

Sayers, Margery

From: Andrea Stremmel <astremmel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 9:52 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.]

I am writing in support of Councilwoman Jung and Councilwoman Walsh's proposal to increase the HCPSS budget by \$8 million. Our schools are in dire need of improvement whether that is in staffing, infrastructure, supplies and many more things. Our school system is also significantly hurting. Due to threats of severe cuts in important programming – technology, music, GT – morale is down amongst students (including my elementary school aged children) as well as teachers, staff and parents.

Should we continue to allow developers to put up as many homes as they desire not only taking up a significant amounts of green space but also flooding our schools with so many children that students are expected either lunch is in the hallways. In my daughter's middle school children are required to follow one-way traffic patterns to get from class to class due to the fact that the hallways are shoulder to shoulder between classes.

All of that aside, right now what we need to do is maintain the level of staffing they work for their children. This additional \$8 million would help to increase the chances that all of our educators get to keep their jobs and our children can continue to get the education they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration and your vote on behalf of our children.

Andrea Stremmel
Ellicott City
21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Monica Chuppetta <Monica_Chuppetta@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 9:35 AM
Subject: Let's talk EQUITY

[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'd like to introduce myself, although I have already spoken directly to you at the May 21st Board of Education public forum. My name is Monica Chuppetta, I am an Elementary Technology Teacher. Although I have been working in HCPSS for 12 years, with 6 of those in technology, and have a Master's degree in Educational Technology, I am #48 on a list of 64 Technology teachers. Do you know what that number means? It means that despite my years of service and expertise, including curriculum writing, in my Elementary Technology position, I will not be able to remain in a Technology role next year if our program gets cut from 60 minute classes to 30 minute classes.

Did you know that I work with 418 students from grade K-5 each week? Did you know that more than 50% of those students are minorities? Did you know that I personally greet each and every one of those students as they walk into my door each week (you should see this, it's fun)? Did you know that I work to make connections with each student? Did you know that I am providing EQUITY for all of my students by providing quality instruction and the tools necessary for their future?

Well, it's all true. Each week I provide 418 students with quality, well planned instruction in topics such as Digital Citizenship, computer science, and basic functional technology skills. This instruction ensures that all students are ready for the next steps in their future. This equity is helping to close the gap between those with access and those without access. This equity will help ensure that students from all walks of life will have equal opportunities, even if their parents never did. This equity, starting at the bottom, will pay off exponentially in the future. It just takes time. Plant the seed and let it grow. This equity cannot be instructed in 30 minutes. This equity cannot afford to be lost. This equity is being looked at as a line item with a dollar value of approximately \$907,500, however the actual cost of this equity is invaluable.

As I challenged in my previous email, I challenge you to come to my classroom and see what the students are actually doing. To see how valuable 60 minutes of instruction actually can be. To see how 30 minutes is merely babysitting for the sake of filing contractual planning time.

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

Monica Chuppetta
monica_chuppetta@hcpss.org
Instructional Technology Teacher
Waverly ES 410-313-2819

~Harmony~Developer~Empathy~Adaptability~Communication~

Sayers, Margery

From: Cindy Allison <cindycallison@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 7:01 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Keep Technology Education at its Current Level!!

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

Howard County Council,

There has been a lot of discussion about budget cuts to Howard County schools, but one subject that has been overlooked is the proposed cuts to Technology Education. The current proposed budget included drastic cuts to elementary school technology education.

This is especially troubling given the importance of technology skills today. Computer literacy is a core skill for us all, and Internet safety competency is critical today. Our technology education is already less than it should be, and cutting it by a third to a half is going in the wrong direction.

I am writing you to please keep technology education at its current level.

Thank you.

Cindy Allison

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 1:42 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County is going downhill

From: Tonya Sigalas <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County is going downhill

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

Opal Jones,

When we moved to this county in 2002 everyone raved about how awesome it was. "The schools are amazing" I would hear from everyone. But I don't hear it anymore. Our schools and our county has gone downhill. The overcrowding, the continuing to build despite overcrowding- it sickening. Why is it allowed??? Who is it benefitting?? I am a parent of 3 children- have been involved in PTA at 3 different schools and have also started substitute teaching in Howard County. I have seen first hand how the schools have gotten worse and worse due to overcrowding! The classes are lacking the support that is needed to teach the current amount of student in a class and they want to increase it??

I would move out of this county in a heartbeat- but swore I would never move my children once they started middle and high school. They keep trying to find a solution- but unfortunately a solution will not be put into place until after my children are no longer affected. But keep on building those houses, keep on allowing our county to be overbuilt with traffic everywhere you go...it will continue to go down hill!!!!

From a disgusted parent!!

Tonya Sigalas
tonsig3@gmail.com
5214 New Prospect Ct
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 1:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Technology reduction

From: Monica Chuppetta <monica_chuppetta@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Technology reduction

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

Opal Jones,

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
234 Lodestone Court
Westminster, Maryland 21158

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 1:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Teacher ratio data

From: barbkруп <barbkруп@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 11:43 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Teacher ratio data

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

Hi Opel,

Thanks for your words about special education at yesterday's work session with the school system. At least they are now admitting that they are not meeting the needs of many students with disabilities. That is the first step.

I was interested in your graphs on the student to teacher ratios. Would you please forward the data to me and the sources where you found the information?

Thank you very much.

Barb Krupiarz

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: an earnest plea for your careful consideration

From: Leah McIlvain <Leah_McIlvain@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 11:24 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Michelle Brown <Michelle_Brown@hcpss.org>
Subject: an earnest plea for your careful consideration

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

Good morning, Mr. Jones,

I join the voices of many concerned educators and staff of the Howard County Public School System as well as Howard County parents and community, urging you to use **your** voice to stand in support of a fully-funded HCPSS budget for the upcoming FY 2019-2020 on May 30th.

As you well understand as delegate for the Howard County Council, District 2, Dr. Martirano's proposed budget has been carefully thought out and proposed for the present and ultimate future of the children in our county. How we can serve our children best cannot be compromised. We are counting on you!

Please stand up for fully funding the proposed HCPSS budget on May 30th!

Thank you for your time and serious consideration,

Leah McIlvain

I am a committed 23-year veteran educator and involved mother of three children who have gone, and are going, through the HCPSS.

Leah G. McIlvain
Media Specialist
Thunder Hill ES

*Communication*Connectedness*Woo*Developer*Input

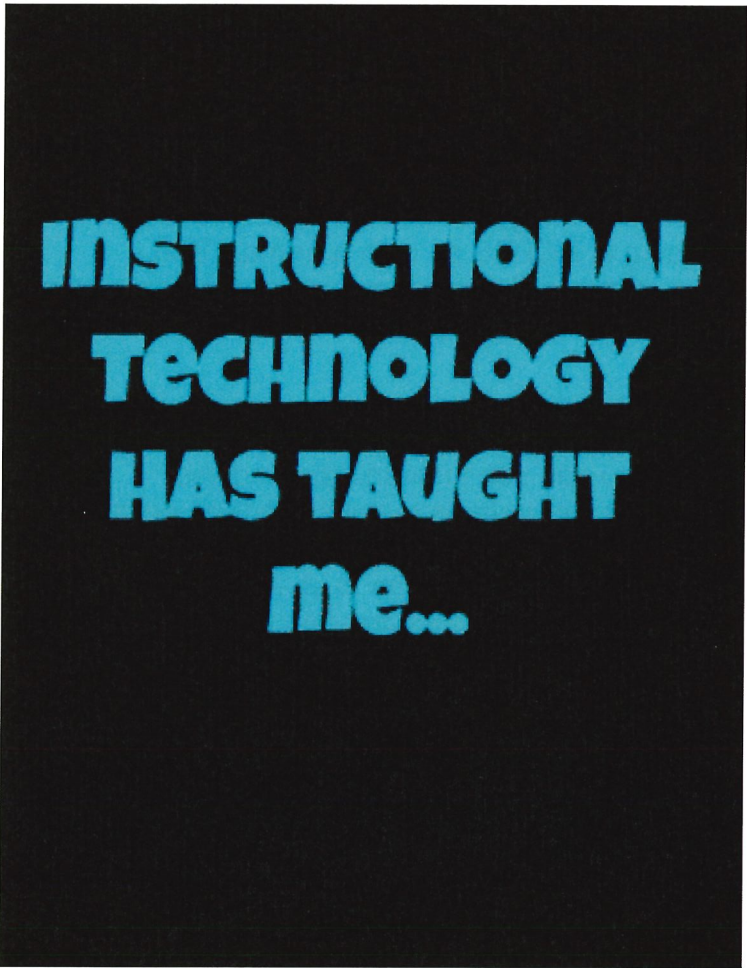
"Teaching is not a delivery system. It's an art form!" - Sir Ken Robinson

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 10:42 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: I implore you to support Elementary Instructional Technology. Please take the time to consider my thoughts.

