr. Martirano and the Board of Education.

I look forward to encouraging County Government, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent to work together as a team to ensure that concerns about education funding are addressed. Thank you for reaching out and sharing your testimony. I also encourage you to reach out to Dr. Martirano ([Michael.Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael.Martirano@hcpss.org)) and the Board of Education ([boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)), who need to hear about the impact of their choices on our children and our teachers.

The County Council will be holding another Work Session on the Education budget on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am and will be adopting the final budget on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in a legislative session. For more information about the budget, a complete budget calendar, and information about the budget process, please visit the Council's budget page: <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Budget>.

Yours,

Christiana

**Christiana Mercer Rigby**

Councilwoman, District 3

Serving North Laurel, Savage, Columbia, Jessup and Guilford

Howard County Council

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

[crigby@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:crigby@howardcountymd.gov)

410.313.4101



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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kathryn Branstad <kebranstad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 3:09 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; BOE@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Proposed Funding Cuts

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

Dear Board of Education and Council members-

I would like to advocate against the proposed budget cuts to middle and high-school level gifted-and-talented teachers and elementary school-level instrumental music teachers for fiscal year 2020, as these cuts would devastate these valuable, enriching programs.

In your literature, you laud the excellence of Howard County public schools and the impact of enrichment offerings. Your own budget proposal proudly listed the participation rates in G/T programs on page 14, and above-state-and-national average test scores on page 8 (<https://www.hcpss.org/f/aboutus/budget/fy20/fy20-boe-requested-operating-budget.pdf>).

Gifted and talented programs contribute to the future success of participating young people. Please see: <https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-education-practices/why-are-gifted-programs-needed> or <http://ftp.iza.org/dp10836.pdf> They also offer much needed challenge to students who might otherwise grow bored, detached, or even troublesome in the classroom.

Please do not forget the proven impact that enrichment programs such as school music have on student achievement: <https://nafme.org/advocacy/what-to-know/music-education-and-academic-achievement/> Elementary school level music programs are a gateway to the arts at a critical time in development. Without these introductory opportunities, you would essentially be gutting the middle and high school level music programs as well.

When you threaten to gut these much-loved programs, you make a strong, undercutting statement that these opportunities are not valuable enough to deserve their funding. You are telling students that their passions and growth mean nothing. It also sends a message to some of your best teachers that they should seek work elsewhere if they care about dependable employment.

I must admit that I am firmly biased. My sons have participated in both instrumental music and gifted and talented programs while in Howard County schools. Both enrichment opportunities were among their favorite school activities. Both will have lasting impacts as my boys plan to follow these pathways - should they still be extant - throughout their school careers. In addition, teachers such as Mr. Daniel Carter (instrumental music; Lisbon Elementary School), Mr. AJ Nath (GT; Lisbon ES), and Ms. Nancy Cornelius (GT math; Glenwood Middle School) should be congratulated for inspiring a love of learning - rather than threatened with dismissal.

Please consider a different path as you seek to rectify the budget shortfall for fiscal year 2020.

Respectfully,  
Kathryn Branstad  
Parent of Howard County Public School students



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Candy Cangialosi <candy@umbc.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 2:54 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Howard County Education and Music Programs

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

Dear Elected Howard County Council Member:

I am writing to add my support to the Howard County Public School System Music Programs. I am aware of the May 8, 2019 memorandum, that is available [here](#), to the Members of the Board of Education from Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D. Superintendent with the Subject: FY2020 Operating Budget Revenue Clarification and Potential Savings. I am disturbed by the possibility of cutting half of the elementary Instrumental Music teachers, pushing back the start of strings instruction, grouping sectionals by instrument type, and combining strings and band instruction under one Music director. I am against increased class sizes, faculty/staff reductions, and the proposed budget cuts for the school system, especially for the Music Program, as possible means of cost savings. I am asking that you:

- Provide the funding needed to keep HCPSS Music and other important programs in the school system
- Look for other means (e.g., revenue generation from land developers) to fund the budget for 2020 and the long-term.
- Ensure that our children and Music remain priorities in Howard County.

Thank you!

--  
*Candy Cangialosi*  
*UMBC Athletics Payroll*  
*410-455-6344*

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** heather.urner@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 1:42 PM  
**To:** Yungmann, David; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** RE: Testimony

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

Good Afternoon,

As a County Council member, your body decides the amount of money BOE gets. After that they allocate. You approve the money they get. Give them money to cover the funds for the school. Don't under fund Howard County Public School System. Parents, Teachers, Students are watching.

Thank you

Heather Urner

On Fri, May 10, 2019 at 10:02 AM, Yungmann, David  
<dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Thank you for emailing me with your concerns about the County Executive's proposed level of funding for the school system, specifically the threat of increased class sizes and staffing reductions. We've received hundreds of emails so please forgive me for replying with a general email.

While I'm frustrated by the small amount of new funding the County Executive has proposed, it is important people know that the budget has **not** been cut. Further, the Board of Education, which is the elected body responsible for staffing levels and class sizes, has just begun evaluating the funding and has made no decisions regarding those policies. I apologize that some have chosen to spread this misinformation and for the anxiety it has caused throughout the school community.

I do share many of your concerns though, particularly that the new funding is almost entirely absorbed by wage increases and administrative growth despite stretched classroom staff. Howard County continues to spend the second highest amount per pupil in the State, so we should not be going through this every year.

The County Council will hold a school operating budget work session on **Wednesday, May 15 at 9:30am**.

Thank you for caring enough to reach out to me. Please understand that due to the high volume of emails we are receiving, I will not be able to respond to individual emails. We will provide another update as the process continues.

David

David Yungmann

Howard County Council – District 5

(410) 313-2001

<https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Districts/District-5>

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**From:** heather.urner@yahoo.com <heather.urner@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:41 PM

**To:** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

**Subject:** Testimony

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

Good Afternoon,

My name is Heather Urner, 10212 Hickory Ridge Rd Apt 203 Columbia MD 21044. I submitting testimony before the work session on May 13th to highlight as a Howard County resident and parent, HCPSS needs more than the proposed 38.5. Yes we need to pay our teachers and in addition we need to ensure no increase in class sizes. I encourage as the entity that can increase the figures, education is the highlight of our county, don't fund with merely MOE, put money in the budget to not increase class size and show to constituents education is the highlight of our county by going beyond MOE. We watch, we listen, we read. Let us see in action that you hear us.

Thank you

Heather Urner

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Radmila <radochkayashnyk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 1:38 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HC school budget reduction

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

- **Reduction of elementary instrumental music teachers from 52 to 26**
  - We will reduce the instruction in this area and the changes at the elementary level would be as follows: 1. Strings instruction will now start in Grade 4 as opposed to Grade 3. 2. Sectionals would need to be grouped by instrument family, for example rather than having 4th grade trumpets, we will have a sectional for 4th grade brass instruments. 3. Some elementary instrumental music teachers currently specialize in either band or strings. This would no longer be possible.
- **Reduction of elementary technology teachers from 62.2 to 42.0**
- **Reduction of G/T teachers - elementary from 79.5 to 42; middle from 60 to 20, grade 4 and 5 G/T math would be delivered by grade level teachers.**
- **Reduction of Elementary Paraeducators from 216 to 132**

I just received an email with details regarding budget cut for public schools in Howard County and I am devastated. I moved from Baltimore County to Howard County to make sure my kids have a decent education in decent class size. My kids go to Phelps Luck Elementary. Phelps Luck was never a perfect school. Its rate was 3/10 when we moved in 2012.

My daughter maintains good grades primarily because I pay for extra curricula like Kumon, Best Academy, and Wyzant tutors. With the current amount and quality of teachers and curriculum, it is already challenging to keep children at a good level of education. It takes extra time and a lot of money. With a reduced amount of teachers quality of education that was never perfect will be even worse.

I and my daughter did a lot of extra schools work to able to reach level appropriate to be accepted to GT and if HC will reduce GT classes, I am not sure this the class will be worth going to.

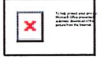
After moving from Baltimore County to HC, my taxes increased by \$2000. I used to pay \$3000, now I pay \$5000. What am I paying for?

What is the point to live in HC if the level of education will be like downtown Baltimore?

The school has terrible problems with curriculum consistency, with homework is not related to class work, with grading policy and instead of looking into those problems, there is a reduction of the number of Elementary teachers? They hardly make it right now. My daughter constantly tells me how hard it is for her teachers to keep children to stay focused and deliver quality education. They cry on a regular basis. Teachers do not have any power to separate rule-breakers from the rest of the class, they don't have a right to put a rule breaker to the time off, and visits to the principal office is not effective either. There no breaks in between the lessons. Lessons are 1.5 minutes long! It drives children crazy. Those things have to be addressed. Stuff reduction is not going to help to make education better. If stuff reduction will lead to the class size increase, it will be a total disaster and chaos. It will not be a safe environment either. I don't know what is your takeoff from my letter. But we are a middle class family struggling already to keep it at a decent level. I feel betrayed and put into a dead end. It feels like I have to teach my kids myself. But this is not an option since I have to make income. This decision is not helping to bring up generation that will make a difference, save us from climate change and take care of us when we are older, because they will be totally illiterate. They have a hard time to put 2 plus 2 already.

--  
Radmila Yashnyk

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** sara hammer <hammersa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 12:26 PM  
**To:** BOE@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget concern

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

Hello, my name is Sara Hammer and I am a constituent and a parent of 2 children who attend school in the county. I am writing in response to hearing that our schools may decrease the scope and strength of our music program. Both of my children have benefitted and continue to benefit from this program. Please do not harm the program by underfunding it- music is such a huge part of why my children have enjoyed and learned. It's part of what makes this county's school system as great as it is. There needs to be a better way to fix our budget issues so that children and their teachers can continue to make this county such a wonderful place to learn and attend school. Increasing class sizes and eliminating music programs is not the way. Thank you for listening.

Sara Hammer  
410-370-3131

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Leonard, Richard  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 12:20 PM  
**To:** nettwacht@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** Graduation Availability

Gladys,

Can you please call me on my cell at your convenience?  
I want to clarify your availability for the H.S. graduation ceremonies.

