

Good Afternoon County Council,

My name is Amy Grutzik and I have been a resident of Howard County for 16 years and live at 1990 Saint James Road in Council District 5. I have two daughters in the school system and serve on both of their school PTA Boards. I am also a Howard County Public School System substitute teacher. In 2012, I served on the Attendance Area Committee to help with redistricting and creating the attendance area for the opening of Ducketts Lane ES.

I am here to ask the County Council to restore funding for a new transportation routing system to the HCPSS operating budget in the amount of \$400,000. This could be funded with one-time money and not count towards MOE. The routing system is "cloud based" and will provide access to the system anytime and anywhere. It will greatly improve the current outdated routing system software.

As the school system continues to grow and software evolves, we must take advantage of new technology that can help leverage a host of uses to make the school system more efficient and save money over time. Several uses of this system –and not limited to – are listed below:

- 1- Will enhance the modeling of redistricting and minimize transportation costs.
- 2- Will be able to run bus route optimization scenarios for better efficiency.
- 3- Can be used for scenario testing for bell time studies.
- 4- Has the ability for staff to test bus route adjustments in the field.
- 5- Can help relieve some of the transportation manager's workload.
- 6- The Logistic Center warehouse can enhance their delivery system by using the routing technology.

One of the current goals for the BOE and County Council is to balance the high school capacity utilization to help alleviate overcrowding. Having an updated routing system will enhance the modeling of redistricting and help minimize transportation costs. Optimization scenarios can help to provide the least amount of disruption for these students. This can include limiting the amount of time on the bus and preventing less sleep time for these students.

If the BOE is put in a position of having to choose between investing in a new bus routing system or keeping class sizes from increasing, they will choose the class sizes.

With the continual growth of students of approximately 850 -1,000 per year, the BOE seems to always be in catch up mode.

The routing system would be an investment to help the entire HCPSS community to include displaced, special education, and low and high income families.

I believe the \$400,000 will be money well spent and will allow the school system to have an edge for analysis and cost savings for years to come.

This investment will give a "Jump Start" to our school system to help achieve the goals of the County Council, the BOE, and the Community.

Thank you for your consideration toward restoring this money to the HCPSS operating budget.

Public Hearing – General Budget
C. Vernon Gray Room
Monday, May 13, 2019 1:00 p.m.

Kristen Piggott - Testimony on Behalf of St John's Lane Elementary School PTA

My name is Kristen Piggott I am a resident of District 5 and am here today to represent the Parent Teacher Association of St John's Lane Elementary School. SJLES has an enrollment of over 700 students grade k-5 and our PTA has nearly 400 members. We are a crowded school, but we are fortunate to have outstanding teachers and staff and an active and engaged community.

Speaking for family, we chose to move to Howard County largely because of the outstanding school system. I know this to be true for my neighbors and friends as well. We have chosen a community that values education. We have chosen a community that allocates resources to ensure that our schools are able to maintain their high standards. This is why it is disappointing to hear of the shortfall in funding for the Board of Education's budget of nearly \$38 million.

At our most recent PTA meeting we reviewed the potential savings list provided by the Superintendent on May 8th. The most troubling items from the Potential Savings List are those that directly impact the students and teachers, especially the following:

- Technology Education - Reduction of 50% in technology positions and technology education time for students in elementary school (from 60 minutes per week to 30 minutes per week)
- Elementary Instructional Music (50% reduction in positions)
- Gifted and Talented programs (positions reduced nearly 50% in elementary schools and 67% in middle schools)
- Paraeducator positions (nearly 40% reduction)

While we strongly advocate funding the proposed budget in full, we implore the the Council to fund approximately \$31 Million to eliminate the direct impacts to teachers and students. Within this budget no progress will be made on the HCPSS priorities of student well-being, restorative practices, diversity, equity and inclusion. It is clear that this year the funding is not available to improve our schools, but please, at least allocate the budget resources to ensure you do not make them worse.

Thank you.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Kristen Piggott, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

PTA - St Johns Lane Elementary School to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Public Hearing - General Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Kristen Piggott

Signature: Kristen Piggott

Date: 5/13/19

Organization: SJLES PTA

Organization Address: 2960 St Johns Lane

Elliott City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 400

Name of Chair/President: Pam Paramahamsan

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 26 April 2019

Subject: Consideration of County Funding to Howard County General Hospital Needs to Be Reinstated

Dear County Executive Ball,

We the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA would appreciate your consideration to follow through to include in the County budget the funding of the Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) as was promised by your predecessor. The former County Executive, in his FY19 budget cover letter, said the county is “providing \$5 million over the next five years, starting with \$500,000 this year. The money will be used to build a two-story addition that will add...an inpatient psychiatry unit and a short stay observation unit.” Howard County has a long history of pledging – and then fulfilling the pledge – to contribute toward capital expansion at HCGH. Quite simply the Hospital cannot recoup capital expenses in the rates charged to patients.