From: Jessica A. Webb <Jessica_Webb@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 4:10 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: I implore you to support Elementary Instructional Technology. Please take the time to consider my thoughts.

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



I strongly feel that HCPSS is the greatest school system in the country. Our students are provided a world class education. Access to technology and instruction is a strong component of our success.

Our students receive access to computers, laptops, tablets, coding robots, and research databases. What sets our school system above the rest is the individualized instruction that helps prepare them for future careers.

Providing students with access to devices is not enough. Students must be given instruction in the use of the devices, from safe searching to proper online behavior to selecting appropriate tools for a task. In the Howard County Public School System, technology teachers are there, guiding students every step of the way as they navigate a complicated digital world. How will cutting their instructional time in half impact their future?

The U.S. Department of Education is very clear in their support of instructional technology instruction. They acknowledge the increase in educational productivity and accelerated rate of learning technology provides. They are also aware that it can reduce the cost of instructional materials. But most importantly, they know that it is unwise and unrealistic to expect a classroom teacher to take on the role of instructional technology facilitator. While the majority of teacher candidates just now graduating are familiar and comfortable integrating technology into their daily curriculum, how many teachers does HCPSS currently employ that are already overwhelmed with their daily planning and are out of their element incorporating technology? From my experience as a current Instructional Technology teacher I can tell you that it is the majority of them.

Not only do I help my students realize their full potential as computer scientists, I help support classroom teachers and show them ways they can use technology to inspire and motivate their students. I use my 20 years of experience teaching in HCPSS as both a primary and intermediate classroom teacher to plan my technology lessons so that I can support the curriculum and add to the students learning.

I would love to welcome you into my classroom so that you can see firsthand the endless opportunities a strong computer science program provides for students to think critically, collaborate and persevere. You will see kindergartners light up with pride when they code a robot and third graders researching, collaborating and developing slideshow presentations to share the solutions innovators have created to clean up our oceans. Fourth and fifth graders creating blogs to share their passions and practice digital citizenship through their positive interactions with one another.

I am sure you are aware of the technology concerns that have arisen from our neighboring school system, BCPS. My own children attend school there. I have a third grader, a seventh grader and a ninth grader. While they all have their own devices, BCPS chose to put the money into the devices and remove the instructional component. It is alarming to me just how little my children can do independently on their devices. They use them primarily for math games and to read books online at the elementary level and for basic word processing at the middle and high school level. In no way are their teachers preparing them for a future that we know will require computer literacy beyond what we can even currently comprehend.

I implore you to keep the HCPSS Instructional Technology Program in the current form. Thirty minutes is not enough time to login, receive instruction, work on the lesson, receive feedback and improve your work. I realize that the budget has you in a difficult position but it is imperative that we put our students first. A student that begins primary school today will graduate college in the mid-2030s. Their career will last through 2060 or beyond. The future may be uncertain but one thing is absolutely clear: computer science will be in greater demand than ever before, and every student, in every school, should have the opportunity to learn it as part of the curriculum.

Sincerely,

Jessica Webb

Jessica Webb
Technology Teacher, Veterans Elementary School
jessica_webb@hcpss.org
410-313-1700
strategic~ideation~context~positivity~input

CR 68-2019

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 10:05 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: substitute teacher pay raise - further follow-up

From: David Ryan <dcryan7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 10:01 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Harris, Michael <mrharris@howardcountymd.gov>; Bailey, Najee <nbailey@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: substitute teacher pay raise - further follow-up

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

Council Member Jones:

I have written you and your colleagues about the need to re-instate the pay raises planned for substitute teachers within the HCPSS FY 2020 budget.

Here is a link to blog I have posted once again summarizing the points:

<http://davidryanblog.blogspot.com/2019/05/should-you-care-about-sub-teacher-pay.html>

The blog has also be featured as a guest article post on Scott E's Blog. It is being distributed elsewhere as well.

So, I am doing a direct "ask" here. Can you support Liz Walsh's efforts to get this pay raise re-instated?

I hope you can. As I have tried to point out, this really does affect the quality of day-to-day education on the ground level.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

P.S. If you haven't seen it yet, this blog post about HCPSS mileage reimbursement is interesting.

<https://scotteblog.com/2019/05/22/monthly-auto-stipend-amounts-for-hcpss-staff-2019/>

Yeah, let's be sure six-figure earning officials get their plush mileage reimbursement -- but not give an \$80-a-day sub a raise. Really?

Thank you for your consideration,

And regardless, thank you for what you do in striving to make our county even better.

Regards -

David Ryan:

m: 301-717-3747

4013 Arjay Circle, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Scott Mason <scottdavidmason@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 6:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS GT Funding

[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,

It is my understanding that severe cuts to the Gifted and Talented (GT) program have been proposed as part of the HCPSS FY2020 budget approval process. As someone who recently moved to Howard County from out of state, in large part because of the high quality of the school system, I encourage you to do all you can to maximize funding to fill the HCPSS budget gap and maintain the current funding levels for GT programs. The enrichment and teaching differentiation that the GT programs offer is one the key elements of HCPSS that makes it so great.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Mason
Clarksville, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: kpetty79@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 10:34 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org
Subject: Re: 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:

Thank you for trying to come together to find a budget solution that will not directly impact the classroom. I was happy to hear that the county council plans to add some funding back to HCPSS' budget, which will help avoid increasing class sizes and cuts to the GT program; however, I am disappointed that this may come at the expense of the technology program.

As I'm sure you know, technology is here to stay and is necessary for our kids to understand, no matter what career path they may take. Cutting the time allotted for technology would negatively impact the education and growth of the students, which in turn will impact their success in their future careers. I implore you to find a way to support the technology program, even if that comes at the expense of the music program, which I understand would only impact those kids who choose to take extra music in the form of orchestra or band. In a perfect world, it would be great to have all of these options, including music. However, in light of the budget crisis, it is irresponsible to cut a necessary program like technology that all students need, regardless of their future journey, to benefit the few students who choose to participate in an optional music program.

I have heard that thought was given to cutting technology classes in elementary school from one hour per week to 30 minutes per week. If true, I do not see how the children will get a meaningful education in technology, since it likely takes a long time for the kids to get settled and signed on to the computer, as well as to sign out and line up. Before making these decisions, you might want to visit technology classes in various grades to see what percentage of time is actually spent teaching to determine if decreasing class time to 30 minutes results in effectively eliminating the program.

Even beyond preparing our students for their future careers, technology teaches so many more necessary life skills. For instance, technology classes teach our students to be good citizens and avoid online bullying. They teach the students cyber safety and how to safely use the computer and internet. While my husband and I teach our kids these lessons, not all children have access to computers in the home where their parents can teach them these skills.

Please reconsider your proposals on making cuts to the technology program. Please find a way to avoid increasing class sizes and maintaining the GT and technology programs.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.
Katy and Derek Petty

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

From: kpetty79 <kpetty79@aol.com>
To: councilmail <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>; CalvinBall <CalvinBall@howardcountymd.gov>; boe <boe@hcpss.org>; superintendent <superintendent@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thu, May 9, 2019 11:53 pm
Subject: 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: Patrick Deng <patcdeng@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 8:29 PM
To: Yungmann, David; Jung, Deb; CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.com
Cc: Jing Leng
Subject: Howard County's proposed budget cuts
Attachments: Keep the Teachers in Howard County(1).pdf; sig.pdf

[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, BOE and Superintendent

Hello. Middle school students in HoCo care about teachers, education, and our county's prosperity. Please see the attached letter and the signatures of middle school students in the county.

Best regards,
Patrick

Dear HoCo Council,

The Baltimore Sun news, *Martirano delivers school board list of potential budget cuts*, released on May 10th, stated “proposed cuts include reducing the number of Gifted and Talented teachers at the elementary level from 79.5 to 42 and at the middle school level from 60 to 20,” as well as “cutting the amount of elementary school music teachers from 52 to 26.” The last thing we’d like to see is this happening in our county’s public schools.

GT seminars and GT Research classes have helped us immensely. From one of the GT Seminars, *Horseshoe Crabs*, we learnt we should care and protect our Chesapeake Bay. From GT research programs, we learned about Nature, topics covering from red tide to coral reefs, and from the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone to invasive species like garlic mustard in Maryland.

You don’t have to know Beethoven or Bach or Brahms, but you won’t ever want to miss the experience to work with your team of Orchestra or Band to play the most enjoyable, beautiful and incredible pieces. Music has been planted into part of our school lives.