Thanks!

*Rick Leonard*

Howard County Dept of Fire & Rescue Services  
2201 Warwick Way  
Marriottsville, MD 21104  
[rleonard@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:rleonard@howardcountymd.gov)  
410-313-6022  
410-984-8030 cell



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Lynda Robey <l.cowell@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 12:11 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Howard County Parents FOR School Music

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

Dear County Council,

I am writing on behalf of support for the HCPSS Music programs and asking that you move more money into the HCPSS budget to fix the revenue issues. As you are aware, HCPSS is known on a state as well as national level as being a stellar school system. I truly believe part of that is due to the outstanding music program the county has starting with elementary all the way to the high school level. I believe it would be a serious detriment to that standing if the BOE must cut the elementary school level music program in half to reduce the budget deficit. The MVMS music program was given a National award last year from NAMM (National Assoc. of Music Merchants) for their outstanding music program and community involvement in that program. The Choral, Band, and Orchestra programs have been invited to state and national competitions and received top honors. That level of accomplishment is only possible because the students enter the programs already having a strong beginning at the elementary school level.

Research has consistently shown that music education benefits students by:  
priming the student for a lifetime of learning, coordinating multiple skill sets, enhancing language development, increasing mathematical skills, improving neural activity, improved behavior and participation, boosting test scores, and much more.

We have already had cuts to the foreign language program due to revenue issues. I would hate to see the same happen to the music program. Music is important and has a benefit in overall student academic achievement and student success. It is an important part of the HCPSS.

Sincerely,  
Sent from my iPad  
Lynda Robey

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Richardson, Kerry S. <Kerry.Richardson@leidos.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 11:41 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Plea against proposed budget cuts

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

*Leidos Proprietary*

Hello,

I am a Columbia resident and have a child who attends Thunder Hill Elementary School. I recently learned of proposed budget cuts to the Instrumental Music Program, as well as Technology Programs and I am incensed. C'mon HCPSS! We are better than this! My Daughter is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and took up Viola this year under the direction of Ms. Jaclyn Bryant. I have watched my child learn to read music, become aware of tempo and just truly enjoy the Viola! I observed how Ms. Bryant cares for the growth of each one of her students culminating in wonderful concerts in both the Winter and the Spring!

HCPSS, I am having a very, very hard time wrapping my head around taking away dedicated Teachers who care about our children! To me, keeping these folks on staff is a no-brainer. There has to be other places that cuts can be made. Again, very miffed that a proposal (or whatever it is being posed as) like this is coming from one of the best school systems in the nation.

**I implore you – KEEP THE TEACHERS!!!!**

Sincerely,

Kerry Richardson

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Marina Vornovitsky <mvornov@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 11:28 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS budget cuts

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

Dear Council,

I am writing on behalf of my family to express our deepest concern over the proposed funding cuts to the HCPSS budget - in particular, to those that affect GT, technology, and musical arts, as well as class size. While we certainly understand that budget planning comes with trade offs, these programs - staffed by highly professional and highly dedicated educators - make HCPSS stand out at the national level and provide educational value that cannot be underestimated.

We would greatly appreciate if these considerations are factored into the decision-making process.

Thank you.

Marina Vornovitsky

[6405 Grateful Heart Gate, Columbia, MD 21044](#)

[203-610-4550](#)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kim Birnbaum <ksmiles@myfastmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 11:15 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** boe@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Please increase funding for our schools

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

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council Members,

I am a parent of 2 children in HCPSS, one of whom receives special education services, and am writing to urge you, County Executive Ball to give the school system more funding and for you, County Council Members, to restore funding to HCPSS. The cuts HCPSS is proposing in the event of a shortfall are alarming. Our class sizes are already large. Our special education, by HCPSS's own report has a staggering achievement gap and has suffered greatly under the redirection of funds under the previous superintendent. Meanwhile our enrollment increases, the needs increase, and it seems year after year we face threats of increasing class size and decreasing programs.

It is incredibly frustrating as a nearly lifelong resident of the county that we do not seem to learn from our past mistakes. We have allowed development to grossly outpace school construction and the "increased revenues" from new housing units inevitably results in school budget shortfalls. You cannot continually increase enrollment and take on construction, portables, school site surveys and redistricting costs related to these increases plus the additional services needed in staff and bussing without sacrificing the quality of education in the county. Studies show that the single most important factor to quality of education is class size. Maintaining, or ideally reducing, class size in our public schools is of tantamount importance. As you know, HCPSS is considering increasing class size as well as other cuts that could undermine the education of our children. HCPSS is also considering reducing GT staff, reducing paraeducators (which are already too few and have suffered major cuts during the previous superintendent), cuts to the music program, etc. none of which is the answer. While HCPSS will need to make cuts, I hope that they will see that those who work directly with students and increasing class size need to be absolute last resorts.

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

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

I am asking that you increase funding to our schools to the fullest extent possible, make whatever cuts can be done to balance the budget, and to change legislation so that our schools and infrastructure are not overburdened by or outpaced by development.

I'm on the east side of the county and development is so bad that many communities we are getting flooding every time it rains hard. Our communities and schools need more forethought where development is concerned.

**I hope for all the reasons stated above that you will fully fund our schools and make legislative changes to ensure that development no longer outpaces our ability and funding to build schools and other infrastructure to support that growth.** This will ultimately help HCPSS keep class sizes from getting too large and preserve the programs like GT and music that make our schools special while also funding special education so that our most vulnerable students also have a quality education. This will also have environmental benefits such as not adding further strain to our stormwater management.

Sincerely,  
Kim Birnbaum

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kim Rullan <kgwinters13@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 10:38 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fully Fund Our School Music Programs

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

Good Morning Howard County Council Members,

This email is going to start with two questions....."Can you imagine a world without music in it?"....."Are you willing to crush a child's dreams and spirit by not supporting and fully funding our music programs?"

I am a HCPSS graduate of Glenelg High School, a parent of students at Lisbon Elementary School, and an employee of the school system. As with most parents and employees, I have been watching and reading the updates about the HCPSS budget and the proposals that are on the table for "worst case scenario."

I am upset, disappointed, and frustrated that once again music programs are on the table to be cut.

As a graduate of Glenelg, I started my own personal music journey at Lisbon Elementary School with Mr. White. I was never an outgoing person at Lisbon. Music provided me the opportunity to open myself up to new opportunities, new experiences, new friends and new knowledge on how to read music. I was apart of something special, something that was bigger then I could have ever imagined. Being apart of the music program opened my eyes to new opportunities, new hopes and dreams, a place where I fit in. With the help of Mr. White, an amazing music teacher, I found my talent....my "sports" team. For those that aren't athletically inclined....you know how it feels to watch the sports teams and what they receive. My experience in the music program continued to grow in middle school, at Glenwood. Mr. Apple supported my efforts to continue to learn my craft. Then there was Glenelg High School Symphonic and Marching Bands with Mr. Enzman. An experience I will never forget. It shaped who I am today. Not only did my academics excel because of my music education, my personal character grew and flourished. The combination of my academics and my music education/programs created an educational experience that made me who I am today and a strong reason why I stayed in this county so that my children could experience those same monumentally life changing experiences. There is a direct correlation between academics and music. Each supports the other. My oldest daughter is in the band at Lisbon Elementary School and will be moving on to Glenwood's band program next year. The music program at Lisbon has given my daughter the opportunity to learn, grow, be apart of "team", and to conquer her fears and promote courage, confidence, responsibility, and dedication in her pursuit of learning music. Music has made an extraordinary impact on her personality and her academics. My hope is that her younger brother and sister will have the same opportunities to be apart of the music program, at Lisbon, Glenwood, and Glenelg.

To have a completely inclusive successful education in our schools, the school system **CANNOT** cut the music programs that mean so much to so many students and parents. By trying to "find" money by cutting the music programs in this school system, in elementary schools, you are destroying the foundation of our young children (who dedicate themselves to learning, participating, and growing in music) who strive to develop their minds in a way to positively impact our community. You will destroy the foundation that elementary school music programs create for life long success, academically and musically. You will take away the one "team" some students will ever be apart of. You will short change and destroy the hopes, dreams, and talents of our children. As parents and as educators, we tell our children to never give up on their dreams...to shoot for the stars....that anything is possible if you try....follow your dreams....you can accomplish anything you put your mind to.....How can the BOE and the Howard County Council look into a child's eyes, who loves to learn music and has a dream of a career in music, and say..."Your dreams don't matter, you won't achieve them, you have to give up because there isn't enough money...."? How can you shatter a child's dream like that?

Dr. Martirano has created a statement/vision that runs through the very bloodstream of every teacher, every administration, every support staff member, and every central office employee in this great school system....."To teach a child well, you must know a child well." I ask you, do you know the child/student that can't/doesn't play a sport?....Do you know that music matters to them? Do you know that music is their dream? Do you know that taking away their music programs, what makes them feel successful, will crush their spirit and have damaging affects on their emotional and

mental well being?

Given everything that goes on in this world today, now is the time to acknowledge, support, and elevate what is valued by our students. ALL students. Now is the time to support our Fine Arts programs county wide, the tremendous life long positive impact they have in our students lives, and the immense amount of dedication and time our music teachers give to making an impact and improving our communities. The extremely amazing Fine Arts programs in this county should be celebrated and fully funded. By fully funded, I mean financially supporting **a music program in every school** and financially supporting **a music teacher/band director in every school, not a shared teacher/director in multiple schools.** Our students need and deserve the dedicated support of their music teacher/band director in the building everyday. For students in the music program, their music teachers are their heroes. Having their music teacher in the building everyday with them practicing their sectional music, full band rehearsals, and supporting them outside the band room.....makes a difference in their everyday success and happiness.