As you know, HCCA has testified over the years as to the significance of the Hospital to ensure we can obtain the best care possible. Please refer to our testimony on 1 May 2018 to County Executive Kittleman -- <http://howardcountyhcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/HCCA-Testimony-Hospital-Budget-to-Council.pdf> as to the importance of such funding and the potential benefits for all your constituents regarding the future health of the County. We simply can't afford not to fund the hospital if we care about the welfare of all. When you consider that we have an “aging population, the continuous development, only one hospital for our substantial population of over 323,000 residents, and growing rapidly the following HCGH FY2018 Utilization Statistics are daunting at best:

Fiscal Year 2018 Utilization Statistics

- HCGH provided services to approximately 200,000 people
- Evaluated and treated 78,049 patients in the Emergency Rooms
- Admitted to or observed in the hospital 21,417 patients
- Performed 10,693 surgeries; of these, 2,851 were performed in the hospital and 7,842 were performed as outpatient procedures.
- Delivered 3,369 babies
- Provided outpatient services to 52,063 patients (including laboratory / excluding outpatient surgery)
- Provided outreach, health promotions and wellness programs to over 30,000 people

As a Councilman you and Councilwoman Jen Terrasa saw the importance of attempting to ensure that Quality of Life Issues including the Hospital be considered to be a part of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance which HCCA has been promoting for years. We are sure based on your appreciation for your constituents and their welfare that the Health of ALL Howard County residents are a major priority for you and your administration. We are very pleased you recognize that the population health and community-facing programs the Hospital is pursuing are worthy of the partnership, support and benefit for Howard County.

Ralph Waldo Emerson is quoted as saying, "The first wealth is health." We believe this quote says it all as the "Wealth" of our County depends on the "Health" of our residents. This should unequivocally be the number one priority and we would hope it will be yours. It is too important a subject not to be. We would appreciate you renewing the commitment from the previous administration as it is undoubtedly the right thing to do. Your feedback would be appreciated and we hope it will be positive for the betterment of the County.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 13 May 2019

Subject: To Reinstate the Promised Budget Funding to the Hospital

Good afternoon. I am Stu Kohn, the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. Part of the HCCA Mission Statement is to maintain and improve the quality of life and delivery of services to obtain orderly growth and development in the best interests of its residents and the environment. We are not against development, but we are very much against any development when the infrastructure is not adequate. Infrastructure includes not only roads and schools, but quality of life issues such as the Hospital, the Police, Fire and EMS. We are asking for the funding which was promised to the Hospital to be reinstated.

Your hospitality to include the promised funding would be a major step in the right direction. We simply cannot afford to continue the ongoing massive development with any sort of strategic plan when it comes to the health of our county. Steve Snelgrove, the President of Howard County General Hospital has clearly stated numerous times – with an aging population and the growth rate of the County the Hospital cannot sustain this outcome. Yes – he is very concerned as we all should be!

We sent You and County Executive Ball a letter on 26 April, titled “Consideration of County Funding to Howard County General Hospital Needs to be Reinstated.” In this letter we listed the FY 2018 Hospital Utilization statistics. The numbers are very impressive, but in a negative way because the Hospital has a difficult time in handling the workload which is only going to be magnified by the continued growth. For example, the Hospital in the past fiscal year provided services for 200,000 people, evaluated and treated 78,049 patients in the Emergency room, admitted 21,417 patients, performed 10,693 surgeries, delivered 3,369 babies, provided outpatient services to 52,063 patients and serviced 30,000 individuals with outreach, health and wellness programs.

HCCA has been involved with the hospital for the last decade. We are proud to say we not only brought the problem with Yellow Alerts occurring in the Emergency room to the Council, but worked with the past President, Vic Broccolino and his staff to have this reduced. We have indeed been privileged to be associated with Mr. Snelgrove. We fully believe the Hospital as the center of ensuring we have a vital and thriving facility should by all means be the Number One priority in the budget. By replenishing the funding which was unfortunately taken away it would mean the following would prevail to benefit the residents of our County.

* A comprehensive breast health center to allow Howard residents to get full services in the community.

* An expanded cardiac intervention program to allow for a doubling of catheterizations which would go a long way in preventing heart attacks.

* Improvements to allow reduced waiting times in the Emergency room.

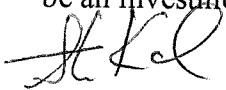
* The community population health and wellness programs to address health equity issues to prevent readmissions.

* Routine upgrades to the facility and the replacement of beds and equipment would be advantageous.

We often talk about "Smart Growth" but Smart Growth should not only stand for Sensible, Manageable, Accessible, Reliable, Traffic, but to have a real plan for any increased growth to ensure the Hospital can handle the workload now and in the future. I am sure many of you have seen the movie, "A Few Good Men." Do you remember what Jack Nicholson said to Tom Cruise, "You can't handle the truth." This should perhaps be changed in our case to "We Can't Handle the Truth." The truth is that by you reestablishing the Hospital funding which was promised during the next 4 years there is no doubt the Aging Population and the continued growth rate would be a far healthier environment.

County Executive Ball said it best, "Moving our Community forward with innovative, transparent, proactive, and sensible leadership that remains rooted in the values and quality of life we cherish." This is a saying that is very meaningful only if it becomes reality.

Thank You for listening and a bigger THANKS by seeing that the people of Howard County get the BEST CARE that money can buy. We hope by you reinstating the funding for our only Hospital as was promised will no doubt bring a much healthier County for us ALL. This would be an investment you shouldn't deny.