Many of our teachers participating in *the Service Learning* Program are GT teachers. The program is about community service, compassion, and health. Our teachers have organized us to buy all different kinds of healthy food for the seniors, and brought us to visit them every month. We believe the world is full of appreciation, empathy and love.

As middle school students, all we ask is a peaceful and stable learning environment.

-HC MS Students

Andy Maden

Christopher Sung

Joel Funn

Andrew Wei

Eric Park

Deems

Angela

Carson Campbell

Alex Berninger

Andrew Chen

Woj Voishman

Elizabeth

Thyle

Heart Kim

Conner De'zote Sean Qin

Jacoo Hudes

MOVING FROM VANDERBILT

Wuy

Lin

ANDY

Xi Dong

Wen Dong

Deepti

Caroline

Sitara

Alex W.

Sunny

Party

Jerry

Kevin

Colin Grove

Janna

Sazi Khalid

Mary

Caitlin Ball

Fring

lan Lee

Natti Abit

Emma Burg

David Tran

Enoch Kim

Morgan

ARMSTRONG

Rachel

Bowers

Tala

Hraky

Carl

Kathryn Zhou

Katie Huang

Hyun-Gwon

Sayers, Margery

From: Patricia K. Reese <Patricia_Reese@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 11:27 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.]

I implore the County Council to refuse any layoffs for people who directly work with students in our school buildings. I understand that the school system is cutting Technology teachers in Elementary Schools. How can we do this in the 21st Century? Many students in High School can't type! The layers of management at Central Office needs to be addressed. These employees are paid many times what a teacher makes and yet have less impact on students. I will continue to question how the School System allocates the money afforded them in the budget, and definitely need the watchful eyes of our elected leaders to do the same.

Kindly,
Kayleen Reese

Sayers, Margery

From: Sheri Lee <leesheri@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 10:18 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Cc: Nam Nguyen
Subject: KEEP Technology in elementary schools

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

In today's world, it's important to be technology savvy. It's even more important to learn internet safety. I love that my kid is learning both from her favorite technology class. I love she has a female technology teacher. I love that she's a girl and she loves technology. I love that she's in first grade and she knows how to work a robot, thanks to her favorite female technology teacher. I love that the entire class is learning about internet safety. I love that these kids are gaining exposure to technology and gaining confidence at a young age.

I invite you to think about the impact you are making by allowing our kids to continue their education in technology. You are helping this generation to survive! You are giving them opportunities. This is not a generation that only needs to learn how to read and add numbers. Let's help these kids grow with today's world. Let's give our kids enough funding to educate them, give them opportunities, and get ready to face today's challenges!

...strongly believe in our education system

Ke



Sincerely,
A mom who strongly believes in our education system

Sayers, Margery

From: Robin Abell <rmabell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 9:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: school budget and elementary music 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 Members,

I'm writing in support of HCPSS's wonderful elementary school music program, which I understand is in danger of being cut. This program allows children to really learn to play an instrument without private instruction. Although Howard is a wealthy county, the opportunity to play a musical instrument is out of reach for many families if they have to depend on private lessons; cutting elementary instruction even by a little will make it much more difficult to involve as many children, especially at schools where children can benefit the most.

My own children have learned to play exclusively via their elementary, middle, and high school programs, with no private instruction, which would definitely be challenging for our middle class family to afford. The benefits they've received in terms of confidence, learning a treasured skill, and academic growth are clear to me, and the research demonstrating the link between music instruction and academic success is well-known.

I don't want to see any of the suggested cuts, and I hope that none of them are necessary in the end. The loss of G/T teachers seems equally as ill-advised as the cutting of music instruction, and the loss of paraeducators seems detrimental as well. I notice one large and expensive category of out-of-school extracurricular activities isn't on the table for cuts: sports. I know that Howard County takes great pride in its successful sports teams and well-rounded students, but I don't see how sacrificing excellent instruction during the school day should ever occur before non-credit activities that take place outside of the school day receive careful scrutiny.

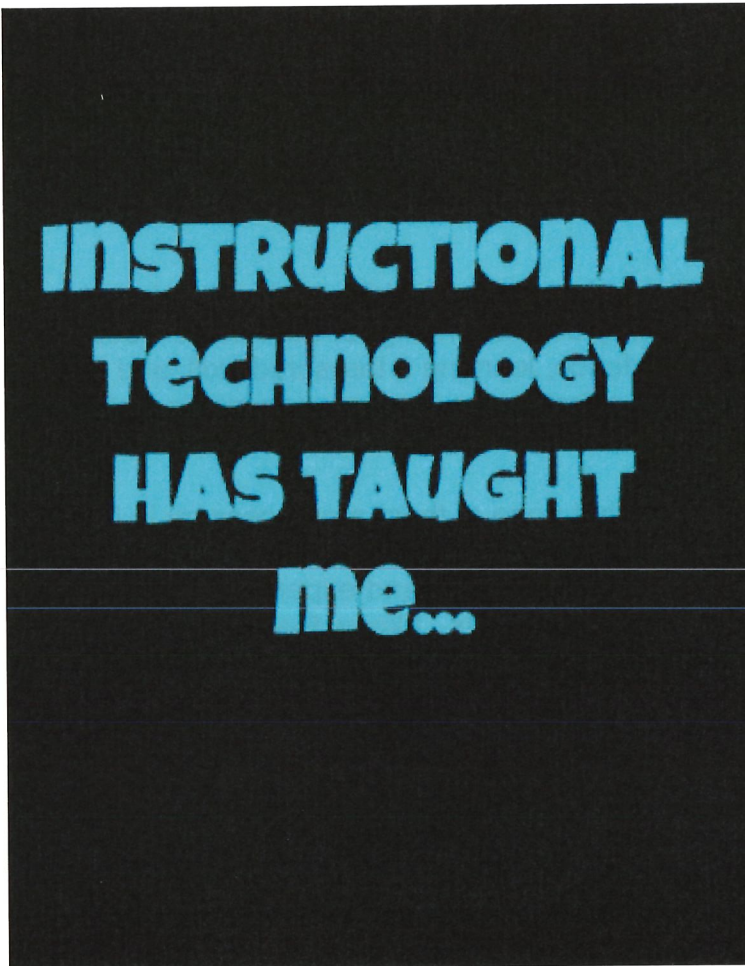
We live in one of the wealthiest counties in the country, and we should be able to find a way to ensure the best in-school instruction for all of our students.

Sincerely,
Robin Abell
(PLES and HoHS parent)

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica A. Webb <Jessica_Webb@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 3:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: I implore you to support Elementary Instructional Technology. Please take the time to consider my thoughts.

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



I strongly feel that HCPSS is the greatest school system in the country. Our students are provided a world class education. Access to technology and instruction is a strong component of our success. Our students receive access to computers, laptops, tablets, coding robots, and research databases. What sets our school system above the rest is the individualized instruction that helps prepare them for future careers.

Providing students with access to devices is not enough. Students must be given instruction in the use of the devices, from safe searching to proper online behavior to selecting appropriate tools for a task. In the Howard County Public School System, technology teachers are there, guiding students every step of the way as they navigate a complicated digital world. How will cutting their instructional time in half impact their future?

The U.S. Department of Education is very clear in their support of instructional technology instruction. They acknowledge the increase in educational productivity and accelerated rate of learning technology provides. They are also aware that it can reduce the cost of instructional materials. But most importantly, they know that it is unwise and unrealistic to expect a classroom teacher to take on the role of instructional technology facilitator. While the majority of teacher candidates just now graduating are familiar and comfortable integrating technology into their daily curriculum, how many teachers does HCPSS currently employ that are already overwhelmed with their daily planning and are out of their element incorporating technology? From my experience as a current Instructional Technology teacher I can tell you that it is the majority of them.

Not only do I help my students realize their full potential as computer scientists, I help support classroom teachers and show them ways they can use technology to inspire and motivate their students. I use my 20 years of experience teaching in HCPSS as both a primary and intermediate classroom teacher to plan my technology lessons so that I can support the curriculum and add to the students learning.

I would love to welcome you into my classroom so that you can see firsthand the endless opportunities a strong computer science program provides for students to think critically, collaborate and persevere. You will see kindergartners light up with pride when they code a robot and third graders researching, collaborating and developing slideshow presentations to share the solutions innovators have created to clean up our oceans. Fourth and fifth graders creating blogs to share their passions and practice digital citizenship through their positive interactions with one another.