So in closing, I ask you again...."Can you imagine a world without music in it?".....I know I can't. I am asking, as a HCPSS graduate, an employee, and most importantly as a parent, for you to fully fund our music programs. I ask that this issue **NEVER** be on the table again. Our music programs matter. They matter in elementary school, middle school, and high school. They matter to our students.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kim Rullan

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Rigby, Christiana  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 10:27 AM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Support our schools and fully fund their budget request

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

From: xia yan <ailsa.yanxia@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 10:27 AM  
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin B <cball@howardcountymd.gov>  
Subject: Support our schools and fully fund their budget request

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I am contacting you to request that the Howard County Public School's proposed budget for FY2020 be fully funded. If the Council does not fully fund the budget, already overcrowded class sizes will increase, staff numbers may be reduced, and programs may be cut from the curriculum. I am particularly concerned about the impact of lack of funding on HCPSS music and arts, including band and orchestra. As a parent of a student involved in band/orchestra, I see the daily positive impacts of music education on my child. I urge you to preserve the budget to support all teachers, but particularly our instrumental music teachers, whose work teaches the students creativity, teamwork, communication skills, self-discipline and supports student achievement in non-music subjects. Music education also teaches the whole child, providing a source of self-esteem and stress relief, which improves student mental health and wellness. As a Howard County resident, I implore you to support our schools and fully fund their budget request.

Best,  
Ailsa

Sent from my iPhone



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kristen Farina <kristen\_menz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 9:00 AM  
**To:** BOE@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts

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

Last week, many Howard County schools held meetings for their staff to inform them and discuss the possible challenges that may occur with proposed school funding for 2019-2020. Some of the topics discussed was the potential surplus of staff and the increase of class sizes across all grades and additionally cutting key arts programs such as instrumental music instruction.

I am a parent of several children in the county and an educator in another county. Class sizes and teacher cuts should be a last resort only in dire financial situations. Children need small class sizes to ensure their needs are recognized and addressed by a multitude of staff members who are there to help and guide them to be their best and thus provide our county with a bright and successful future. Increasing class sizes should not be on the table at this time.

Arts are critical to children's development. Music and art programs increase their knowledge base and aid in developing well-rounded children. For many students this is their only exposure to such music and art programs and it can not disappear!

Larger class sizes and removing important programs is not a solution that will help our students. We need to maintain our level of academic excellence and always try to improve. Howard County prides itself with "being one of the best educational systems in the state and nation"- such choices in our children's future does not reflect that of a high level educational system that puts students first.

Initially, I reached out to the County Council and I received several responses indicating that the school budget has been increased over last year and that the BOE is proposing these options to balance a budget. The County Council blames the Board of Education for suggesting these changes with the provided budget. The BOE is stating that they can't fully fund everything necessary and increase teacher pay with this limited increase. We need both sides to work together for the county's children, they are all OUR CHILDREN and we need to continue to provide the best educational system for them as it will benefit us all.

Cutting staff, increasing class sizes and hampering our children's academic and developmental growth is not a way to improve a budget or our future. Please go to bat for our kids and keep them at the forefront of your decision making. Keep class sizes small and our great educators with our children at their current levels.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Farina

(My husband and I are graduates of Howard County Schools K-12 and we worked hard to insure our children were educated in this county as we had faith in the system which helped us, please keep the schools a top priority)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** J J <jerry@jje.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:54 AM  
**To:** BOE@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Save music program for our kids

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

Hello all,

As parents of music students were are utterly astonished and appalled at the proposed budget cut to elementary school music education. This is not the first time that the HCPSS has been in the position of cutting programs or staffing to meet the allotted budget. It seems like every year treasured programs and important educational staff are cut to meet an increasingly tight budget while continuing to attempt past debt reconciliation.

County Council members must help the HCPSS by finding a way to fund important programs this year. Then, they must do the difficult job of assessing the revenue stream. It is unacceptable to slice important music programs to balance the budget. These programs are unique and cannot be easily added back into a budget once they are gone. Our talented staff will be forced to find alternative employment and our younger students will lose years of education while the level of music is catastrophically destroyed in our system.

Sincerely  
Jerry

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Brandie Vassor <brandievassor@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:43 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HELP HCPSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS!!

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

Reduction of the any kind of program that benefit the children/students of HCPSS is a horrible decision. Each program gives children a chance to learn, experience and grow in a way that otherwise would not be possible. Most children do not have an environment nor the means outside of school to grow in most of these areas. Having access to music, G/T math and help from Paraeducators support the growth of children which in turn helps the community and our school system as a whole. For example, when my daughter was in 3rd grade was hesitant about playing an instrument, but her teacher encouraged her to 'try it', well she struggled and stuck with it. Not only did she receive help from the school with a loaner instrument, but she even missed recess to practice. Now she loves it! She is in the 4th grade, still playing viola and even taught herself how to play various pop culture songs. She would NOT have been able to learn to read sheet music nor thought of playing an instrument in the 1st place. The work and dedication of teachers is priceless, the results of the concerts and county ratings are what they are because of the teachers having the funds to do all they can to make Howard County what it is.

*Thank you,*

*Brandie Vassor*

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Angela <angelagbrunner@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 12:18 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Hcpss budget

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

The hcps is entertaining the idea of cutting the elementary instrumental music program. Please consider providing hcps the revenue needed so that this does not happen. The elementary instrumental music program is truly amazing. It is one of the best things that my family has experienced in the schools. It helps makes the system exceptional.

Thank you,  
Angela Brunner

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** kpetty79@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 11:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Concerns About Howard County's Budget, Especially As It Relates to HCPSS' Budget

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

Dear County Executive Ball, County Council Members, Board of Education Members, and Superintendent Martirano:

My husband and I moved to Howard County 15 years ago with the plans of starting a family. Although we were both raised and educated in Montgomery County, we purposely chose Howard County because of the excellent reputation of its schools. Now that we have children in elementary school, I must say we have been disappointed by what we have experienced thus far. The teachers' morale has always seemed low and it seems that the schools are lacking in resources. We were hopeful that teacher morale would increase after former Superintendent Foose's exit. While the teachers appear receptive to Superintendent Martirano and he has made positive changes, the morale continues to suffer because of the constant threat of budget cuts, surplussing of teachers, and elimination of necessary resources and programs brought on by the lack of funding by the county.

Over the last few weeks or so, we have been following the hearings concerning the county's budget, especially as it relates to the money allotted to the school system. We were incredibly disappointed to hear that one of the proposals to accommodate the lack of full funding requested by HCPSS was to increase class sizes. Presently, my children are at an elementary school that has over 940 students, requiring 8-10 portables to accommodate them all. This means that each child's class size is already very large and my older child is "sprinkled" into related arts classes. As it stands now, I have no idea how my children are able to get the quality education advertised by HCPSS with such large classes. If you increase class size even more, I am greatly concerned that my children will become just a number and that they will fail to get individualized assistance from the teacher when necessary. Further, I do not understand how you can expect teachers to reach all of the students in the classroom and effectively teach them the curriculum. This seems like an unworkable proposal that will ultimately lead to many disappointed residents questioning why they moved to this county in the first place. I think you will also find that our quality teachers will ultimately leave their jobs and move on to something less stressful.

I am also disappointed to hear that the school is considering cutting the GT programs and surplussing GT teachers at the elementary level. If you shrink the GT program, I think it will negatively impact HCPSS' reputation. From what I understand, the GT curriculum is not something that can be easily absorbed by the homeroom teachers. Thus, you will hurt teacher morale again as they are forced to take on more kids and more complicated curriculum with less resources. This equation is not conducive to a positive and supporting learning environment that exemplifies the caliber of students in this county.

At the end of the day, the County Executive, the County Council, the Board of Education and the Superintendent need to come together and figure out how to balance the budget so that the kids will not suffer further. Please think outside of the box and consider what needs to be done to not only balance the budget now, but also what is needed for the future so this untenable situation is not repeated every single year for years to come. For instance, the County Executive and County Council need to focus on recovering more money from developers in our county that can be passed on to the schools. The County needs to stop allowing exceptions for developers to build in areas where the schools have reached capacity. It is unconscionable that the County has allowed overdevelopment which in turn has caused a lot of the overcrowding and underfunding problems we see in the schools. The unchecked development has also caused a lack of infrastructure to support the increased population caused by the developers' desire to build on every green space. The constant uncertainty in this county as to whether it will have enough money to fund the county resources and programs, including its schools, is going to cause residents to flee to cheaper counties where class sizes are smaller, especially if Howard County residents do not feel they are getting the value of their very high property taxes. While those neighboring counties may not presently have as good of a reputation as HCPSS, their smaller class sizes where kids get individualized assistance is growing more appealing by the day.

My husband and I are watching how you handle these issues. We do not vote party lines or for incumbents simply because their name is familiar. Rather, we cast our vote based on what you have done to improve Howard County, especially the schools. We hope that you will focus your efforts on improving Howard County and not let special interests persuade you to take actions detrimental to its residents, including its youngest residents, the children.

Thank you for your time.

/s/

Katy and Derek Petty  
6935 Newberry Dr.  
Columbia, MD 21044

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** natigozalo <natigozalo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:24 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** School budger

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

Dear Mr. Ball and County Council members,

I propose the Howard County Council increase funding to HCPSS to cover the negotiated salary increases, to fully fund the Health fund, to provide enough funding for staff and resources needed for expected enrollment growth without increasing class sizes, and to keep our Music program going at all levels.

As Howard County keeps growing by attracting new residents, it is imperative that we do not diminish the quality of education that has set us apart. High quality education is the single most important thing for all of us Howard county residents and all options should be looked at to not hindered its standards.

I appreciate the difficulty of balancing the budget but it is important to keep priorities clear.

Respectfully,  
Natalia Gozalo  
9350 Duff Ct, Ellicott City, 21042

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Ashley Ekpo <ashleyekpo@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:20 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget

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

Good evening

I am the proud parent of three children who attend Phelps Luck Elementary School. We moved to this county three years ago for the school system. It has exceeded our expectations. I'm so glad we chose to buy a home here over a neighboring county, who also invest in education.

We were very disappointed last year when foreign language instruction for young children was terminated. Not only is language development especially successful among young children but it seems germane to a community that celebrates diversity.