Stu Kohn
HCCA President



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Stu Kohw, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Citizens Association to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Budget Hearing to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Stu Kohw

Signature: Stu Kohw

Date: 13 MAY 2019

Organization: HCCA

Organization Address: ELLIOTT CITY

Number of Members: 500

Name of Chair/President: Stu Kohw

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Kevin Costello against music ed cuts

My name is Kevin Costello, Centennial class of 2016. I'm not here in denial that, occasionally, some programs have to lose funding, nor even to comment on the comparative worthiness of various programs. I only want to plead the case of one program that has been tremendously impactful on my life and the lives of so many close to me, leaving those with a broader view to counterweigh other considerations. And yet I seriously challenge you to name a set of programs, let ^yone just one, that can replace the vacuum that would be left without this single extraordinary program. Its offerings are that special, valuable, and rare in the school day. That program is school music.

Curricular music ensembles offer a productive and stimulating break, both mentally and physically, from the monotony of hunching over a desk to take lecture notes. They foster meaningful long-term relationships, with teachers and peers alike, that evolve and grow through years of membership in the same ensembles. They develop intensive, subtle, active, and descriptive listening skills, literally transforming a whole neglected dimension of one's ability to perceive the world. They demand true collaboration, with ensembles failing or succeeding together, and tearing your neighbor down amounting to shooting yourself in the foot. They also demand active participation in one's learning, qualitative critical thinking, and the confidence to hold one's own in harmony, but not lockstep, with those around you. They provide rewards for taking initiative, outlets for expression and creativity, goals not tied to grades or rankings, leadership opportunities, and bodily awareness. All that and much is what's at stake. Notice I don't mention test scores or interdisciplinary correlations, the kind of data points that are in vogue for defending arts programs. I find it self-defeating to hold that the only or primary way to vouch for qualitative studies is to lean on the quantitative. But the numbers are out there, and I encourage you to seek them if numbers are what speak to you.

However this proposal was intended, I cannot help but see it as the perfect first step to a terrible future, where music programs are perpetually on the retreat and fighting for their existence at every turn, and meanwhile, even the most sympathetic possible future boards feel compelled to recommend cuts because, well, *for some mysterious reason there are just fewer and fewer students wanting to take part.* Shockingly, decaying programs rarely attract newcomers, and really, what better way to phase out music entirely than to strike at the source, in elementary school? Again, this is not an accusation of ill intent, but a sober analysis of realistic consequences of our actions today. I've seen what it's like for music to be treated as optional and emphatically *extracurricular*--in fact, I've lived it, only entering HCPSS in 10th grade. It's a night-and-day kind of a difference. Before I got Centennial, I remember that it and its feeder schools struck me as a promised land for music, something miraculously unaccountable and almost too good to be true, whenever I encountered them at festivals or through summer band programs. Then I got here and quickly learned that I'd been witnessing no miracle, but the natural result of a system that works because of a community, county government absolutely included, that believes in the value of music education from the very beginning. Moreover, it was this community that welcomed me with open arms even before my first day of classes, when I arrived at marching band almost debilitatingly anxious over many things, but left with more new friends than I knew what to do with. Though I drifted more toward the choral music world through the years, both sides of that coin have provided me all of the above, as well as something more that I would like to end on--provided me something that's immediately recognizable when experienced, yet almost defies description, except to put it simply: a home within school. Thank you for your time.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC TESTIMONY – BUDGET HEARING
MAY 13, 2019

Good Afternoon,

My name is Lisa Soto and I am the 2018-2019 Chair of the HCPSS Community Advisory Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this afternoon on behalf of our 58,388 students.

The HCPSS Community Advisory Council respectfully requests that the County Council increase the funding from the County Executive's suggested HCPSS Operating Budget for FY2020. We ask that you restore the funding to the full amount requested by the Board of Education. This amount will allow HCPSS to honor their negotiated salary increases, to continue the work of bringing the Health Fund out of its deficit position and to provide enough funding for the staff and resources needed for the expected enrollment growth, so that class sizes do not increase in School Year 2019-2020.

I have previously testified to this body on April 24th, 2019. During that testimony I cited the amazing growth experienced by HCPSS in the past 18 months. To that report, I would like to add the attached April 30th Student Enrollment Report. Amazingly, HCPSS has grown by another 60 students in the past 30 days! ***Our total Enrollment increased from 58,328 at the end of March 2019 to 58,388 as of April 30th, 2019.*** As you may remember from my previous testimony, Maintenance of Effort and state formula funding calculations do not provide funding for student enrollment growth in the year of the growth, which results in underfunding for growing school systems like Howard County. Given the documented growth of students during the most recent nineteen month period and the expected growth of 850 new students that are projected in FY2020, HCPSS will again be forced to provide for new students without per pupil funding provided for these students.

As noted during your Work Session this morning, the needs of the residents and families of Howard County are growing daily. Please remember that HCPSS typically feels the impacts of these new residents and families first, especially in the Elementary School setting. Surprisingly, Elementary Schools are an area that may face significant cuts & class size increases should funding not be restored to the level requested by the Board of Education. Providing for the explosive growth of our schools is essential as we consider an appropriate budget amount for this, our most important economic engine in Howard County.

Thank you.