I am sure you are aware of the technology concerns that have arisen from our neighboring school system, BCPS. My own children attend school there. I have a third grader, a seventh grader and a ninth grader. While they all have their own devices, BCPS chose to put the money into the devices and remove the instructional component. It is alarming to me just how little my children can do independently on their devices. They use them primarily for math games and to read books online at the elementary level and for basic word processing at the middle and high school level. In no way are their teachers preparing them for a future that we know will require computer literacy beyond what we can even currently comprehend.

I implore you to keep the HCPSS Instructional Technology Program in the current form. Thirty minutes is not enough time to login, receive instruction, work on the lesson, receive feedback and improve your work. I realize that the budget has you in a difficult position but it is imperative that we put our students first. A student that begins primary school today will graduate college in the mid-2030s. Their career will last through 2060 or beyond. The future may be uncertain but one thing is absolutely clear: computer science will be in greater demand than ever before, and every student, in every school, should have the opportunity to learn it as part of the curriculum.

Sincerely,
Jessica Webb

Jessica Webb
Technology Teacher, Veterans Elementary School
jessica_webb@hcpss.org
410-313-1700
strategic~ideation~context~positivity~input

Sayers, Margery

From: heather.urner@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 2:16 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Bonds

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

Good Afternoon Mr. Ball,

With Bonds being above expectations does that give extra room for money for schools or BOE's deferred maintenance projects beyond the listed in bond article?

Thank you

Heather Urner

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Nezu <jessicanezu@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 11:21 AM
To: CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin
Subject: HCPSS budget concerns

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

To the members of the county council, board of education and Mr. Calvin Ball,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I have never before addressed my particular feelings regarding Howard County Public School System but given the information that has circulated regarding the proposed budget cuts, I feel the need to voice my concerns. I currently have three children in public school- one each in elementary, middle and high school. My children have benefited from an education that values small class sizes, gifted and talented learning opportunities and educators dedicated to providing quality education to their students. Some of the programs that I feel are the most valuable to our schools and make me proud to send my children to public school include the GT math programs in elementary school, the music program that includes introducing strings and brass as early as 3rd grade and the access to technology programs beginning as early as kindergarten. Imagine my dismay as I read that ALL of those programs have been discussed as possible program cuts to meet a budget that also includes high salaries for administrators within HCPSS. I don't like to bring up an issue without also offering a solution. I'll admit, there likely isn't a good option that makes everybody happy. However, a plan that includes cuts to everything that makes HCPSS an exceptional school district screams insanity to me. Please reconsider your budget and find other areas to trim costs. Teachers and students shouldn't feel the squeeze from a poorly managed budget.

Sincerely,

Jessica Nezu
HCPSS parent
District 4 resident

Sayers, Margery

From: DelRosso, Jeana <JDelRosso@ndm.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 1:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: budget request--start schools later

[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 academically stronger 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. 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.

Thank you.

Best,

Dr. Jeana DelRosso
Sunny Field Court
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Nezu <jessicanezu@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 1:11 PM
To: CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin
Subject: HCPSS budget concerns

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

To the members of the county council, board of education and Mr. Calvin Ball,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I have never before addressed my particular feelings regarding Howard County Public School System but given the information that has circulated regarding the proposed budget cuts, I feel the need to voice my concerns. I currently have three children in public school- one each in elementary, middle and high school. My children have benefited from an education that values small class sizes, gifted and talented learning opportunities and educators dedicated to providing quality education to their students. Some of the programs that I feel are the most valuable to our schools and make me proud to send my children to public school include the GT math programs in elementary school, the music program that includes introducing strings and brass as early as 3rd grade and the access to technology programs beginning as early as kindergarten. Imagine my dismay as I read that ALL of those programs have been discussed as possible program cuts to meet a budget that also includes high salaries for administrators within HCPSS. I don't like to bring up an issue without also offering a solution. I'll admit, there likely isn't a good option that makes everybody happy. However, a plan that includes cuts to everything that makes HCPSS an exceptional school district screams insanity to me. Please reconsider your budget and find other areas to trim costs. Teachers and students shouldn't feel the squeeze from a poorly managed budget.

Sincerely,

Jessica Nezu
HCPSS parent
District 4 resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Nezu <jessicanezu@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 12:14 PM
To: CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin
Subject: HCPSS budget concerns

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

To the members of the county council, board of education and Mr. Calvin Ball,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I have never before addressed my particular feelings regarding Howard County Public School System but given the information that has circulated regarding the proposed budget cuts, I feel the need to voice my concerns. I currently have three children in public school- one each in elementary, middle and high school. My children have benefited from an education that values small class sizes, gifted and talented learning opportunities and educators dedicated to providing quality education to their students. Some of the programs that I feel are the most valuable to our schools and make me proud to send my children to public school include the GT math programs in elementary school, the music program that includes introducing strings and brass as early as 3rd grade and the access to technology programs beginning as early as kindergarten. Imagine my dismay as I read that ALL of those programs have been discussed as possible program cuts to meet a budget that also includes high salaries for administrators within HCPSS. I don't like to bring up an issue without also offering a solution. I'll admit, there likely isn't a good option that makes everybody happy. However, a plan that includes cuts to everything that makes HCPSS an exceptional school district screams insanity to me. Please reconsider your budget and find other areas to trim costs. Teachers and students shouldn't feel the squeeze from a poorly managed budget.

Sincerely,

Jessica Nezu
HCPSS parent
District 4 resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Vivian Zhang <y0zhan04@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 11:12 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: budget for 2020 - some thoughts and input

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

Hi Dear Council Members,

The budget for 2020 is truly high. Here is my input. Please be patient to read my email. Thank you very much.

Salary increase	The pay scale is so high. Why not the salary raise could be aligned with the federal movement increase rate, which is $\leq 2\%$
Staff reduction	<p>My 7th grade son asked me "What are counselors Mrs. Prince and Mrs. Shurtleff doing? They are not teaching us at all? What they are working for" I have the exact same question. Different from high schools, the courses in middle school are highly predefined and unified. Even when students move from 8th grade to freshman, they will listen to course teacher to the next selection as they work with students directly and know their capacity well. My recommendation is to consolidate consolors resource. A small number of counselors working for all middle schools. Most of questions can be answered via phone and email regardless location. For face to face appointment, it can be scheduled on particular days.</p> <p>The Montgomery County Magnet (GT) program are held in two to three locations. When my son was in 4th grade in Candlewood Elementary (Montgomery County), every morning he took another bus to the cluster middle school to take accelerate math (this is not a GT math) class there, then return back to the elementary campus. MCPS didn't hire extra math teacher for each school.</p>
Mental health (34 positions)	Is there data report that demonstrate the numbers of student or occurrence rate that is truly need professional level consultancy? Let the routine health education curriculum covers the topic on

	depression, use of social media, tobacco and etc. HCPSS are not hospitals. Family health insurance is the most important resource to seek pediatric psychiatrist and social worker help. Highly recommend to hire less people and consolidate programs into limited location instead hiring individuals in every school. The staff can move around among schools.
Special Education (144 position)	If our budget is tight, we may also consider to consolidate special education into a couple of locations. Students will be transported to the central location where the resource of special education are maximized. If elementary or middle schools are adjacent, the professionals can also move around between schools. When I was in Boston, I once visited a public school that focus on special education for all hearing and vision impair students.
Supports for Families	The USDA provides a nice food stamp to support low income families. The free meal program of HCPSS is redundant and can be removed if the budget is in shortage. The mission of HCPSS is to help every student achieve academic success.
Technologies	The Redundant software should be eliminated. Use Cloud (software as service) technologies to keep technologies and system updated and secure with no extra cost. Do not purchase any mobile devices to students. It will end up HCPSS will have to purchase another management servers and extra licenses to manage each device.

Summary:

1. **Do not cut** the core curriculum teachers. Those are Math, English, Science, Geography/History and GT courses.
2. Consider to consolidate other programs into centralized locations and hire much less. Let's spend money more wisely and more cost effective.
3. **No property tax increase.** The new tax law already eliminates the chance of deduction of property tax. Me and my husband would rather school budget cuts. We've already paid five digits property tax (just because we are located in Clarksville) and can stand any more increase. Our family almost never eat in restaurants. My husband kept repairing our 2003 (16-year-old) Element instead of buying a new car.

Thank you very much for your time to read our message.

Vivian & Jack Zhang

Sayers, Margery

From: Malini Kishore <malinikishore1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 9:33 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Concern regarding proposed cost cutting measures

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

Good Morning Council Members,

My kids go to schools in Howard County and I'm extremely disturbed by how the proposed cost cutting measures will affect our children's education - namely increases in class sizes, eliminating 77.5 GT positions, decreasing the number of elementary technology teachers and paraeducators, etc. etc.

In this day and age, without adequate technology exposure and application our kids will have weak foundations. The only reason we moved to Howard County was because of the good schools. Eliminating GT teachers and the other proposed cuts **will significantly** affect the quality of education for my children.