Now it is my understanding that the schools are facing up to a \$30 million budget cut? This was not what I voted for, what I moved to this county for. There are cheaper places to live- but we wanted to live in a community that invests in schools. The school system helps our county flourish, helps ensure a prosperous future as we invest in our youth.

My son is in 3rd grade and has been tremendously successful in cello this year. He has learned so much and is developing a great love for music. My daughter, who is in 2nd grade, has spoken all year about how excited she is to play violin next year. I now learn that 3rd grade instrumental is at risk of being cut.

What exactly do we represent in our county? Who do we want our children to become? If we want Howard County to stand out as a pillar of excellence, education and diversity then we have to invest in what matters.

I hope you will reconsider the detrimental impact these cuts would have on our students, our future, and the quality of the county as a whole.

Regards,

Ashley Ekpo

Sent from my iPhone



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sara Fox <SaraMFox@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 6:55 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** budget cuts

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

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Dear Council Members,

My name is Isaac Fox. I am a student at Oakland Mills Middle School. Please don't reduce the instrumental music program. I love playing my cello. It has taught me a lot. Our instrumental teachers are already so busy and they care about us so much. If you don't make cuts to the program it would mean a lot to me.

Thank you,  
Isaac Fox

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** SHERYL GOERING <srgoering@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:52 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Concerned Howard County parent

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

Dear Councilmen and Councilwomen,

I am writing to urge you to fund our schools. Superior education is one of the greatest assets we can give our children and the thought of cutting programs like music, or increasing class size, and reducing the quality of education for our children is not acceptable. Please, please consider the future of our country, our county, and our children and fully fund our schools.

Sincerely  
Sheryl Goering  
Parent of 3 current HCPSS students

Sent from my iPhone

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen\_Hanks@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 4:19 PM  
**To:** Danny Mackey; BoE Email  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Suggestions on the 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. Mackey:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Your email attachment 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](mailto:BOE@hcpss.org).

Note, the Board is scheduled to have a budget work session with the County Council on Wednesday, May 15 (at the Council's Offices), and also on Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m. All meetings will be televised and web streamed live.

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](mailto:kathleen_hanks@hcpss.org)

**From:** Danny Mackey <daniel.b.mackey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 11:03 AM  
**To:** BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>  
**Cc:** councilmail@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** [External] Suggestions on the Operating Budget

Chair Ellis and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I write you today to suggest some unique short-term and long-term approaches to mitigating HCPSS's budget shortfall. Some of these suggestions are already part of the conversation while others are not.

### **Priorities within your current discussion:**

- I find it prudent to focus short-term budget reductions on technology education at the elementary school level. A long-term discussion surrounding the development of a more effective technology-integrated

curriculum should occur. In a time of budget shortages, it is wise to target reductions in areas where little curricular guidance currently exists and students are not graded on performance. This falls into a larger necessary discussion on program evaluation system-wide.

- I encourage you to find additional savings in Central Office. While I recognize that there are many hard-working individuals who perform vital support services for our School System, I have grown increasingly concerned with the number of individuals employed at the administrative level, as well as a general lack of accountability to the performance and production measures that the Central Office is held to. With many Central Office employees earning \$100,000+, I am confident another \$1-\$2 million in additional savings can be found in the short term.
- Do everything in your power to avoid the proposed cuts to elementary school music and elementary school paraeducator positions. If nothing else, we must continue to provide a well-rounded education to our students; this includes a strong music program in each elementary school. As for paraeducators, I encourage each of you to shadow one for a day, reflect upon their role in the larger school ecosystem, and then imagine our schools trying to function with half of the individuals we currently have in these positions. I know a decent para over at RBES who would be more than happy to host you for a day.
- I encourage you to find some money to pay down a portion of the Health-Fund Deficit or, at the very least, allocate dollars to health fund expenses. While I support carrying the deficit for FY2020 to avoid large impacts to our schools, I find it prudent to show taxpayers a good-faith effort to close this gap – think of it as making the minimum payment on our credit card.

#### **Suggestions outside your current discussion:**

- Short-term: If not done so already, in Program 0301 eliminate the three new proposed positions for FY2020.
- Long-term: There are 19 individuals in the Communications Department and 4 in the Budget Department. If you want to prioritize solving the budget crisis that occurs year after year make these numbers align with that priority.
- Long-term: As an extension to my earlier points regarding paraeducators I encourage you to look to our neighbors in Frederick County to sustain current staffing levels while reducing the financial burden on the school system. Currently in HCPSS our 0.5 para positions receive full benefits. This is not sustainable. FCPS employs two types of paraeducators/instructional assistants: benefited and non-benefited. Typically 0.5 positions, the non-benefited positions are filled by retired teachers who wish to stay connected to the schools or other individuals not requiring benefits. I encourage a discussion with our colleagues at FCPS to explore implementing a similar structure within HCPSS.
- Long-term: The timing of our negotiations with the Howard County Education Association (HCEA) is not conducive to forward-thinking budgeting. As it stands we agree to salary steps/increases prior to knowing the levels of funding we can expect from County authorities for the coming school year. We need to shift our negotiation calendar to after the budget process to not continuously commit funds we may not receive and limit options for budget adjustments. If multi-year deals are made this information needs to be shared with the County. It is inconsiderate to our educators to negotiate agreements that are subject to change based on available funding and the current process breeds budget insecurity (\$27 million committed this year with severe budget shortfalls at play). Without knowing funding levels HCPSS cannot continue to negotiate in good faith. Settling on a budget prior to negotiating with HCEA is necessary going forward.

So many of you campaigned on strengthening this school system and encouraged the people of Howard County to dream big on what we could do with HCPSS. I understand we are in a difficult situation. We must make systemic adjustments and implement long-term goals to reduce the burden budget discussions place on our community each year. With more predictability we can focus on the hard work of improving the opportunities provided to our students.

If I think of more recommendations I will not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

In Service,

Danny Mackey

*Education Advocate*

*Graduate of Wilde Lake High School, 2012*

*Candidate for Howard County Board of Education, 2018*

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sara Fox <SaraMFox@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 2:19 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** proposed budget cuts

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

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Dear Council Members,

My name is Sara Fox and both of my children go to Howard County Public Schools. I am writing today to tell you how beneficial the elementary orchestra program has been for our family and urge you to protect this wonderful program from budget cuts.

My husband and I decided to move to Howard County when we were married because we knew the schools were some of the best in the country. Both of my children attended Thunder Hill Elementary School and both started strings in the third grade. I was blown away by the quality of the instruction and the dedication of the orchestra/band teachers. I've always said that the orchestra/band directors are the busiest and hardest working teachers in the county. I don't know how they do it-but what they do is incredible. Allowing our children to start playing in the orchestra at such a young age is amazing. My son is now in middle school and he is still playing the cello, which he loves. My daughter is in her last year of elementary school and plans to continue the viola in middle school.

You have such a tough job. I know making budget decisions is incredibly difficult. I just wanted you to hear how much my family values the orchestra program and urge you to keep it funded. Our county has one of the best music programs in the country. Let's keep it that way!

Thank you for your work to make Howard County the best place to live.

Sincerely,  
Sara Fox

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Danny Mackey <daniel.b.mackey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 11:03 AM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Suggestions on the Operating Budget  
**Attachments:** HCPSS\_BOE\_FY2020-BudgetSuggestions.pdf

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

Chair Ellis and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I write you today to suggest some unique short-term and long-term approaches to mitigating HCPSS's budget shortfall. Some of these suggestions are already part of the conversation while others are not.

### Priorities within your current discussion:

- I find it prudent to focus short-term budget reductions on technology education at the elementary school level. A long-term discussion surrounding the development of a more effective technology-integrated curriculum should occur. In a time of budget shortages, it is wise to target reductions in areas where little curricular guidance currently exists and students are not graded on performance. This falls into a larger necessary discussion on program evaluation system-wide.
- I encourage you to find additional savings in Central Office. While I recognize that there are many hard-working individuals who perform vital support services for our School System, I have grown increasingly concerned with the number of individuals employed at the administrative level, as well as a general lack of accountability to the performance and production measures that the Central Office is held to. With many Central Office employees earning \$100,000+, I am confident another \$1-\$2 million in additional savings can be found in the short term.
- Do everything in your power to avoid the proposed cuts to elementary school music and elementary school paraeducator positions. If nothing else, we must continue to provide a well-rounded education to our students; this includes a strong music program in each elementary school. As for paraeducators, I encourage each of you to shadow one for a day, reflect upon their role in the larger school ecosystem, and then imagine our schools trying to function with half of the individuals we currently have in these positions. I know a decent para over at RBES who would be more than happy to host you for a day.
- I encourage you to find some money to pay down a portion of the Health-Fund Deficit or, at the very least, allocate dollars to health fund expenses. While I support carrying the deficit for FY2020 to avoid large impacts to our schools, I find it prudent to show taxpayers a good-faith effort to close this gap – think of it as making the minimum payment on our credit card.

### Suggestions outside your current discussion:

- Short-term: If not done so already, in Program 0301 eliminate the three new proposed positions for FY2020.
- Long-term: There are 19 individuals in the Communications Department and 4 in the Budget Department. If you want to prioritize solving the budget crisis that occurs year after year make these numbers align with that priority.
- Long-term: As an extension to my earlier points regarding paraeducators I encourage you to look to our neighbors in Frederick County to sustain current staffing levels while reducing the financial burden on the school system. Currently in HCPSS our 0.5 para positions receive full benefits. This is not sustainable. FCPS employs two types of paraeducators/instructional assistants: benefited and non-benefited. Typically 0.5 positions, the non-

benefited positions are filled by retired teachers who wish to stay connected to the schools or other individuals not requiring benefits. I encourage a discussion with our colleagues at FCPS to explore implementing a similar structure within HCPSS.

- Long-term: The timing of our negotiations with the Howard County Education Association (HCEA) is not conducive to forward-thinking budgeting. As it stands we agree to salary steps/increases prior to knowing the levels of funding we can expect from County authorities for the coming school year. We need to shift our negotiation calendar to after the budget process to not continuously commit funds we may not receive and limit options for budget adjustments. If multi-year deals are made this information needs to be shared with the County. It is inconsiderate to our educators to negotiate agreements that are subject to change based on available funding and the current process breeds budget insecurity (\$27 million committed this year with severe budget shortfalls at play). Without knowing funding levels HCPSS cannot continue to negotiate in good faith. Settling on a budget prior to negotiating with HCEA is necessary going forward.