Lisa Soto, HCPSS Chair 2018-2019



Howard County Public Schools Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019
Report: STU606

As Of Date: 4/30/2019

Elementary School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Pointers Run Elementary School	0	0	3	24	32	138	131	143	143	157	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	941
Rockburn Elementary School	0	0	0	28	25	105	89	108	98	91	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	637
Running Brook Elementary School	0	0	0	12	39	82	71	59	80	85	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	506
St. John's Lane Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	120	116	114	117	127	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	717
Stevens Forest Elementary School	0	0	0	0	31	71	65	67	61	60	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	420
Swansfield Elementary School	0	0	0	0	28	103	91	88	85	111	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	604
Talbott Springs Elementary School	0	0	0	0	35	71	85	78	82	73	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
Thunder Hill Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	71	78	82	90	93	97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	511
Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	81	80	79	108	113	115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	576
Veterans Elementary School	0	0	0	31	55	135	138	151	154	144	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	963
Waterloo Elementary School	0	0	1	27	34	63	102	85	110	83	126	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	631
Waverly Elementary School	0	0	0	25	54	123	129	158	158	147	139	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	933
West Friendship Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	51	53	63	80	72	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400
Worthington Elementary School	0	0	1	17	50	66	76	74	80	82	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	546
Elementary School	0	0	8	489	1033	4046	4090	4233	4268	4392	4583	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27142
Middle School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Bonnie Branch Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	252	244	242	0	0	0	0	738
Burleigh Manor Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	273	258	285	0	0	0	0	816
Clarksville Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	221	243	214	0	0	0	0	678
Dunloggin Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	219	231	214	0	0	0	0	664
Elkridge Landing Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	257	253	240	0	0	0	0	750
Ellicott Mills Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	301	295	277	0	0	0	0	873
Folly Quarter Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	225	249	190	0	0	0	0	664
Glenwood Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	180	147	163	0	0	0	0	490
Hammond Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	211	182	184	0	0	0	0	577
Harper's Choice Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	158	181	170	0	0	0	0	509
Lake Elkhorn Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	202	187	198	0	0	0	0	587
Lime Kiln Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	225	212	202	0	0	0	0	639
Mayfield Woods Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	259	238	234	0	0	0	0	731



Howard County Public Schools Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019
Report: STU606

As Of Date: 4/30/2019

Middle School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Mount View Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	258	302	289	0	0	0	0	849
Murray Hill Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	251	224	249	0	0	0	0	724
Oakland Mills Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174	174	160	0	0	0	0	508
Patapsco Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	240	233	241	0	0	0	0	714
Patuxent Valley Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	248	219	222	0	0	0	0	689
Thomas Viaduct Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	221	228	199	0	0	0	0	648
Wilde Lake Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	206	220	202	0	0	0	0	628
Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4581	4520	4375	0	0	0	0	13476
High School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Atholton High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	371	375	375	376	1497
Centennial High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	381	410	397	379	1567
Glenelg High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	313	287	306	290	1196
Hammond High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	395	364	284	307	1350
Homewood School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	17	47	22	11	32	139
Howard High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	487	487	488	428	1890
Long Reach High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	420	387	376	355	1538
Marriotts Ridge High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	368	353	353	346	1420
Mt. Hebron High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	456	385	400	394	1635
Oakland Mills High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	323	321	299	246	1189
Pending Enrollment School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	4
Reservoir High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	436	430	330	378	1574
River Hill High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	474	313	301	290	1378
Wilde Lake High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	354	318	293	308	1273
High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	17	4826	4454	4214	4129	17650
Special School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Cedar Lane School	0	0	0	4	3	7	6	7	4	5	6	13	6	7	4	9	6	29	116
Non-Public Placement School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
Special School	0	0	0	4	3	7	6	7	5	5	6	14	6	7	5	9	7	29	120
Grand Total	0	0	8	493	1036	4053	4096	4240	4273	4397	4589	4598	4533	4399	4831	4463	4221	4158	58388



Special Services Only Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019
Report: STU606

As Of Date: 3/29/2019

Elementary School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Pointers Run Elementary School	0	0	3	24	32	136	131	142	141	157	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	936
Rockburn Elementary School	0	0	0	26	25	105	89	107	97	91	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	633
Running Brook Elementary School	0	0	0	12	39	78	71	59	82	83	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	502
St. John's Lane Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	121	115	114	117	126	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	717
Stevens Forest Elementary School	0	0	0	0	31	71	64	66	61	60	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	418
Swansfield Elementary School	0	0	0	0	29	103	91	89	88	113	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	611
Talbot Springs Elementary School	0	0	0	0	32	71	85	78	83	73	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	498
Thunder Hill Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	70	76	81	89	93	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	505
Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	80	78	79	106	112	115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	570
Veterans Elementary School	0	0	0	27	56	135	139	151	154	144	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	961
Waterloo Elementary School	0	0	1	26	33	62	104	86	110	82	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	629
Waverly Elementary School	0	0	0	24	53	123	129	158	158	147	139	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	931
West Friendship Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	51	53	63	79	72	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	399
Worthington Elementary School	0	0	1	17	50	67	75	73	80	81	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	544
Elementary School	0	0	8	467	1029	4038	4089	4226	4265	4385	4576	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27083
Middle School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Bonnie Branch Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	255	242	243	0	0	0	0	740
Burleigh Manor Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	273	259	283	0	0	0	0	815
Clarksville Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	220	243	213	0	0	0	0	676
Dunloggin Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	221	233	213	0	0	0	0	667
Elkridge Landing Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	258	253	240	0	0	0	0	751
Ellicott Mills Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	298	295	277	0	0	0	0	870
Folly Quarter Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	249	191	0	0	0	0	664
Glenwood Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181	147	163	0	0	0	0	491
Hammond Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	211	181	186	0	0	0	0	578
Harper's Choice Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	181	169	0	0	0	0	510
Lake Elkhorn Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	187	197	0	0	0	0	584
Lime Kiln Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	213	201	0	0	0	0	638
Mayfield Woods Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	257	237	233	0	0	0	0	727