While I appreciate the need to balance budgets and I'm sure you all do not take these cuts lightly - a first rate education should be treated as a necessity and not a luxury that we enjoy in this county.

As a taxpayer and resident of Howard County, I'd like to request the Council to please reconsider these proposals.

With regards,

Malini Kishore

Sayers, Margery

From: Meeta Rankin <samant.2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 10:10 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,

Here is a letter to you from my daughter, encouraging your support in funding the HCPSS Budget. Thank you! Meeta Rankin

Dear members of Howard County Council,

Hello! My name is Asha and I am 9 years old. As a 4th grader at Manor Woods Elementary School, I am deeply troubled by the idea of cuts. I can't imagine losing any GT teachers. Mrs. Broadhurst, Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Walker are so nice and they encourage me to think outside the box. I have been involved in GT/CEU/Seminars since 1st grade and they're a huge chunk of what school means to me. I look forward to these activities nearly every day. I don't know if you've experienced this, but learning things you already learned makes it hard to pay attention. GT math, however, teaches me things I haven't learned yet. I have a brother in kindergarten and I want him to have the same resources that I had. If the cuts get their way, he might not experience a day of GT math, CEU, or even seminars. Think about how exhausting it would be for 1 teacher to do the work of 3!

As for reducing technology teachers and para-educators, these people really help the teachers so they can focus more on education. Recently we were doing PARCC testing. Mrs. Fremuth would set up the computers before Mrs. Lynch even got there so we could start sooner. These teachers are part of our team. If we lose team members, it would weaken the whole organization. We need to learn how to use computers at some point, and there is so much to learn that it should be its own class. The technology teachers can't teach everyone in school by themselves. The para-educators help the teacher so much that if they stopped, it would be like the teachers had a whole other class to teach.

About only starting orchestra in 4th grade, I started in 3rd grade and love it! Please do not do that because music makes a well rounded person.

Increasing class sizes means the teacher's job gets harder. More people would be stuffed into one classroom.

I hope you consider my opinion.

Thank you,

Asha Rankin

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeffrey Kendrick <jeffreykendrick@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 8:27 PM
To: Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org
Subject: HCPSS FY 2020 Operating 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, Council Members, and Board of Education Members,

First, thank you for your service and leadership in the community.

I have had the opportunity to listen in on portions of the recent HCPSS budget public hearing and County Council work session. I have also participated in PTA Council of Howard County meetings as the St. Johns Lane ES Delegate where aspects of the school system plans and budget are presented and discussed. All of this has given me some view into the complexity of the challenges each of you are facing as you decide the allocation of and usage of funding for the school system. I don't envy you and I definitely can understand why it upsets you to continuously hear that you are 'making cuts' to what is a large and growing HCPSS budget.

Since my days as an HCPSS student (Howard HS, 1988) I have heard that Howard County has the best public schools in the state and, maybe, in the whole country. I still believe that this is true and made a deliberate decision to move back into Howard County so my own children could attend public school here. However, I am concerned that, in reality, we are falling behind.

- We have fallen behind in school capacity and are at least one school behind at the elementary school and high school levels – and no shovels are in the ground to correct this in any substantial way. We are years away from new capacity in the regions that need it the most. I have written emails and made phone calls to voice my support for the school facilities surcharge legislation. The General Assembly agreed overwhelmingly but the bill sits in limbo on the Governor's desk. I have written emails and attended a public hearing regarding the pending Council Bill to extend the APFO schools test but that sits tabled for future consideration. I've attended Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings to stop or reduce development in my community but the Planning and Zoning process is opaque to the average citizen and favors the seasoned developers and their lawyers and engineers. It should be self-evident that we can't add hundreds of new students into school buildings that are already hundreds of students over their stated capacity.
- We have fallen behind in facility maintenance as the backlog of deferred maintenance continues to increase. Even our "new" buildings are reaching the age where major systems need overhaul or replacement.
- We have fallen behind in our healthcare insurance obligations to our teachers to the tune of 37 million dollars and, with the current budget, may increase that deficit to more than 44 million dollars.
- We have fallen behind nearby jurisdictions in teacher salaries. To my understanding, this includes starting teachers, tenured teachers and substitute teachers.
- We have fallen behind nearby jurisdictions in providing programs for the mental health and well-being of our students. Recent efforts have begun to correct this but we may now be forced to view mental health and student well-being programs as a 'want' rather than a 'need'.

I recognize that the decisions that put us in this position were not made on your watch. It encourages me that each of you have made the school system a priority for your term in office but it concerns me that the hole we are digging is getting deeper. If we don't start to climb out now, when will we? Will there come a time when we can no longer claim that we are the best school system around?

I stand with the PTA Council of Howard County in asking that the County Council increase funding to the school system at a minimum to cover negotiated salary increases, to fully fund the Health fund, and to provide enough funding for staff and resources needed for expected enrollment growth so that class sizes do not increase.

With a County Executive, County Council, School Superintendent and Board of Education who have been newly elected, hired, or almost entirely recomposed over the past few years, I would encourage all of you to set a course for increased levels of collaboration, transparency, and long-term planning in the coming years. I hope the county is able to take advantage of increased surcharges for school construction and can extend the duration for APFO school capacity testing while identifying ways to increase revenue to support our growing school system. The budgetary challenges we face today aren't likely to get any easier and "maintenance of effort" budgets seem to leave us with unpalatable options year after year. I hope that the future of HCPSS is as bright as the past and we can continue to provide Howard County's students with the best academic programs, taught by the best teachers, in the best facilities.

Thank you,

Jeff Kendrick

Ellicott City (Council District 5)

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Johnson <ljohnson@summerlearning.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 8:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Fund HoCo Schools Creatively

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

Good evening, Council members:

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to our community. As a parent of a student at Thomas Viaduct Middle School and education chair of the NAACP Howard County, I know you face tremendous decisions regarding allocation of resources, particularly in the FY20 HCPSS budget. Mr. Jones and Ms. Rigby, I am interested in understanding your opposition to the proposed amendment for increased funding for HCPSS. With a number of Title 1 schools falling in your districts and recognizing that such funding only amounts to an additional \$500-700 per pupil in most Title 1 schools, it is critical we fully fund our schools; move beyond the piece-meal approach year over year and most importantly, think more creatively about diverse county revenue streams to support education. I am passing along an article in the [Augusta Chronicle](https://www.augustachronicle.com/) where the school district approached an oil company and will now partially fund their arts education programming through a new Spirit Pump – an out of the box idea to ensure students have the arts as part of complete and world-class education. I implore you to think more creatively about how to fully fund our schools in this Howard County land of “plenty” and to push your thinking around creative approaches. While we can hardly undue the fiscal misfortunes of prior administrations, we can be more bold and more creative in our thinking and our actions to fund a premier education system. Happy reading: <https://www.augustachronicle.com/>

Laura Johnson

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Johnson <ljohnson@summerlearning.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 7:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Fund HoCo Schools Creatively

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

Good evening, Council members:

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to our community. As a parent of a student at Thomas Viaduct Middle School and education chair of the NAACP Howard County, I know you face tremendous decisions regarding allocation of resources, particularly in the FY20 HCPSS budget. Mr. Jones and Ms. Rigby, I am interested understanding your opposition to the proposed amendment for increased funding for HCPSS? With a number of Title 1 schools falling in your districts and recognizing that such funding only amounts to an additional \$500-700 per pupil in most Title 1, it is critical we fully fund our schools; move beyond the piece-meal approach year over year and most importantly, think more creatively about diverse county revenue streams to support education. I am passing along an article in the [Augusta Chronicle](#) where the school district approached an oil company and will now partially fund their arts education programming through a new Spirit Pump – an out of the box idea to ensure students have the arts as part of complete and world-class education. I implore you to think more creatively about how to fully fund our schools in this Howard County land of “plenty” and to push your thinking around creative approaches. While we can hardly undue the fiscal misfortunes of prior administrations, we can be more bold and more creative in our thinking and our actions to fund a premier education system. Happy reading: <https://www.augustachronicle.com/>

Laura Johnson

Sayers, Margery

From: Donna Britton <Donna_Britton@hcpss.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 2:00 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.]

Dear County Council Members,

Whenever you're considering budget cuts, the first consideration should be the number of students affected. By cutting 3rd grade Strings, the number is extremely small (less than 20 students in our school). In the middle would be reducing GT - affecting some of the Math GT students who would receive it in their classroom.