So many of you campaigned on strengthening this school system and encouraged the people of Howard County to dream big on what we could do with HCPSS. I understand we are in a difficult situation. We must make systemic adjustments and implement long-term goals to reduce the burden budget discussions place on our community each year. With more predictability we can focus on the hard work of improving the opportunities provided to our students.

If I think of more recommendations I will not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

In Service,

Danny Mackey  
*Education Advocate*  
*Graduate of Wilde Lake High School, 2012*  
*Candidate for Howard County Board of Education, 2018*



Daniel Mackey  
4273 Coattail Court  
Ellicott City, MD 21042



Howard County Board of Education  
10910 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Chair Ellis and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I write you today to suggest some unique short-term and long-term approaches to mitigating HCPSS's budget shortfall. Some of these suggestions are already part of the conversation while others are not.

**Priorities within your current discussion:**

- I find it prudent to focus short-term budget reductions on technology education at the elementary school level. A long-term discussion surrounding the development of a more effective technology-integrated curriculum should occur. In a time of budget shortages, it is wise to target reductions in areas where little curricular guidance currently exists and students are not graded on performance. This falls into a larger necessary discussion on program evaluation system-wide.
- I encourage you to find additional savings in Central Office. While I recognize that there are many hard-working individuals who perform vital support services for our School System, I have grown increasingly concerned with the number of individuals employed at the administrative level, as well as a general lack of accountability to the performance and production measures that the Central Office is held to. With many Central Office employees earning \$100,000+, I am confident another \$1-\$2 million in additional savings can be found in the short term.
- Do everything in your power to avoid the proposed cuts to elementary school music and elementary school paraeducator positions. If nothing else, we must continue to provide a well-rounded education to our students; this includes a strong music program in each elementary school. As for paraeducators, I encourage each of you to shadow one for a day, reflect upon their role in the larger school ecosystem, and then imagine our schools trying to function with half of the individuals we currently have in these positions. I know a decent para over at RBES who would be more than happy to host you for a day.
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**Suggestions outside your current discussion:**

- Short-term: If not done so already, in Program 0301 eliminate the three new proposed positions for FY2020.
- Long-term: There are 19 individuals in the Communications Department and 4 in the Budget Department. If you want to prioritize solving the budget crisis that occurs year after year make these numbers align with that priority.
- Long-term: As an extension to my earlier points regarding paraeducators I encourage you to look to our neighbors in Frederick County to sustain current staffing levels while reducing the

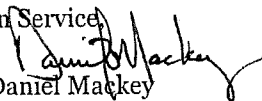
financial burden on the school system. Currently in HCPSS our 0.5 para positions receive full benefits. This is not sustainable. FCPS employs two types of paraeducators/instructional assistants: benefited and non-benefited. Typically 0.5 positions, the non-benefited positions are filled by retired teachers who wish to stay connected to the schools or other individuals not requiring benefits. I encourage a discussion with our colleagues at FCPS to explore implementing a similar structure within HCPSS.

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So many of you campaigned on strengthening this school system and encouraged the people of Howard County to dream big on what we could do with HCPSS. I understand we are in a difficult situation. We must make systemic adjustments and implement long-term goals to reduce the burden budget discussions place on our community each year. With more predictability we can focus on the hard work of improving the opportunities provided to our students.

If I think of more recommendations I will not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

In Service



Daniel Mackey

*Education Advocate*

*Graduate of Wilde Lake High School, 2012*

*Candidate for Howard County Board of Education, 2018*

**Council Resolution 55-2019**

**Introduced:** May 6, 2019

**LA:** Lynne Rosen

**Legislative Intent:** This Resolution would approve the appointment of Michael McPherson to the Commission on Aging.

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**ANALYSIS**

Who would be replaced by the nominee? Andrew Monjan

Is that person still actively serving? Yes. His term of office expires in May.

Is that person eligible for reappointment? The Commission on Aging advised that Mr. Monjan was cycling off, and there is a vacancy.

If eligible for reappointment, does that person wish to continue to serve? See above.

If the board has specific qualifications for different members, where the nominee fits in that mix.

Section 12.501 of the County Code provides that the Commission on Aging shall be composed of no more than 15 members. The qualifications of the members are as follows:

- (1) All members shall be residents of Howard County.
- (2) A majority of members of the Commission shall be at least 55 years old.
- (3) Members shall be selected because of their interest in the problems of the aging and shall be broadly representative of the citizens of the County.

Mr. McPherson is at least 55 years of age.

<https://www.thebeaconnewspapers.com/proud-to-be-a-political-activist/>

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Matthew Bucksell <matthew.bucksell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:42 AM  
**To:** 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.]

Dear Howard County Council and Board of Education,

Please consider increasing HCPSS' budget for FY 2020. I believe this will better serve the needs of all children, especially the marginalized communities that need special attention and care. If we want Howard County to remain one of the top school systems in the country, the children themselves should be the priority in achieving that goal and subsequently be an example for others. Increasing HCPSS' funding will enable schools to hire more staff charged with helping the schools meet their goals and supporting the current staff in providing them with the resources they need and have asked for to succeed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matthew Bucksell  
Columbia, MD Resident

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 7:49 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Budget Concerns

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**From:** Kallie Beem <KALLIE\_BEEM@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 3:21 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget Concerns

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

Opal Jones,

I am an elementary school teacher for HCPSS. I am very concerned since learning about a major budget gap which could impact our vital human resources and support. Increasing class sizes would be devastating. We are already struggling to meet the needs of all of our diverse learners. We cannot afford to be spread more thin. Academic achievement would certainly suffer, as well as teacher morale. A decrease in support would result in safety issues as well. We need adequate materials and supplies in order to deliver effective instruction. I urge you to bridge your budget gaps by other means. Our students deserve better and it is the reason you were elected. Thank you for your consideration.

Kallie Beem  
KALLIE\_BEEM@hcpss.org  
2109 Knights Squire Rd  
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 7:48 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Teachers

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**From:** Zack Krasney <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 3:12 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Teachers

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

Opal Jones,

Our teachers, schools, and students deserve the best. We're one of the wealthiest counties in the country. It's crazy to think that we can't support our community better than this. Do better.

Zack Krasney  
zkrasney@gmail.com  
1101 Marksworth Rd  
Gwynn Oak, Maryland 21207

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:38 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: BOE please STOP increasing class size

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**From:** Lauren Kleinman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:49 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** BOE please STOP increasing class size

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

Opal Jones,

Please protect our students and the strong educational system we have in the county by either maintaining or reducing class-size, NOT increasing!!

BOE must do More to maintain the quality of education the county is known for

Lauren Kleinman  
laoliner@yahoo.com  
7021 Long View Rd  
Columbia , Maryland 21044

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:34 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Our children deserve more

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**From:** Cristina Mabry <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:43 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Our children deserve more

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

Opal Jones,

Good morning,

I write to you today to please increase the budget for schools to bring class size down and hire more teachers.

Our children deserve more individualized attention that they cannot receive with large class sizes. While I understand it's not the same but can you imagine having 26 five year olds in your house as a parent? How are teachers supposed to give the attention, caring and discipline that these children need all while creating a nurturing learning environment?

Howard county is known for their schools. Please do not let us begin this road to becoming one of the many failing school systems.

Thank you

Cristina Mabry

Cristina Mabry  
cmabry02@gmail.com  
5505 Tang place  
Columbia , Maryland 21045



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:20 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS Class Size

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**From:** Sara Hammer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:43 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HCPSS Class Size

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

Opal Jones,

Hello- I am a constituent and have two children who attend HCPSS schools- one in elementary and one in middle. Both of my kids have 504 plans and large class sizes make learning even more challenging. At the size increase suggested at the meeting last night, I question whether anyone will be able to access the general education curriculum. This increase in class size is negligent and harmful. Please reconsider this decision. If class size can't be reduced, at least keep it where it is. Don't let it get worse on your watch. Thank you.

Sara Hammer  
hammersa@gmail.com  
2130 Bexley Drive  
Woodstock , Maryland 21163

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:16 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS Budget

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**From:** Kelley Flesher <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:38 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Council Members,

Our school system is the crown jewel of Howard County. We are consistently ranked as a high performing school system which draws families and other businesses to our county. If class sizes increase our children will suffer and families will make the difficult decision to no longer choose Howard County or to move. I know that my husband and I moved to Howard County specifically for the schools.

Our schools are already at a breaking point with teachers being asked to control too many students at once. Increasing class sizes is unfair to our hard working teachers and robs children of valuable education time. It is very difficult for a teacher to create a bond with her students and really get to know them in such large groups.

Teachers are society's safety net. They recognize students who are struggling educationally, socially, or at home. Teachers are the most important support that many students have. Increasing class sizes will negatively impact the teacher student relationship.

Increasing class sizes will create safety issues of too many children in classrooms which is especially dangerous in emergency situations.

Properly funding education and supporting our teachers is our most important priority in Howard County as our school system is the foundation of our county.

Please act in support of our teachers, schools, and most importantly our students.

Sincerely,  
Kelley Flesher

Kelley Flesher  
kelleyflesher@yahoo.com  
8340 Glenmar Rd  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:15 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Do not increase class sizes

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**From:** Tanya Roche <tanyaspann.roche@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:36 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Do not increase class sizes

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

Opal Jones,

Howard County needs to get its act together. We have such a high tax base in this county - why on earth are we increasing school class sizes? The county council, county executive and school board need to work together to help our kids instead of hurting them. Our elected officials need to significantly increase the amount of money that developers pay for impact fees (like Montgomery County does), reduce or at least not increase administrative costs, and pass the burden of other county improvements like renovation to Merriweather Post on to event ticket purchasers rather than to our students. If Howard County wants to continue to attract high income residents with its "world class" schools, then our elected officials need to stop making our school system worse. A class size of 35 kids in grades 6-12 is ridiculous! How can a teacher teach and a child learn in that crowded environment? Stop giving the developers free reign to build expensive houses without the appropriately expensive impact fees. How can we live in one of the richest counties and always be in a budget shortfall when it comes to our schools? The only reason people want to live here is for the schools - work on making them better, not worse!