Special Services Only Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019
Report: STU606

As Of Date: 3/29/2019

Middle School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Mount View Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	258	302	288	0	0	0	0	848
Murray Hill Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	252	222	250	0	0	0	0	724
Oakland Mills Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174	174	160	0	0	0	0	508
Patapsco Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	239	233	239	0	0	0	0	711
Patuxent Valley Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	247	219	223	0	0	0	0	689
Thomas Viaduct Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	221	230	201	0	0	0	0	652
Wilde Lake Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	206	217	202	0	0	0	0	625
Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4579	4517	4372	0	0	0	0	13468
High School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Atholton High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	371	375	366	385	1497
Centennial High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	381	413	398	378	1570
Glenelg High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	313	289	313	283	1198
Hammond High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	363	288	303	1354
Homewood School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	15	49	27	21	16	137
Howard High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	487	488	496	419	1890
Long Reach High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	417	391	374	361	1543
Marriotts Ridge High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	368	353	356	343	1420
Mt. Hebron High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	454	384	402	391	1631
Oakland Mills High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	321	323	300	248	1192
Pending Enrollment School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Reservoir High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	437	431	334	378	1580
River Hill High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	474	314	303	288	1379
Wilde Lake High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	355	316	300	298	1269
High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	15	4828	4468	4252	4091	17663
Special School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Cedar Lane School	0	0	0	4	3	7	6	7	4	5	6	12	6	6	4	9	6	28	113
ISRC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Special School	0	0	0	4	3	7	6	7	4	6	6	12	6	6	4	9	6	28	114
Grand Total	0	0	8	471	1032	4045	4095	4233	4269	4391	4582	4593	4530	4393	4832	4477	4258	4119	58328



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, LISA SOTO, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

HCPSS CAC - CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding BUDGET to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: LISA SOTO

Signature: Lisa Soto

Date: MAY 13, 2019

Organization: HCPSS

Organization Address: HCPSS CENTRAL OFFICE

Number of Members: 50-100

Name of Chair/President: LISA SOTO, 2018-19 CHAIR

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Thank you for this opportunity. Putting on my retired HCPSS band director hat, it is probably no surprise that I have strong feelings about the importance of high-quality music education. Many have had their lives enriched during and after their musical experiences, with resulting college scholarships, aesthetic appreciation, lifelong memories, and so much more. Today, I'd like to focus on three points.

First, the importance of *high-quality* programs. Poor-quality programs can produce large numbers of students who think that participating is a negative experience and turn them off to music-making and to the possibility of having their own children participate. High-quality programs can produce large numbers of students for whom music participation is a highlight of their lives, in the present and the future, and who will likely want their own children to participate.

Second, though it would be unfortunate to have to postpone many of the proposed mental health initiatives, I think it should be recognized that participation in high-quality music performance groups, as with other high-quality art, athletic, and academic programs, can be tremendously beneficial to students' mental health. I think that it is important for every student to have at least one thing that is "write-about-in-the-yearbook" special. For many students, this is participation in their band, orchestra, or choir "family." Reducing the quality of this experience will reduce this outcome, quantitatively and qualitatively. Not many students would value belonging to poor-quality music groups whose teachers didn't have the time to ensure good habits and fix bad ones, develop needed skills, challenge students appropriately, etc. Again, quality is vitally important.

Third, because of the care shown by so many over the past few decades, we have high-quality music programs unmatched per capita in the state. We have many incredible staff members who came here because they could have intelligently-designed schedules that enabled them to teach and students to learn. The results speak for themselves. Please don't reduce the quality that has taken so many years, and so much effort and love, to build. Some budget-balancing proposals can easily be implemented next year and "un-implemented" the following year; music programs are not one of them. Please consider this during your deliberations.

You have likely heard from and will hear from many people who care passionately about music education, and there are countless others who feel similarly. For many students, high-quality music performance experiences are life-changing. Please bear this in mind as you engage in the challenging task of balancing our budget, hopefully in a way that maintains high-quality experiences in all classes and activities.

If I may additionally implore, I hope that our leaders can work together to bring about a better procedure for future budgeting. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Robert W. Miller

In Defense of Musical Education – Daniel Zheng (CHS 2017)

Good afternoon distinguished members of the county council. My name is Daniel Zheng, an alumni of Centennial's Class of 2017. I am here today to testify against the reduction of music teachers in elementary schools around the county.

The decision to cut back on musical education is neither an economical decision, nor a logical "tough choice," but one that has dire consequences. As a second-generation Chinese immigrant, my parents along with many other families, had escaped the great Cultural Revolution, an era in which Chinese literature, art, history, philosophy, Confucian values, and religion had been wiped from schools around the nation and usurped by Communist ideology. Today, the Chinese identity and culture remains in shambles, one that flaunts only its wealth and cuisine, but lacks genuine substance otherwise.