Now - at the completely other side of the spectrum - reducing technology to 30 minutes in all elementary classrooms! Not only would this effect EVERY student in the school, but it would save the LEAST money. You have to be here to understand how little time would be left after logging in and hearing directions before having to log out. Our technology classrooms do amazing things, going far beyond teaching privacy, cyber bullying, etc., but preparing them for the global 21st century. This is the only opportunity some HC students have to learn technology on laptops and other devices. Please don't cut this invaluable program affecting every student.

Donna Britton

Donna Britton
Media Specialist
Clarksville Elementary
donna_britton@hcpss.org
410 313-7050

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The information contained in this e-mail transmission is privileged and/or confidential intended solely for the exclusive use of the individual addressee. If you are not the intended addressee you are hereby notified that any retention, disclosure or other use is strictly prohibited. If you have received this notification in error, please immediately contact the sender and delete the original message.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Shari Bernsohn <sbernsohn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 7:53 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Resident Comments on 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 Members:

My family and I are long time Howard County residents and our two children attend Howard County public schools. I'm writing to express our grave concerns regarding the recent budget cut proposals and the possibilities that class sizes may be increased and resources may be diverted from the County's gifted and talented programs.

My husband and I grew up here, moved away for a couple of years after college and then moved back when we decided to start a family. Our decision to do so, like most other HoCo families, was almost entirely driven by our desire to have our children educated in Howard County's public school system, and more specifically, in order for them to have the opportunity to participate in it's top notch gifted and talented programs. Along with most other County residents, we chose to pay a hefty premium for our home in Howard County rather than purchasing much more for our money in a neighboring County and again, we did so for it's school system and strong GT programs. As I'm sure you're aware, along with that hefty premium came hefty property tax bills but we were willing to pay them because we knew that our tax dollars were going to provide our children with an exceptional education.

I don't think anybody would dispute that smaller class sizes play a big role in the quality of education provided in our school system. The GT program is also a huge part of what makes the education our kids have been receiving exceptional. Our kids are heavily invested in their GT classes, Curriculum Extension Units and other GT offerings. They are appropriately challenged in those programs and as a result are much more interested and excited about those classes than they are in regular in grade level courses. The GT teachers at our school are absolutely fantastic at what they do and it would be a huge waste of their GT specific knowledge, experience and talents to move them to any other position within the school system. Our County has so many bright young minds that our GT resources are already stretched thin and from what we can see the GT teachers are already putting in way more time than a lot of the other teachers in the system. If anything, additional resources should be diverted from other less critical expenditures and put into expanding resources for the GT programs.

We understand that there is a budget shortfall and that is unlikely to happen right now, but we want to stress our strong belief that any failure to at least maintain status quo with respect to class sizes and GT program funding is likely to have very negative effect on both the actual quality of education that our children are receiving, but also the reputation of our highly coveted school system. As we're sure you have considered, if our school system's quality and reputation take a hit, our inflated property values (which are so as a direct result of HCPSS' reputation) will likely take a hit, followed directly by a further reduction in County property tax revenue. If that happens, further budget reductions will be needed and we'll be back in the same position having this discussion year after year as the downward spiral continues.

We strongly urge you to please re-consider maximizing funding for the school system so that it can maintain class sizes and GT programs.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Shari Bernsohn, Howard County Resident

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Adam Burstein <adam@adamburstein.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 11:21 AM  
**To:** Linda S. Isberg  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org; Mavis Ellis; Kirsten Coombs; Vicky Cutroneo; Christina Delmont-Small; Jennifer Mallo; Sabina Taj; Chao Wu; Brandon Henley; Dara Burstein; Robert Burns; Addison Burstein; Barbara E. Ford; Christopher Rattay; Michele Doyle-Wetzelberger; Kelli L. Jenkins; Jason Morton-Ortega; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Proposed Changes to HCPSS Curriculum

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

Glad to hear that music has been taken off. Glad I included it so that maybe it won't be re-included, though.

On May 18, 2019, at 11:20 AM, Linda S. Isberg <[Linda\\_Isberg@hcpss.org](mailto:Linda_Isberg@hcpss.org)> wrote:

Thank you. Just FYI, they took music off the block in a verbal agreement for 10.5M last week. Tech will still be cut even if they get that extra \$. I appreciate your support!!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Adam Burstein <[adam@adamburstein.com](mailto:adam@adamburstein.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 11:14 AM  
**To:** [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov); [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov); Superintendent; Mavis Ellis; Kirsten Coombs; Vicky Cutroneo; Christina Delmont-Small; Jennifer Mallo; Sabina Taj; Chao Wu  
**Cc:** Linda S. Isberg; Brandon Henley; Dara Burstein; Robert Burns; Addison Burstein; Barbara E. Ford; Christopher Rattay; Michele Doyle-Wetzelberger; Kelli L. Jenkins; Jason Morton-Ortega  
**Subject:** [External] Proposed Changes to HCPSS Curriculum

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am writing to you to raise concerns over the recently proposed changes to the Howard County Public School System curriculum. My wife and I moved to Howard County from New York City in 2005, and a significant factor in our choosing Howard County as our new home was the quality of the school system. Howard County's schools have long been home to great diversity, both in student body and in educational offerings, making it a leading district throughout our nation.

Recent proposals to diminish funding within the music and arts programming, as well as technology programming, will result in a disservice to the student body, and long term, to the United States workforce that you are helping to shape. I am hoping that, through this email, I can impress upon you the importance that these areas hold in our family in particular, and within the larger community.

The debate over music and arts in schools is nothing new. Many television shows, movies, and books have been written on this topic alone. Outside of pop-culture, this matter arises on a regular basis and has also been the subject of significant long-term scientific research, news articles, and non-fiction material, as well. In each case, the findings are consistent: students who participate in immersive music

and arts programs, such as band ensembles, orchestras, quartets, and choirs, show greater overall growth and perform better professionally later in life. To discontinue these critical programs is detrimental to the development of those individuals who will be the decision-makers and care-givers of the future.

On a personal level, our 9 year old daughter, who never showed any interest in music performance, began playing viola this year in Worthington Elementary School. Our 12 year old daughter participated in Worthington's music program for 3 years, learning cello, then transitioning to trombone and the chorus. She is currently participating in Ellicott Mills' Symphonic Band and Jazz Lab programs. Just today, in fact, our older daughter participated in the Maryland State Solo & Ensemble Festival and earned top-rating due to the excellent guidance that she received from Mr. Henley and now Mr. Burns. Finally, this year while enrolled in a research class, she selected her PIC (problem, interest, and concern): schools lacking music programs.

Technology education being on the chopping block also is short-sighted. During President Obama's administration, there was a significant focus on increasing technology education. As a consequence, programs such as How Girls Code, Lego Robotics, and more were brought to young students throughout the country, including in Howard County. School programs at all levels in our community introduced computer literacy, netiquette, proper security posture, and more, to the future workforce who will be reliant on these skills. President Trump's administration's focus on national security, infrastructure, and technology supports the growth, rather than recession, of these programs. With defense and intelligence community agencies and contractors right in our backyard, an investment in our students' futures is an investment in our nation, and specifically in our community. As a technologist, myself, I cannot impress upon you enough the criticality of these and more skills to allow our students to be competitive in the future.

I recognize that balancing a budget with so many competing and critical programs is very challenging. Diverting monies from these programs in order to fund others may seem like a reasonable move. However, I strongly urge you to examine other areas of the county's budget, rather than minimizing the investments in our most critical resource: our children.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Adam Burstein

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Linda S. Isberg <Linda\_Isberg@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 11:20 AM  
**To:** Adam Burstein; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B; superintendent@hcpss.org; Mavis Ellis; Kirsten Coombs; Vicky Cutroneo; Christina Delmont-Small; Jennifer Mallo; Sabina Taj; Chao Wu  
**Cc:** Brandon Henley; dara@daraburstein.com; Robert Burns; Addison Burstein; Barbara E. Ford; Christopher Rattay; Michele Doyle-Wetzelberger; Kelli L. Jenkins; Jason Morton-Ortega  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Proposed Changes to HCPSS Curriculum

[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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Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Adam Burstein <adam@adamburstein.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 11:14 AM  
**To:** councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; cball@howardcountymd.gov; Superintendent; Mavis Ellis; Kirsten Coombs; Vicky Cutroneo; Christina Delmont-Small; Jennifer Mallo; Sabina Taj; Chao Wu  
**Cc:** Linda S. Isberg; Brandon Henley; Dara Burstein; Robert Burns; Addison Burstein; Barbara E. Ford; Christopher Rattay; Michele Doyle-Wetzelberger; Kelli L. Jenkins; Jason Morton-Ortega  
**Subject:** [External] Proposed Changes to HCPSS Curriculum

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Thank you for your consideration,  
Adam Burstein



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Mr. Drew <mrdrew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 10:23 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B  
**Subject:** [Possible Scam Fraud]Capital Budget K0566 and other bicycle infrastructure items.