Tanya Roche  
tanyaspann.roche@verizon.net  
8425 Shears Ct  
Laurel, Maryland 20723

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:12 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: School funding

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**From:** Rebecca Carter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:29 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** School funding

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

Opal Jones,

I believe that class size limitations are essential for maintaining the strength of the school system. Do not sacrifice our children's learning by increasing class sizes.

Rebecca Carter  
rebeccacarter83@gmail.com  
2505 River Ridge Trail  
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:08 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Class Size

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**From:** Karen Jablon <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:25 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Class Size

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

Opal Jones,

I understand that we are having issues with the budget. I STRONGLY urge you to get into classrooms and talk to TEACHERS, paras and the KIDS about the impact of class size. As a teacher, I CANNOT do my job properly with 30 kids in a class much less 33. Even with a parent volunteer coming in most days a week, I am unable to meet with half of my students over the course of a week. How am I supposed to get to know them well enough to meet their needs? This doesn't even mention grading papers, meetings etc. Our kids are going to suffer and the great school system we boast about is going to quickly go down hill.

Karen Jablon  
kjabajab@yahoo.com  
2373 Ballard Way  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:07 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Reduced class sizes and less staff

**From:** Angela Swann <a.wswann@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:23 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Reduced class sizes and less staff

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Christiana Rigby, You came to my house last year when you were seeking election and spoke to my husband. It was a great conversation and we agreed on your platform, and votes for you. I am now asking that you help make sure that our school system isn't hindered by reducing class sizes and staff. I raised both my daughters in this County and now they are both teachers here. I volunteer in their classrooms and see what happens with increased class sizes. There are more children in the room than there are desks. Also, trying to manage classes of 29 middle schoolers in one room is a challenge to both the teachers and students, who have trouble learning in such a crowded classroom! This County has always been known as a great place to live, because of the school system, and crowded classrooms, with less staff, does not bode well for that reputation. Please remember your campaign promises to help maintain the reputation of the education system by not reducing the staff and increasing class sizes-our children, and teachers are already so challenged! I appreciate your thoughtfulness on helping to make the best decision for our students and staff.

Angela Swann  
a.wswann@verizon.net  
10006 Hackberry Lane  
Columbia, Maryland 21046

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:04 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS Budget

**From:** Laura Mettle <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:22 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget

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

Opal Jones,

Hello,

My family moved to Howard County in 1985 for the high quality of the public schools. My three children attended and graduated from Howard County Public Schools. I have worked for as a special education teacher at Wilde Lake Middle for 15 years. When I first started teaching, the student/teacher ratio was 20:1 in HCPSS middle schools. This budget calls for a ratio of 35:1. That's an unacceptable increase. Our brand new academic classrooms do not have space for 35 students in them (at least not without new furniture), if we are to have space to walk around the room, and if the teacher has a small desk and a chair to sit in during the day. I co-teach English to students who need a great deal of individual attention. My partner teachers and I would not be able to check in with all the students who need help during a typical class period when they're working on an assignment; there simply would not be enough time. Student misbehavior increases as class sizes increase, which further detracts from instruction. Grading 35 essays well can take hours of a teacher's personal time. At about 5 minutes an essay, you're talking 6 hours per class. Multiply that times 5 classes, and a good English teacher might spend 30 hours, outside of school hours, grading a single assignment for their classes, because they might have 175 students. Computer carts come with only 30 laptops, if they all work. Thirty-five students per class is way too many.

Laura Mettle  
ldmettle@yahoo.com



3320 Daisy Road  
Woodbine , Maryland 21797

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:01 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

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**From:** Meredith Yakscoe-Markle <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:17 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**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.]

Opal Jones,

Dear Council Members,

I am a twelve year veteran teacher in HCPSS. Over the years I have seen our school district rise to national rankings and is identified as one of the top school districts in the nation. I am proud to be a teacher for this county. However, I have also experienced the motto of "Do more with less."

Increasing class size will exacerbate an already difficult situation. Teachers are expected to teach a rigorous curriculum, become counselors who are able to identify social and emotional needs/crises and be able to intervene, teach core values, and reach every student so we can make a difference. We are to teach small groups and whole group lessons with less time due to student pull out groups and schedule conflicts. I am to conduct science investigations without enough materials for my already large class size. I am not even able to comfortably fit 30 fifth graders in my class and also have space to meet for small groups.

Students are suffering the worst. For the past three years I have personally seen an alarming increase in mental health concerns with my students. They are stressed. They are dealing with conflicts at home that are directly affecting their ability to focus at school. My main concern is their emotional well-being. I simply cannot help these suffering students if the class size increases. It is impossible. We are asking more of these students without giving them an adequate support system to help them. It is appalling. The teachers and guidance counselors

are the ones who are "putting out the fires" everyday and we don't have enough water to do so.

I was Charlotte Zaremba and Sean Crizer's teacher when they were in third grade at Waterloo. I was Albert Yin's teacher when he was a fifth grader at Bushy Park. I have been a confidant to students who feel they have no way out. Fridays are the worst days for these increases in self-harm threats. Students know they are going home and won't be at school which they consider their safe spot. I lay awake on the weekends hoping I don't get a call that a student has harmed themselves. I am sick and tired of going to funerals for kids. I am afraid this increase will lead to a direct correlation with increase in suicidal tendencies because I simply won't be able to connect with them due to more students in my class.

Please help our students. Thank you.

Meredith Yakscoe-Markle

Meredith Yakscoe-Markle  
myakscoemarkle@gmail.com  
6693 Rockridge Place  
New Market, Maryland 21774

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:57 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: School staffing

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**From:** Joanne Grabowski <joanne.grabowski@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:12 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** School staffing

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

Opal Jones,

I am a Special Education teacher for HCPSS. This has been a very difficult year for education. I have been stretched so thin when servicing my students. When students are struggling to keep up with their peers, they often do not know how to express themselves. Aggressive behaviors increase when this happens.

I worry about the safety of all children and staff. This past quarter, I have experience violent behaviors from three students. One student hit me in my face and I was sent to urgent care. When students become aggressive, other student don't get the help they need. It just spirals. Having increased classroom sizes would not help this situation.

I spend a lot of my own money to make sure I have teaching materials that are engaging for my unique population of student. Every special education teacher has a unique caseload.

This past election period brought hope for me as the people running spoke of putting education high on the priority list. It does not seem that promises have been kept. If we want to maintain our reputation of one of the best school system, we have to have the funding to maintain out high standards. We lose great teachers to other counties because they pay more.

I work in a very positive school environment. We want the best for our students. The subject of staffing has brought down morale. This has an impact on everyone in the school: staff,

students, and families. Please consider funding our schools so increase class sizes don't have to be a result of lack of funding.

Joanne Grabowski

joanne.grabowski@verizon.net

6678 Washington Blvd

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:56 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Five Year Olds

---

**From:** Melissa Gallo <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:03 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Five Year Olds

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

Opal Jones,

Hello,

There are so many expectations on our five year olds in this county. Parents and preschool educators have worked tirelessly to prepare our children for kindergarten. What will the county do to ensure our kids meet expectations? We need excellent teachers and small class sizes!

Melissa Gallo

Melissa Gallo

Msgallo33@aol.com

old Willow way

ELLICOTT CITY, Maryland 21042

▪

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:55 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS Budget

---

**From:** Hope Kassman <hope@kasconinc.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:00 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget

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

Opal Jones,

Let's keep HCPSS one of the best in our he country. What could possibly be more important than the education of our children?

Hope Kassman  
hope@kasconinc.com  
Evening shadows court  
Clarksville, Maryland 21029

▪

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:52 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Budget

---

**From:** Erika Reigle <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:57 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget

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

Opal Jones,

My daughter will be going into first next year at Fulton. We've already experienced the budget shortfall in the scaling back of afterschool care but losing quality teachers and increasing class size is ridiculous. Howard County is a wealthy county in part because professionals like me choose it due to the schools. Please prioritize the schools.

Erika Reigle  
ereigle@mac.com  
8145 westside  
Fulton, Maryland 20759

▪



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:50 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Teacher surpluses

---

**From:** Allison Downey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:47 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Teacher surpluses

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

Opal Jones,

This is not okay. You need to approve the budget and get class sizes down.

Allison Downey  
anw302@gmail.com  
9562 Red Apple Ln  
Columbia, Maryland 21046-2044

▪

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:49 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Teacher ratio

**From:** Emily Arker <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:44 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Teacher ratio

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

Opal Jones,

Please consider the importance of appropriate student- teacher ratios in Howard County schools.

I am a school psychologist and have worked in several nearby counties. I have seen firsthand how student-teacher ratios are one of the most important factors for student success.

When a teacher has too large of a class, academic and behavior issues often emerge that could have been prevented. If managed the wrong way, this can then lead to more children being identified with educational disabilities such as Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and ADHD, when their needs are not met through good Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction. It actually costs more money to educate a child with an IEP with special education needs than to be preventative in the general classroom setting.

Sincerely,

Emily Arker  
School Psychologist and Mom

Emily Arker  
ebecker\_84@yahoo.com

3895 Woodville  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

▪

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Increasing Class Sizes in Elementary School

---

**From:** Keva Ballard <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:43 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Increasing Class Sizes in Elementary School

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

Opal Jones,

Dear County Council,

I am deeply concerned with the increase in the total amount of students in each classroom. Also, I am concerned with the decrease in the teaching staff. While the county thinks this is for the better of students, it is not. Students will not be able to receive the extra support in all subjects because of the crowded classrooms. Also, students academic scores and learning ability extremely will go down. It is not safe to have that many students in one class. Furthermore, I am in favor to retract the language Arts class that was offered but then taken away to students due to a budget. My children found that class helpful to communicate with other students and helpful to be prepared in middle and high school. I am concerned with the direction of Howard County Public School System. Please do not increase the classroom sizes out children will benefit. They are our future. Let's help make the classroom sizes better for the teaching staff not worse. Thank you.