Today we find ourselves at odds not with an oppressive regime, but with a tough decision in the face of great disruptive technology. Technology has made our lives more comfortable and more efficient in just the last 10 years, but with the rise of machine learning and artificial intelligence, various reports have suggested the mass overhaul of jobs within the next 20 years. As a student of the education system under the same principal for 7 years, I could only remember one thing from her legacy – the AP push – but what good is it to have classes of children who can sit and solve 50 contrived calculus and algebra problems ad nauseum, when we know machines are faster, smarter, and more efficient than we could ever imagine to be? If our children are to have a shot in the evolving modern world, we must not be teaching our children to be machines, but rather to be *human*. This classic STEM driven education provides stable careers in science and engineering, but this strictly utilitarian view of education will be the death of our humanity.

Additionally, Leonard Bernstein also spoke of the great existential crisis of the 20th century, but its effects and horrors are manifested in today's modern world, rife with suffering and chaos, from school shootings, to suicides, to mass depression amongst teenagers. Music and art are exemplars of our capacity to be human, whose universal language communicates love, loss, triumph, and failure across centuries and borders. Only our wisdom of the human condition can trump these fraught times.

Thus, we ought to be teaching our children what machines can never solve. The transformative power of music teaches us emotional sophistication, self-expression, immense creativity, sensitivity, attention to details, self-reflection, resilience in the face of challenge, leadership, teamwork. No other "AP class" has ever taught me those skills in my educational career. No amount of data fed to machines could ever teach us the value of life and the human experience. No job that values innovative thinking, creative problem solving, emotional intelligence, could ever be replaced. Cases of inner-city music programs revitalize impoverished neighborhoods, deterring kids from drugs and violence. If we are to build a strong future generation, not one that works harder, or smarter, but *wiser*, music must remain a staple in our public education system, especially one of such high caliber as Howard County, one that I have been so privileged to be a part of when I was a 3rd grader at Northfield.

While education continues to be underfunded, cutting music may seem advantageous for funding more practical education for finding careers, but it devalues a priceless aspect of our life. I will always be proud of Howard County, but we must continue to band together to build a more human society and preserve this gift for future generations to come. That lifelong journey and appreciation starts from a young age and continues till death, for life without art and music ceases to be life at all.

Hello. My name is Adam Goldstein, and I am a proud student of Centennial High School. I have lived in Howard County all my life, and have had the wonderful privilege of attending our county's public schools. I have always appreciated how amazing our schools are able to be because of how much support they get.

As such, I was extremely disappointed to learn that our County Council was not going to be giving HCPSS the funding it needed. I later found out that the school system then had to look at cost saving measures, and then after trimming what few non-essential items they could, they were forced to look at the programs that I and so many others have benefited from over these years. Things like cutting the number of elementary school instrumental music teachers in half which eliminates the possibility for separate band and strings teachers; like reducing the number of students able to participate in elementary school GT seminars and Curriculum Extension Units; like having 4th and 5th grade GT math be taught by on-grade level teachers; like cutting over one-third of elementary school paraeducators. And that's just for elementary schools, which form the very basis for the entire rest of our education.

They have also been forced to consider another class size increase in addition to this year's. I do my best to take full advantage of our schools' opportunities. For example, my school's band was able to perform at the Midwest Clinic, one of only 5 bands from the entire country. That's why it pains me so to see that the rising classes may not get such opportunities.

I recognize that the budget decisions made in some years prior have put those involved in this year's budget in a difficult place, but we students should not be the ones to bear the brunt of those decisions. I also recognize that such spending on education would require revenue generation in other areas, such as from land developers. Some have argued that this would place an undue burden on those developers, but our county's great education system is what drives so many families to move here. That industry benefits from our school system just as we students have. Others have argued that our school system already receives more than many other counties. I would remind those people that our school system consistently ranks so highly because we invest in it.

The school system has also been forced to look into using \$10 million from their Fund Balance as a one-time revenue to fund recurring costs, but as they themselves note, this is not a fiscally prudent course of action. The county has shown that they have exhausted their opportunities for impactless cost-cutting. Every dollar from there that you withhold is directly a dollar less for the education of our county's children and the support for those who provide it.

So many of your campaigns promised to put education first in this county, and I'm here to remind you of that promise.

I and so many other students like me have benefited so much from this school system, and so I ask that you fully fund the county school system's budget for fiscal year 2020 so Howard County can continue to be a model of public education.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Deanna G Kucler, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

CLES Music Boosters to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding 2020 FY Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Deanna Griffith Kucler

Signature: *Deanna G Kucler*

Date: 5/13/2019

Organization: Centennial Lane Band & Orchestra Boosters
d.b.a. CLES Music Boosters

Organization Address: 3825 Centennial Lane

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 400 +

Name of Chair/President: Deanna G Kucler

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Hi. My name is Joshua Branker. I am here to petition for increased budget for HCPSS Music programs. I am a senior trumpet player at Centennial High School where I participate in four band ensembles, two choirs, and a guitar class. I am also a member of two Howard County Gifted and Talented Music ensembles. Music is an outlet for me, my friends, and many other students across the County. Because of my experiences in the HCPSS Music programs, I have chosen to study Music Education with a focus on Jazz at Duquesne University this fall.