[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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**WARNING:** Your email security system has determined the message below may be a potential threat.

The sender may trick victims into passing bad checks on their behalf.

If you do not know the sender or cannot verify the integrity of the message, please do not respond or click on links in the message. Depending on the security settings, clickable URLs may have been modified to provide additional security.

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There has been much discussion about the county budget lately, and I thought I would share some thoughts about equity in budgeting, and the return on investment.

Consider the example of schools. Clearly the best return on investment for the schools budget is to focus the spending on those students who are easy to teach, and are more academically oriented. You would think this is obvious. We get more bang for the buck. But that is not what we do.

You probably think we spend the same amount of money on each student, to be fair, even if that investment is less likely to bear fruit for the less gifted students who are harder to teach. Because that would be fair. But what we actually do is even more irrational.

What we do is we spend even more money educating the learning disabled and disadvantaged students than the average student, because we have this notion that all students should have the same educational outcome. Regardless of whether that costs more.

Is this how we should be spending our money?

Or are you appalled with my argument that we should focus primarily on educating the students who are easy to teach?

Well you should be appalled by that argument.

But here is the thing - this is the exact argument that is made by the county government and bicycle "advocates" when it comes time to determine where to build bike infrastructure. They say we should build it first where it is most cost effective, and not worry about those parts of the county (like Elkridge) where bike infrastructure is harder to build.

Kids in Columbia have safe and easy bike routes to Blandair Park, because the county integrated them into the park design, which included a complete rebuild of a part of Oakland Mills Road that added a separated bike path. There is comparable access to Centennial Park, Cedar Lane Park, and Savage Park. But kids in Elkridge have no similar safe bike access to Troy Park, or to Rockburn Park.

Columbia is bisected by US 29, which would be an impassable barrier to the casual cyclist, if not for the bike and pedestrian bridge that crosses it by Lake Kittamaquandi. And Howard County just spent over \$1,000,000 improving this bridge, which had nothing at all wrong with it functionally, it just wasn't pretty enough.

Elkridge is similarly bisected by I-95, MD 100, and the CSX main line. There are no safe routes across these barriers for kids and casual cyclists in Elkridge.

One would think that the county budget for bicycling infrastructure would include significant investment to bring the cycling infrastructure in all parts of the county up to the level the county already provides for Columbia. Sadly, that is not the case. For the next three years, almost every dollar for bike improvement is designated for projects in Columbia, or for projects that primarily benefit people in Columbia. There are no improvements at all for those of us who live north of MD 100 and east of I-95. Because it's too difficult. It's not cost effective. It's not really worth it for our kids to be able to ride to our parks. We can just drive our bikes to Columbia if we want to go for a bike ride.

Happy Bike to Work Day.

Drew Roth  
Elkridge.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Adam Burstein <adam@adamburstein.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 11:14 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B; superintendent@hcpss.org; Mavis\_Ellis@hcpss.org; Kirsten\_Coombs@hcpss.org; Vicky\_Cutroneo@hcpss.org; christina\_delmont-small@hcpss.org; Jennifer\_Mallo@hcpss.org; Sabina\_Taj@hcpss.org; Chao\_Wu@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Linda S. Isberg; Brandon Henley; Dara Burstein; Robert Burns; Addison Burstein; Barbara E. Ford; Christopher Rattay; michele\_doyle-wetzelberger@hcpss.org; Kelli\_Jenkins@hcpss.org; Jason\_Morton-Ortega@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes to HCPSS Curriculum

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

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am writing to you to raise concerns over the recently proposed changes to the Howard County Public School System curriculum. My wife and I moved to Howard County from New York City in 2005, and a significant factor in our choosing Howard County as our new home was the quality of the school system. Howard County's schools have long been home to great diversity, both in student body and in educational offerings, making it a leading district throughout our nation.

Recent proposals to diminish funding within the music and arts programming, as well as technology programming, will result in a disservice to the student body, and long term, to the United States workforce that you are helping to shape. I am hoping that, through this email, I can impress upon you the importance that these areas hold in our family in particular, and within the larger community.

The debate over music and arts in schools is nothing new. Many television shows, movies, and books have been written on this topic alone. Outside of pop-culture, this matter arises on a regular basis and has also been the subject of significant long-term scientific research, news articles, and non-fiction material, as well. In each case, the findings are consistent: students who participate in immersive music and arts programs, such as band ensembles, orchestras, quartets, and choirs, show greater overall growth and perform better professionally later in life. To discontinue these critical programs is detrimental to the development of those individuals who will be the decision-makers and care-givers of the future.

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Technology education being on the chopping block also is short-sighted. During President Obama's administration, there was a significant focus on increasing technology education. As a consequence, programs such as How Girls Code, Lego Robotics, and more were brought to young students throughout the country, including in Howard County. School programs at all levels in our community introduced computer literacy, netiquette, proper security posture, and more, to the future workforce who will be reliant on these skills. President Trump's administration's focus on national security,

infrastructure, and technology supports the growth, rather than recession, of these programs. With defense and intelligence community agencies and contractors right in our backyard, an investment in our students' futures is an investment in our nation, and specifically in our community. As a technologist, myself, I cannot impress upon you enough the criticality of these and more skills to allow our students to be competitive in the future.

I recognize that balancing a budget with so many competing and critical programs is very challenging. Diverting monies from these programs in order to fund others may seem like a reasonable move. However, I strongly urge you to examine other areas of the county's budget, rather than minimizing the investments in our most critical resource: our children.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Adam Burstein

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Lin Zhou <lynnlz2002@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 8:17 AM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Against cutting budget for GT/Music Programs

[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 HCPSS parent, I am disappointed to found that the BOE's plan to solve shortage of school budget is to cut the number of GT/music teachers to half.

We moved to howard county a few years ago because of the high reputation of HCPSS. GT and music program is really the guarantee of high quality education. The GT program keeps kids intellectually challenged at school and the music program develops grit, patience and team work of students. Cutting these two programs will have a detrimental effect on the education quality of HCPSS.

Dealing with budget deficiency is always challenging. Instead of cutting budget for the GT/music programs, shouldn't we be cutting money across the board? In the time of hardship, everyone suffering the pain seems to be the only fair solution.

Thank you very much for your time!

Proud mom of two children

Lin Zhou Ph.D.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** J Robertson <robertsonabc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 18, 2019 6:50 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget cuts - Howard county

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

Hello,

I just took a look at Mr. Martirano's memo the BOE regarding the 2020 Operating Budget. I am concerned to see these budget cuts, for the obvious reasons, but also because it raises other questions regarding the quality of education in Howard County.

My family and I moved to Columbia 7 years ago largely because of the reputation of the school system. We pay high rates of property tax. We have seen lots of community development, new construction, and new businesses coming to town, so it is very surprising to see that the school system is underfunded. As an area which is raising young leaders to see so many cuts in key development areas such as elementary world language, music, arts, GT, etc it should concern all parents.

1. Is this a short-term problem, still cleaning up the budget mess left by the previous superintendent, or a larger, long-term problem of funding for the school system?
2. Is there a plan to reinstate the cut positions/funds once the budget shortfall has been addressed?
3. Will these cuts affect Title 1 schools as well as schools that serve higher income students?
4. Are other avenues of funding being explored? Grants? Money from "Big Businesses" in the county?
5. Why are cuts being made to education and support staff positions instead of first cutting back on extra curricular sports programs?

I am concerned that the school system will fail to retain quality staff if teachers are not paid the professional salary they deserve. I am concerned that increasing class sizes, eliminating support staff, and cutting back on the arts will increase teacher burnout, and decrease the quality of our children's school experience. I am upset that we pay a very high cost of living to reside in Howard County, but the schools keep cutting and cutting and cutting valuable programs and staff.

This concerns me greatly and the future of my young children in Howard county

Best,  
Jeannette robertson

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Carrie Timlin Hovey <carrie.timlin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 8:30 PM  
**To:** Jung, Deb; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Shortfall to Proposed HCPSS Budget

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

I'm writing as a concerned citizen having learned that there is an \$84 million shortfall to next year's proposed HSCPSS Budget. Having grown up in Howard County, I returned after college and law school primarily so my children could have the same educational opportunities. Howard County's excellent schools are a driving force for housing demand and in turn tax revenue for the County. Any budget cuts would therefore impact not only school-age children, but all County residents. Anything you can do to close the gap in the shortfall to the HCPSS budget and keep our schools strong (without increasing class sizes and cutting programs) would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Hovey

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Qin Zhang <zqcua2013@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 8:25 PM  
**To:** tellhoco; 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.]