Keva Ballard  
kevaballard@gmail.com  
9215 Bridle Path Ln Unit A  
Laurel, Maryland 20723-1550

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Funding HCPSS

**From:** Ammoria Shewchuk <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:37 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Funding HCPSS

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

Opal Jones,

Hello,

I am writing about the current budget needs of the Howard County Public School System. The biggest problem teachers face everyday is not having enough time to give their students the personal attention they need to thrive. With 30 students in each homeroom, there is not enough time to form personal connections and check-in daily with every student they teach. With growing concerns about students' social and emotional well-being, we must have decreased class sizes. The biggest way to enable teachers to impact students' social and emotional well-being is to have less students in all classes. The only way to make this possible is to increase funding to hire more teachers. Schools would also benefit from having more than one school guidance counselor and school psychologist to help impact students' mental health and well-being in ways that classroom teachers cannot. This also requires increased funding to hire these support staff.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ammoria Shewchuk  
amashew@gmail.com  
10926 Hammond Drive  
Laurel, Maryland 20723

▪

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:43 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: We need your support!

---

**From:** Meaghan Liwosz <Meaghan\_Liwosz@HCPSS.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:36 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** We need your support!

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

Opal Jones,

I have been a teacher for 12 years in Howard County and each year another hurdle is put in place for us to serve and create an environment that facilitates a safe, creative learning space. We need smaller class sizes and adequate resources for the changing, diverse needs of the communities that we work with. Your decisions to cut funding directly impacts the students, the ones that we all have dedicated our lives to serving. We as teachers go to work day in and day out because we want to do what is best for our children, but the decisions being made are making us do our jobs-NEAR IMPOSSIBLE!

Meaghan Liwosz  
Meaghan\_Liwosz@HCPSS.org  
6501 Ducketts Lane  
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:41 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Fully fund staffing for schools 2019-2020

---

**From:** Stacie Marvin <stacie\_marvin@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:23 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Fully fund staffing for schools 2019-2020

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

Opal Jones,

As a former HCPSS student, and current parent and teacher in HCPSS, I greatly value the quality and commitment of the staff and teachers of HCPSS. Not only do I work hard every day for students in my own classroom, but I trust my own children to other HCPSS faculty and staff. For the 45 years I've been involved with HCPSS, the stellar teachers and committed staff members are what make HCPSS excellent and the envy of other systems throughout the country.

I'm begging you to fully fund our teachers and support staff so that we can continue to do what's best for the children of Howard County every day.

Stacie Marvin  
stacie\_marvin@hcpss.org  
11725 Stonegate Ln  
Columbia, Maryland 21044-4364

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:40 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Class Room Size

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**From:** Debbie Mead <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:01 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Class Room Size

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

Opal Jones,

To Whom It May Conern,

The kindergarten class should not be enlarged. Children need to learn and if there are too many students it will cause disruption to their learning. Children should be able to have individual attention when needed if there are over 26 children in a class the teacher would not be able to assist a student due to how many children are in the class.

Thank you,  
Debbie Mead

Debbie Mead  
dmead98@yahoo.com  
4811 Shady Path Place Apt E  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:34 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Class size

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**From:** Jen Johannes <jennifer\_johannes@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:01 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Class size

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

Opal Jones,

As a HoCo parent and HoCo teacher I beg you, please don't increase class size. I don't want my daughter in even bigger classes and working at Oakland Mills Middle, the rooms are so small I can't even walk around with the kids I have crammed in my tiny room. I worked for 15 years in AACPS and seen that underfunding education makes a school system slowly slide into mediocrity as was the case on Anne Arundel County. Please don't increase our class size.

Jen Johannes  
jennifer\_johannes@hcpss.org  
8213 Tyson Rd  
Ellicott Coty, Maryland 21043

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:33 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Class Size

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**From:** Jill Lieberman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 2:59 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Class Size

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

Opal Jones,

As an HCPSS teacher, I'm very concerned about the increase in class sizes. I teach kindergarten and currently have 24 students. I can't imagine adding 2-3 more per class. At the beginning of the year, our newest students need lots of individual love and attention as they make a huge adjustment in their little lives. Larger class sizes will make it harder for teachers to provide this support to their students.

Jill Lieberman  
jlieberman25@gmail.com  
Quarry Bridge  
Columbia , Maryland 21046

▪

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:28 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS 2019-2020 Budget

**From:** Jessica Cummings <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:20 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HCPSS 2019-2020 Budget

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I am music teacher currently out on leave as well as a parent to an incoming kindergartener to HCPSS. I was extremely disappointed to hear about the new budget cuts for the 2019-2020 school year. I recognize that you are given a difficult task when given a finite amount of money that you need to budget and allocate. I also recognize that there are many worthwhile things in which to allocate those funds. However, increasing class size is not the way to fix a budget shortfall. A kindergarten teacher takes a group of students with an extremely wide range of abilities and needs to individually assess each of those students. Increasing the class size increases that teacher's work load and ability to differentiate and independently work with each child. One of whom will be my child. Increasing class sizes in high school eliminates certain elective classes that provide for a well rounded education. It eliminates additional top level classes that could affect a student's college and career trajectory. In cutting staff members, you remove the teachers who could teach these additional classes and you limit the HCPSS's student's educational experience. Increasing class sizes puts additional stress and responsibilities upon teachers without additional planning time or classroom time to compensate for the additional students. Imagine a scenario with twenty-six five year olds in one classroom, six of whom know their letters and numbers but can't sound out words, six can add and subtract but can't write clearly, another six can read books, and the other eight are just identifying how to count and sight words. Then

add in bathroom breaks, typical five year old energy and a classroom that can't really accommodate the number of kids moving around very comfortably. While I know you have difficult decisions to make, one of the reasons people move to Howard County and pay higher taxes is because of the schools. If you do not fund schools in a way that shows your value of education, these same people may look elsewhere.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I value what you are doing and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cummings

Jessica Cummings

[jlcummings11@gmail.com](mailto:jlcummings11@gmail.com)

10682 Hillingdon Rd.

Woodstock, Maryland 21163

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:25 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Cutting Teachers

---

**From:** Amanda Eriksen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:17 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Cutting Teachers

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

Opal Jones,

Cutting teachers and adding to overall classroom sizes is not what brought us to Howard County 10 years ago. We have dedicated teachers who enrich our children everyday.  
FIND ANOTHER WAY.

Amanda Eriksen  
Aderiksen8@gmail.com  
7772 Mayfair Circle  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

▪

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:24 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Hcpss Budget

**From:** Brett Moore <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:14 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Hcpss Budget

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

Opal Jones,

Good Evening,

I support fully funding Howard county public schools.

Sincerely,

Brett Moore

Brett Moore

brett.p.moore@gmail.com

7302 Shady Glen Dr

Columbia, Maryland 21046

▪

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: No one's best interest

**From:** Lauren Konick <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:30 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** No one's best interest

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

Opal Jones,

I am a 1st grade teacher and a parent in HCPSS. When we were informed of the decision for the staffing cuts and the larger classroom numbers I was worried and angered. Getting to know our students is the county push, but how can we truly know each of our student and their changing needs if we keep adding to the numbers?! When they say 27 is the max in 1st, that isn't really the max. Each of the 4 teachers would have to have over that number in order to finally add another teacher. If you start the year out at 26-27, then as new students roll in, we would all be over that 27 as the year goes on (this happened several years ago when we were departmentalized). 2 more bodies doesn't sound like a lot, but when you are expected to teach no more than 6 kids in a reading group and only have time for 4 reading groups a day, it doesn't add up! That makes for less time to conference with children during writing, more bodies in the 2 group math model that is preferred by the MSTs, and more paperwork and report cards for the teachers.

I am fearful for the impact this will have on my students, my children, and my own stress and health. Please reconsider this decision. It will have a HUGE ripple effect felt by all!

Thank you,  
Lauren Konick

Lauren Konick  
llovell04@gmail.com

7925 Brightlight Place  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:53 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Class size

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**From:** Margaret Martin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:27 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Class size

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

Opal Jones,

I donut support the increase in class size.

Margaret Martin  
maggieandbrettmartin@yahoo.com  
4388 Doncaster drive  
Ellicott city , Maryland 21043

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:53 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Class sizes

---

**From:** Shylce Nelson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:23 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Class sizes

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

Opal Jones,

Please increase funding to keep class sizes down. All home development needs to stop until the schools can be made to accommodate without over crowding a classroom.

Shylce Nelson  
nelsonfamily4742@gmail.com  
4742 Widdup Court  
Ellicott city, Maryland 21043

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Our Children Deserve Better!

**From:** Kelli Livay <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:21 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Our Children Deserve Better!

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

Opal Jones,

I am writing this letter as a parent of two children in the HoCo public school system. We need you to fight for our children and our future generation! Increasing the classroom size is not fair to our children nor our teachers. Budget cuts in our county should NOT impact our children's education. Please help hold accountable those contributing to the county's budget issue, like the developers! This is truly devastating news and HoCo is better than this!

Thank you,  
Kelli Livay

Kelli Livay  
kelbrickman@yahoo.com  
3013 Carlee Run Ct  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:45 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Fully Fund HCPSS

**From:** Lauren Hughes <lauren\_hughes@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:20 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Fully Fund HCPSS

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

Opal Jones,

I am incredibly proud to work in Howard County as a middle school English teacher. I see every single day the caliber of staff who are committed to providing quality, rigorous, engaging education to a diverse student body. I love working in a school system that is making diversity, equity, and inclusion a fundamental priority.

However, I still have to buy my own supplies for my classroom. I purchase novels with diverse characters for my classroom because MOI and textbook funding has been cut. I've spent hundreds of dollars on books for my students to read.

This winter, my classroom was consistently 90 degrees (in winter) because something was wrong with the heating and cooling system. I went home exhausted and dehydrated after being told for weeks they couldn't fix the issue.