[When I heard about the potential budget cuts, I had to give my testimony.] Music is a huge part of my life. Since I was young, I have always had an affinity for music. I started my academic musical journey at a private elementary school. We did not have a third grade strings program. We only had 4th grade band, offered once a week from a teacher without a dedicated band room. She taught all of the instruments and infrequent sectionals. She did her best, but the experience was lackluster. I planned to quit.

Fate intervened and I moved to Wilde Lake Middle School where my love for Music was sparked. Because of my elementary school Music deficits, I played catch up. But, the Wilde Lake Band Director, Mr. Messick, believed in me and gave me the confidence to persevere. I attended his daily Band class and the regular trumpet sectionals. In addition, the band students accepted me when others in the student body did not.

In 7th grade, I moved to Burleigh Manor Middle School. Band again was my pathway to social acceptance. As importantly, I took Jazz Band for the first time with Mr. McSwain and it opened my horizons. The next year, Mr. Brodie taught me the importance of “live music, played by live people, for live people.” He also took us to a feeder concert where I first saw the Centennial High School Jazz Band. They were incredible and I thought I would never be that good.

The next year, I went to Centennial High School. I was still working to catch up to the kids who took Instrumental Music at the HCPSS elementary schools. Band became my favorite class, especially because of Mr. Matchim. He is an excellent Music Director who teaches the value of a strong work ethic and teamwork to achieve amazing accomplishments. With his guidance, I rose to my potential. I am proud to be a member of the CHS Wind Ensemble and the lead trumpet in the CHS Early Bird Jazz Big Band—the same ensemble that I admired as an 8th grader.

At this year’s Jazz feeder concert, I saw elementary and middle school kids who love Music like I did. They are fortunate to have Mr. Owens, Mr. Beall, and the other HCPSS elementary Music Directors to give them the early start that I did not have. The thought of budget cuts is upsetting. Students could lose the prospect of early Music intervention, and access to great Music Educators. HCPSS is been a leader in Music Education. I am asking the Howard County Council to keep it that way. Please ensure HCPSS gets the necessary funding to keep Music a priority in 2020 and for the long-term.

Testimony of Carter Matties

Howard County Council

May 13, 2019

Good afternoon. My name is Carter Matties, I am a sophomore at Centennial High School, and I'm in our Wind Ensemble. I am here today to testify in support of fully funding the Board of Education's proposed budget. As I'm sure you all know, during a May 8 Board of Ed meeting, there was discussion about a few potential actions that could be taken to make up for a shortfall in the budget. One of the options brought up was to cut the number of elementary school instrumental music teachers in half, from 52 to 26. This would require all elementary school directors to teach both band and strings. At the elementary school level, when students are just starting out playing their instruments, it's vital that a director knows a student's instrument well. Even though many colleges require music education majors to learn a variety of instruments, I simply don't think most people who are primarily violin players could have taught me to play the trumpet like Mr. Owens at Centennial Lane did.

This leads me to my primary topic of concern, sectionals. Another component of the Board's proposal to cut elementary school instrumental music was to group instrument families together during sectionals. The specific example they gave was, rather than having sectionals for only the 4th grade trumpets, directors would have to have a sectional for all of the 4th grade brass instruments together, meaning trumpet, trombone, tuba, euphonium, and french horn. While this may seem fine, they are all brass instruments after all, it is in fact specious. Having brass sectionals, rather than just trumpet sectionals, would be like making a soccer team practice with the football team. Sure, they both use balls, and they might even occasionally use those balls in a similar way, like kicking a football, but they are far too dissimilar to be taught together. Likewise, trumpeters and trombonists might both blow into their instruments, but how they are played and the roles they serve in the band are very different, and directors need proper sectionals to teach this to their students.

Most importantly, this is an issue of equity. When you cut funding to any school program like the GT programs and music, you force families to turn outside of the public schools. And in

the case of music, many elementary schoolers don't take private lessons outside of school because they're expensive, costing as much 50 or 60 dollars for a single hour. And when you take private lessons every week, as many students who take them do, that really starts to add up. And even if a student's family can afford for them to take lessons once a week, it's still not a substitute for sectionals for each individual instrument.

Now, I am well aware that you, as the county council, aren't able to directly control whether or not the Board of Education cuts music funding. However, you are able to control whether or not they have enough money to continue funding music. And when cuts as serious as these are even proposed, I think that should set off some alarm bells. So I implore you to fully fund HCPSS so that the Board of Education is not forced to make cuts to any of the programs that make this county so great for students like me. Thank you.

Testimony of Josh Oberly

Howard County Council

May 13th, 2019

9945 Springfield Dr.

Hello, my name is Josh Oberly, and I am a student in the band program at Centennial High School. Today, I am going to explain how the music program can affect the real day to day lives of students by enhancing their maturity, problem solving, and general life skills. When students start music at the elementary level, what is essentially happening is parents are giving kids thousand-dollar pieces of fragile plumbing or hollowed-out wood, that neither parents nor kids know how to use. They then take them to an elementary school, which can be one of the most brutal and taxing environments on the face of the earth. Yet in the end, everything usually turns out fine, and here's why.