Thanks for the message. As a citizen of Howard county, we strongly oppose the budget cut in school music, GT, technology program and teacher. Education is the key of people and country's future. We highly suggest you consider budget cut in other areas that is not critically affecting the student's education. The budget cut on the school program and teachers should be the last option. Thank you for your consideration!

Parents of two kids

On Fri, May 17, 2019 at 4:56 PM Calvin Ball <[tellhoco@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:tellhoco@howardcountymd.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your testimony in support of our school system. As an educator and father of two daughters in our public schools, I share your passion to ensure our teachers and students receive the funding and support they need and deserve.

Unfortunately, years of underfunding has left the school system struggling to keep class sizes small, provide sufficient funding to the health care fund and support essential programs that have made our school system one of the best in the nation. Our children and educators deserve better.

As you have likely heard, the proposed FY 2020 HCPSS total operating budget provides the highest level of growth in the past decade. The FY20 Operating Budget is \$897.3 million, which includes additional state funding based on the Kirwan legislation (SB1030). This budget represents a strong increase of \$46 million of 5.4% from the prior year, excluding one-time funding designated for non-recurring expenditures in FY19.

It is unfortunate that there are those who are working against a more harmonious budget process. To keep the conversation in perspective regarding the impact of growth and funding on proposed layoffs, it is extremely unusual for any government entity or any organization to implement layoffs, especially with a 5.4% growth. Layoffs are rare and typically occur only during extreme stress such as an economic recession or unforeseen natural disasters. In comparison, most Howard County agencies experience less than 2% growth, and Howard Community College (HCC) and Howard Public Library System (HPLS) both experienced 2.5% growth. Yet, none of those entities announced layoffs as strategies to balance their budgets.

The Superintendents requested budget increase of \$123M in FY20 is equivalent of 4 times the County General Fund total revenue growth for all services for the entire County. The BOE's requested County funding increase of \$89M in FY20 is equivalent to 3 times the County General Fund total revenue growth for all services. In short, the HCPSS budget request significantly exceeded affordability. While education remains the County's No.1 priority, the County has a duty to provide various services and balance different needs of the community while keeping the overall tax burden of its residents under control.

In order to increase school system funding by the amount requested in a single year, the County would either need to increase taxes by 17% or eliminate the entire Howard County Police Department operating budget in FY 2020. As a



good fiscal steward of your taxpayer dollars, I cannot in good conscience fulfill the request; however, I remain open to find ways we can collaborate more effectively so that this does not happen in the future.

I implore the Board of Education and Superintendent to strive for a more reasonable and collaborative process that does not adversely impact our children, educators, programs, and school infrastructure.

As you know, the Council is still currently considering the FY20 budget and amendment profile is next Wednesday. If you haven't already, please make your voice heard to the Council by emailing [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov).

All the best,

Calvin Ball  
County Executive

Ref:MSG0691994

## Sayers, Margery

---

**From:** Zhuo, Jiachen <JZhuo@som.umaryland.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 3:06 PM  
**To:** tellhoco  
**Cc:** CouncilMail; BoE Email  
**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 Dr. Ball,

Thank you for your response to my email and explaining about the county budget. I am however very confused by your email about funding status.

From the Howard county budget page:

<https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/FY2020%20Proposed%20Operating%20Budget-web.pdf> , it indicates that:

1. From 2019 to 2020 fiscal year, the All Fund increase is 7.5%, and the General Fund increase is 1.8%
2. The expenditure for education will only increase by 1%.
3. The Education section include HCPSS, HCC and HCLS. While you are correct the increase for HCC and HCLS is 2.5%, the increase for HCPSS is only 0.9%.

Please correct me if I am wrong.

Best regards.

Jiachen Zhuo

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**From:** Calvin Ball [mailto:tellhoco@howardcountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 12:42 PM  
**To:** Zhuo, Jiachen  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your testimony in support of our school system. As an educator and father of two daughters in our public schools, I share your passion to ensure our teachers and students receive the funding and support they need and deserve.

Unfortunately, years of underfunding has left the school system struggling to keep class sizes small, provide sufficient funding to the health care fund and support essential programs that have made our school system one of the best in the nation. Our children and educators deserve better.

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All the best,

Calvin Ball  
County Executive

Ref:MSG0691302

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Kimberly Watkins <krwatkins\_2000@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 12:09 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B; superintendent@hcpss.org; Mavis\_Ellis@hcpss.org; Kirsten\_Coombs@hcpss.org; Vicky\_Cutroneo@hcpss.org; christina\_delmont-small@hcpss.org; Jennifer\_Mallo@hcpss.org; Sabina\_Taj@hcpss.org; Chao\_Wu@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** PLEASE DON'T CUT the Educational Technology programs in 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:

I am writing as a concerned parent who happens to be raising an African American son in the Howard County Public School System. Recently I learned that Howard County had elected to push forward with removing technology programs in the classroom. This is quite alarming to me as an African American mother raising an African American son in a world where statistically it has been reported that African American males are stereotyped as less likely to graduate school as compared to their white counter parts, encounter vastly significant incarceration rates than other racial groups, have increased representation in special education classes, and are often overly labeled with learning disabilities. To take away technology without examining its benefits and successes which includes increase of self-esteem, mastery of a skill set, healthy outlet/hobby, increased socialization and positive peer interaction, increased engagement in a classroom and an overall increase in school performance for students with a variety of learning styles. What I am requesting at this time is for Howard County's School Board to re-evaluate one's position on removing technology from the school system and take a close and intimate look at the populations, more specifically minorities, that will be greatly impacted by one's decision. Our children are the future, it is our responsibility to prepare them with all means of support and advantages as future leaders, philanthropist, and humanitarians.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Watkins  
(Mother of a 4th grade son at Veteran's Elementary School)  
krwatkins\_2000@yahoo.com  
240-305-5118

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Eric P <ericp23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 11:56 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please keep your promises and support our HCPSS

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

To Howard County Council Men and Women,

I am writing to express my deepest concern with the currently proposed budget shortfall for HCPSS. I understand there are competing interests when it comes to budgeting and governing, and sometimes, it is difficult to choose which program to cut and which program to fund. However, as you know, what attracts people to Howard County is the high level of education it provides to its residence. Without a high level of public school education system, you can imagine the negative impact that this would have to the County's future and revenue (from reduced real estate values to decreased business traffic). Our education system, and our teachers, are our greatest asset, and they deserve to be supported and funded fully.

Many of you have promised strong support for our public school system during your campaigns. Therefore, I urge you to keep your campaign promises and to amend the current County budget to cover for the public school budget shortfall.

Sincerely,

Eric Pang  
Concerned HC parent

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Amy Veid <Amy\_Veid@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 11:44 AM  
**To:** Mavis Ellis; Vicky Cutroneo; Kirsten Coombs; Jennifer Mallo; Sabina Taj; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Technology Program Cuts

[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

The past few weeks have been very emotional, to say the least. It feels like every day there is a new "solution" to our budget deficit, with the newest one being the technology program. Our technology teacher and program have a positive impact on all our students, it would be incredibly devastating to see it decreased and most likely removed from our schools over a period of time.

Sited from the HCPSS website, "Instructional Technology strives to ensure DYNAMIC and CREATIVE learning environments though SEAMLESS integration of technology at ALL Howard County public schools." How can any instruction be seamless while ensuring dynamic and creative learning environments with a 30 minute learning experiences. Let's be honest, by the time the students transition to the technology classroom, sit down at their devices, receive instruction and log into complete the activity, the class is almost over. And then the elementary students are expected to retain those instructions over a week period, or even more due to schedule changes, to come back to the technology classroom and pick back up from the last session? I find this to be unfathomable and foresee this to be the end of our technology teaching positions.

Not only does this become a hurdle for the technology teachers to brainstorm and overcome, they are feeling insignificant to our school system. How can this influential position and instruction for our students and staff begin to dissolve from our curriculum. Maybe a solution could be for classroom teachers to take on the responsibilities? If we step into an elementary classroom today, or even take on the responsibilities of a classroom teacher today, we will KNOW that that is a resolution proposed from someone far removed from the classroom.

And where would the professional development come from? Would there be more time implementation in our PD for classroom teachers to learn about the technology curriculum and resources? I constantly refer to our technology teacher for assistance. What will happen when those resources are not in our building, or busy teaching a 30 minute class?

As a mother of two young children, currently looking to relocate due to school systems, this staffing cut makes me think twice about enrolling my children into a Howard County public school. Please take all of our voices into consideration over the next few weeks. The technology position has a huge impact on all students and staff at our school. Thank your time.

Amy Veid  
G/T Resource Teacher  
Longfellow Elementary