And this year, my first period class was so large that I had students volunteering to sit on the floor because there were not enough chairs in my classroom.

I work hard to ensure my students have the best possible education I can provide, but it is utterly demoralizing to hear that Howard County and the State of Maryland will not fully fund HCPSS schools. I can't think of any better use of our state's funds than ensuring a quality education for MD students. Why is this not a top priority? Why are we allowing school

conditions to deteriorate when Maryland public schools have consistently been among the nation's best and attract top talent to our region?

I ask that you reconsider the budget, and show that education is still a priority in the state of Maryland.

Regards,  
Lauren Hughes

Lauren Hughes  
lauren\_hughes@hcpss.org  
800 Crosby Rd  
Baltimore, Maryland 21228

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:44 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Concerns over school budget and funding

**From:** Monique Shapiro <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:03 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Concerns over school budget and funding

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

Opal Jones,

Good evening,

My husband and I moved to Howard County over ten years ago for many reasons, but one was the knowledge this is a wonderful part of Maryland to live and raise a child. We now have a small family, and while we are not yet at the age of enrolling our child in school, we consider the state of Howard County Public School system a top priority. I believe in paying a mortgage and taxes rather than private school tuition for elementary - high school education. I am concerned that there is discussion of the budget falling short, increasing class sizes, and losing valuable teachers. I am grateful and proud to live in Howard County and I hope the status of the school system does not falter. Please take action to brainstorm and advocate for adjustments needed so our schools remain academically high quality, safe, and nurturing for our collective children's well-being.

Thank you,

Monique Shapiro

Monique Shapiro  
moniquecouteau@hotmail.com  
8957 Twelve Sons Ct.  
Jessup, Maryland 20794

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:41 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Education and safety concerns in the schools.

**From:** Roberta DeLong <Rdelong@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:59 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Education and safety concerns in the schools.

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

Opal Jones,

I am a paraeducator at the middle school level in Howard County. I have 19 years with the county, have had 3 children graduate from Howard County Schools and currently live in the county. Speaking from experience in working within the schools, class sizes have continually been increasing, and behaviors of the students have increasingly become more challenging. Cutting teacher staff and increasing class sizes are not good solutions to budget deficits. The increase in high paid "specialists" and board-office positions need to be trimmed. These positions do very little to improve education and are very costly. Look at the actual waste of money in the system not the bread and butter of the system. We are already at a breaking point where education is already suffering. Recruiting highly skilled and desirable staff will soon become very difficult. Thank you , Roberta DeLong

Roberta DeLong  
Rdelong@hcpss.org  
8212 Rippling Branch Rd  
Laurel, Maryland 20723

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:37 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HoCo Schools

**From:** Korin Sharp <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:50 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HoCo Schools

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

Opal Jones,

Dear County Council members,

I was alarmed to learn about the drastic budget shortfall and proposal to surplus teachers and increase class size yet again. Howard County's reputation for excellence cannot be sustained if this is the path we are following. Already we are falling behind neighboring counties in areas like elementary foreign language and special education support. How can general student needs be met with these proposed limitations? Reductions in staffing and maintenance will further stress the success of our school system and desirability of our county.

Please demonstrate to our students, teachers, and staff that they are valued by ensuring adequate funding to maintain excellence in HCPSS.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Korin Sharp

Korin Sharp

iamkorin@gmail.com

9600 Chaton Rd.

Laurel, Maryland 20723



## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:35 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Please fund our schools adequately!

---

**From:** Tracy Lynge <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:48 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Please fund our schools adequately!

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

Opal Jones,

I have witnessed the class sizes at Centennial Lane Elementary School growing since my oldest started kindergarten in 2012. My youngest is now in 1st grade. I am very concerned about the idea that we would be able to fund fewer teachers at CLES next year, because our student population only continues to grow. We added a fifth portable classroom this year and there is no end in sight to the greed of developers who would continue add dozens of students to our schools with no plan for accommodating all of them. My two sons have ADHD and I have clearly seen the difference between their performance in larger vs. smaller classes. When they are in classes with fewer students, the teacher can pay more attention to them and support them better than when they are in larger classes. Please do the right thing and keep our class sizes the same - or decrease them to prior year's levels!

Tracy Lynge  
biuslynge@gmail.com  
4036 Arjay Cir  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:34 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS Budget

**From:** Colleen Kraft <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:45 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget

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

Opal Jones,

As a lifelong Howard County resident, HCPSS graduate, parent of HCPSS students and a proud HCPSS ESP, I am writing to you to encourage you to strongly consider funding the budget appropriately to fully staff our schools and keep our class sizes at their lowest possibly number. Howard County is a desirable location for many families, who come to the area for the high quality instruction for their children. Large class sizes and short staffed schools do not contribute to this. With the lack of support and resources, the ones to suffer most will be our students. Staff will struggle to provide the high quality, creative, individualized instruction that we've come to value and expect from our amazingly talented and dedicated HCPSS staff. Please put our children, and our teachers at the forefront when you vote on this budget.

Colleen Kraft  
cshannonkraft@gmail.com  
5263 Harvey Lane  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:30 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: THINK ABOUT OUR CHILDREN

**From:** Meredith Carter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:41 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** THINK ABOUT OUR CHILDREN

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

Opal Jones,

They are the future for all of us. Stop expecting teachers to make miracles from dwindling funding. If you want successful, productive members to our society (our children) then make their well being and futures bright by giving them and those that teach them the resources they need to be successful.

Meredith Carter  
meredithparish99@hotmail.com  
7684-2 Maple Lawn Blvd  
Fulton , Maryland 20759

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:30 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Fully fund our schools

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**From:** Christinia Armstrong <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:41 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Fully fund our schools

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

Opal Jones,

I am writing to beseech you to fully fund schools so that class sizes do not increase & excellent staff members are not forcibly surplussed. It is imperative that schools receive funding to ensure that students have adequate & timely opportunities to access instruction, receive sufficient assistance from their teachers, and not be forced to endure subpar attention because the class size prohibits the teacher's ability to meet the student's needs and/or offer timely assistance. Our students deserve better, our teachers deserve better!! Not funding schools sufficiently would be a complete injustice!

Thank you for your consideration.

Christinia Armstrong  
carmstrong8721@gmail.com  
8721 Hummingbird Ct.  
Laurel, Maryland 20723

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:29 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: CLASs size increase

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**From:** Julia Zick <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:41 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** CLASs size increase

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

Opal Jones,

I am appalled at the BOE plans to increase class sizes. HCPSS has a great reputation and is a key reason for many families to live in this area. Don't turn our well respected school system into a joke. 26 kids in a kindergarten class is ridiculous and not sustainable. This will have significant long term negative effects and hurt hcpss, the county, and especially the students. If overcrowding is an issue then the county needs to ensure it doesn't zone more land for construction until sufficient infrastructure is available to support it and new construction should pay for that. Not the students in the school system!!!!

Julia Zick  
juliakzick@gmail.com  
Kindler rd  
Columbia , Maryland 21046

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:26 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Howard County Schools budget crisis

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**From:** Kathleen Costello <kayte.costello@gmail.clm>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:40 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Howard County Schools budget crisis

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

Opal Jones,

I am writing in behalf of my children and my friends children and all of the children living in Howard County who stand to be impacted by the state of the County schools. It seems that overdevelopment of the county, building more homes than we can keep up with, is beginning to have a lasting impact on the education of our children. People move to Howard County and choose to pay more taxes a d more for their rent or mortgage in order to send their children to some of the best schools in the country. I have seen change, and not for the better, in this county in the 14 years I have lived here. Houses and townhouses and apartment complexes are popping up like mad. Right in my own backyard. And the school system just can't keep up. We must demand more from the developers and builders. Our schools must not be forgotten about when these deals are made. The impact that large scale development and building has on a school system is huge and we are not doing enough to make a difference. Larger class sizes and fewer staff IS NOT THE ANSWER. I propose that the developers and builders must pay more for sites that have more homes. If they are paying the same tax for a development that has 5 homes as one that has 400 homes, something isn't right. We must do right by our kids. THEY are the future of this county and this country and we must not let them be forgotten or overlooked in order to line the pockets of builders, developers, and politicians.

Kathleen Costello  
kayte.costello@gmail.clm

7994 Brightmeadow Ct  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:24 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Do Not Increase HCPSS Class Sizes

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**From:** T Williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:38 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Do Not Increase HCPSS Class Sizes

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

Opal Jones,

HCPSS classes are already large and should not be increased any more. One teacher cannot pay adequate attention to more than 30 kids, let alone meet all of their needs and keep them all interested and safe. We pay enough taxes that there should be a better solution.

T Williams  
tfwinc@yahoo.com  
Silent Dell Lane  
Columbia, Maryland 21044

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## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:24 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: HCPSS budget needs

**From:** Chris Burleigh <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:37 PM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**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.]

Opal Jones,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Chris Burleigh. I am the mom of a 3rd grade student enrolled at a HoCo elementary school. I also work as a contract employee (TE) with children with special needs. I'm telling you, begging you not to raise class sizes. Everyone in the school is already feeling the stress/pressure of not being able to keep up with the kids needs. I fear what adding more children to teacher ratio will happen to our children. Our teachers.

If you want, I invite you to shadow me just one day in our classroom. Work with me, watch our amazing teachers. But see for yourself that our class sizes cannot and should not increase.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Chris Burleigh

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

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Dear County Council, and County Executive Ball, 5/10/19

Name: R Bear  
I am a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Student from Manor Woods Elementary.  
Please don't let the developers keep building houses. If you let them build, the class sizes will be way to big and I won't be able to learn the best I could. Also the teachers won't be able to be them selves because they are stressed. All the streets will be way too crowded and the roads will be all ready to crowded just like the schools.  
is you can see all of Howard County will be way to crowded and people don't want to live here.  
The developers are just doing it for \$ they don't care about the kids.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
RECEIVED

2019 MAY 13 PM 1:58  
AJL JF MJ

From the most angry  
Kid, Bear

5, 3144  
Ellisott  
saint Charles  
city MD.  
Williams Place