When you give 5th, 4th, even 3rd graders valuable pieces of equipment that they are solely responsible for, the dangerous little kids start to become adults. There is a general attitude that people have in a music room that feels something like, "I know I am way too young and underqualified to be doing any of this, but if I think and act like I'm smarter and more mature than I am, nothing will get in the way of what I can do." This mindset is what pushes kids into maturity and responsibility that is required in the real world. This responsibility forces students to learn time management and scheduling when it comes to sectionals or practicing. When students miss class for sectionals, it forces them to have a professional conversation with their teacher about conflicting activities. When something goes wrong, either in class or on stage, the students have to use their own problem-solving abilities to find a solution. These skills aid me almost every day as a high school student, and the music program is what gave me a head start because it taught me how to act like an adult.

One final factor that has drastically helped the development of life skills and experiences, is the directors that teach these classes. A drawback of elementary school is when you are in a higher grade, you are still treated almost exactly like the kindergarteners are. The homeroom teachers have to keep continuity with all other grades to keep the school running smoothly,

which isn't their fault, but it can get annoying. But the music directors puts a pause on all of that. The director is able to use the mature mindset of children to his advantage in the classroom by teaching at the same level as the kids, not down to them. Sectionals becomes more like a socratic seminar because the director knows everyone personally and is able to have intelligent conversations among the students. When I look back to elementary school, I truly had amazing teachers, but I still think my band director, Mr. Owens, had the most impactful role of my elementary school career. He was able to teach me not only how to play my instrument, but how to play life, how to be successful, and how to act like an adult. The main thing I have taken away from his teaching style is that when you give a group of kids the roles of a responsible adult, they will run with it. It is this exact reason why the music department is usually the most impactful part of a school to a student, and may be the most important department of all of them.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Jeremy Rossbach, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Centennial High School Friends of Music Boosters to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY2020 HCPSS budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Jeremy Rossbach

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5/13/19

Organization: Centennial High School Friends of Music Boosters

Organization Address: 4300 Centennial Lane
Elliott City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 600

Name of Chair/President: Jeremy Rossbach

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

My name is Michael Kilberg and I am a technology teacher for the Howard County School System. I recently earned Teacher of the Year in Use of Technology for the State of Maryland through the Maryland Society for Educational Technology (MSET). It has come to my attention that one of the proposals due to lack of full funding 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 believe are the important aspects of what we do as technology teachers and why I feel it is important that HCPSS receive the necessary funds that would allow the continuation of our program as it is currently constituted.

We not only teach internet safety and digital citizenship, which is extremely important in today's world, but we also teach all of the skills future employers are looking for in their employees such as collaboration, computational thinking, and problem solving. We teach kids how to fail and learn from that failure. We teach kids how to use their creativity to show off their knowledge. The 30 minute proposed 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 projects my students do would go by the wayside. It is unfortunate that it is even considered to reduce one of the classes that devotes all of the energy into teaching students the skills they will need for the future. I have not even mentioned the important fact that we give access to technology for those who socioeconomically would never afford the technological devices we provide. Additionally, we teach these students how to use the learning management system they will need for middle school, high school and even college.

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. They have also used GIS mapping to examine the biodiversity of our school grounds and propose ways to improve the school grounds. We have developed magnetic coding systems in order to save one robot from being stuck in a location. We have developed websites in which actual businesses have been created and students have sold things during the summer. We

have had students teaching other students how to code using python. Students have developed animations and complete class websites 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.

I have already emailed all of you with this message and included websites and videos of the work I just mentioned. Please find a way to deliver the necessary money for our budgetary needs without taking out the heart of creative technological education for our students. I hope you take the time to look at some of these examples I have sent you so you can see the types of amazing things we things that we do with the current technology teaching program. I also hope after you see all of the amazing things these students produce, that you find a way to fully fund these kids. Thank you for your time and ingenuity in finding another solution.

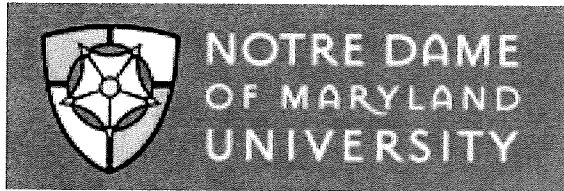
5/13/2019

Greetings Howard County Leadership,

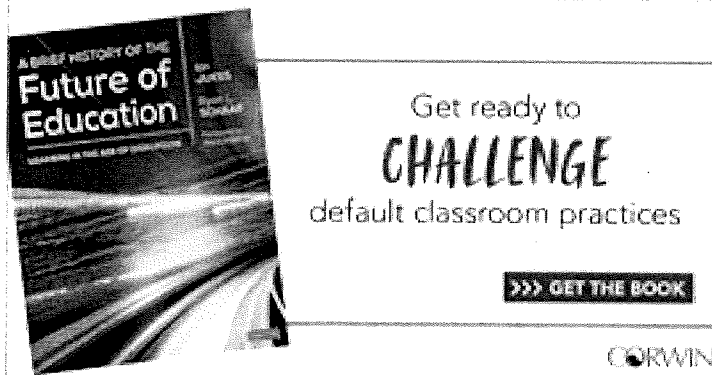
My name is Ryan Schaaf, Associate Professor of Educational Technology at Notre Dame of Maryland University and faculty at Johns Hopkins University. I am also a former teacher of Howard County Public Schools and a proud citizen of this fine county for almost four decades. I now act as a vice-chair for 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.



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<http://bit.ly/2RN2ICo>