

Sayers, Margery

From: Rodriguez, Adelis M. <adelis.rodriguez@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 9:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Concerns related to HCPSS budget, increase in class sizes and GT programs

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

Resending to the correct email address.

On Sun, May 26, 2019 at 9:16 PM Rodriguez, Adelis M. <adelis.rodriguez@gmail.com> wrote:

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

We had originally purchased a home in Montgomery county back in 2006 when Montgomery was recognized for their schools with the hopes to start a family. Unfortunately, after the economy crashed several of my neighbors lost their homes, several homes went into foreclosure and the neighborhood changed dramatically starting with the schools. The schools that we were assigned to suffered from significant budget cuts after the economy crashed, which resulted in increased class sizes, which severely affected the kids and consequently test scores and school ratings. The elementary school, which was rated at an 8/10 when we bought our house in 2006, ended up being a 5/10 by 2015. With our oldest getting ready to start kindergarten, my husband and I decided to move to Howard County back in 2015.

We were first assigned to Clemens Crossing. Although it was overcrowded, the class sizes for Kindergarten and First grade barely exceeded 20 kids per classroom. This year, we were redistricted to Pointers Run Elementary, where my kid is only one on a class of over 25 kids. Although, I am well aware that the teachers do an excellent job in trying to manage the situation, according to my kid's teacher this has been the year that he has had the most kids in his classroom, which has made for some creative solutions as to how to tend to the needs of so many kids.

Over the past year, I have observed that the teachers' morale seems low and the schools are lacking in resources. 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. 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.

My oldest son has been taking above grade classes since Kindergarten and was looking forward to be part of the GT program in 3rd grade next year. However 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.

This year at Pointer Run was an excellent example of that, while class sizes weren't supposed to exceed the levels, since one of the developers delivered rows of houses after the start of the school year, the school was flooded with new students, and it was too late to create more classes for each grade.

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. Specifically our taxes are now three times higher than what they were in Montgomery county.

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.

Adelis M. Rodriguez & George Suarez
10832 Hunting Ln
Columbia MD 21044

--
Adelis M. Rodriguez

Sayers, Margery

From: Kurian <mailkurian@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2019 11:08 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Request to maximize funding to fill the budget gap for HCPSS, including funds for the GT Program

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

Hi,
Please maximize funding to fill the budget gap for HCPSS and continue funding GT program. It is very important for all the families who live in Howard County. That was our hope when we elected the new officials. Please maximize school funding including GT program.

Thanks,
Kurian Jacob

Sayers, Margery

From: JENNIFER SPIEGEL <jenallenspiegel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 9:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for budget amendment for schools

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

I'm writing in support of the pre filed budget amendment that Liz Walsh and Deb Jung are sponsoring to grant an additional \$8 million for the HCPSS budget. Please vote in support of this amendment so Howard County schools can continue to successfully support our children.

Thanks,
Jen Spiegel
12475 Triadelphia Road
Ellicott City, MD 20142

Sayers, Margery

From: heather.urner@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, May 25, 2019 10:55 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget

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

Good Morning All,

Yes the storms before the holiday weekend were disturbing where keeping county residents safe is important. What is also important is the future. What we also need to put our backing behind is our children, in education and increasing the budget beyond MOE, our the agreed pay raise. We aren't helping children by increasing class size. We are able to help the children without cutting them short again. Can we not cut short the children again. Can we think of the future?

Thank you

Heather Urner

Sayers, Margery

From: Hilary Yarmus <hilyar@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 3:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HoCo Budget Proposal Response

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

Dear Howard County MD County Council Members,

I am a 5th grade GT and Band student at Dayton Oaks Elementary.

I strongly disagree with the idea of decreasing band, orchestra, chorus, and GT classes and CEU programs. Students need this education and will not succeed as well without it. If you do this, many teachers will lose their jobs and the ones that don't would have to find work at up to 4 schools a week. Then, the songs that are easy in 5th grade will be played in 8th grade. Also, Howard County middle school bands are strong and when the students who started in this way get to middle school, the band reputation would decrease rapidly. Losing band would be devastating for parents, teachers, and students.

Second, you would be taking away so many GT classes that a lot of people need. Fifth graders like me would have to redo math we already did, if we didn't have enough GT classes for everyone to continue with. Then we would not be as able to fulfill our dreams of getting accepted into Ivy League schools like Harvard, Princeton, Yale, etc. because those colleges look for accelerated learning.

There are also some ways that I can recommend fixing this budget problem. First, a fundraiser would work because adults would most definitely dedicate their money for this cause. Second you could open a fair. Not only would that let children have a fun experience, the carnival games and activities would make a bright spotlight on the Board of Education. Third, you could set up a performance of some kind, and the celebrities would attract much useful attention.

Howard County is famous for its advanced learning classes and beneficial schooling. If you carry out your proposal of sorts, many families would not want to live here anymore and the county would lose its reputation.

I hope you change your mind about this suggestion of yours.

Sincerely Yours,

Sam Yarmus

5th Grade Student

Dayton Oaks Elementary School

Howard County

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 11:27 AM
To: Sarah McGuire; BoE Email; Michael Martirano; CouncilMail
Cc: Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: Instructional Technology cuts
Attachments: Testimony.pdf

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

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Your email attachment will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process on the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing. The public is able to submit written testimony until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at BOE@hcpss.org.

The remaining Budget Meeting Schedule is as follows:

Monday, June 3, 2019 at 4 p.m. – Work Session
Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 4 p.m. – Adoption of Budget

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

Kind regards,

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

From: Sarah McGuire <Sarah_McGuire@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 8:29 AM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Michael Martirano <Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org>;
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Instructional Technology cuts

Good morning,
Please read my attachment testimony. Thank you for your time.

--
Sarah McGuire
Instructional Technology

PDS Liaison
Laurel Woods Elementary

Consistency*Developer*Discipline*Responsibility*Harmony

Dear Howard County Board of Education & Superintendent, Dr. Martirano,

With the current budget challenges facing HCPSS, many possible cuts were proposed. However, the only reduction of staff *still* being considered is Elementary Instructional Technology Teachers. This not only means eliminating 20 Technology Teacher positions, but also a reduction in Technology class time from its current 60 minutes to only 30 minutes per week. This would have a devastating, long lasting and immeasurable impact on the rigorous education every one of our elementary children currently receives in Howard County.

Instructional Technology classes provide an enormous amount of equity to our most underserved populations. Laurel Woods' student population is comprised of 94% minority students and over 60% FARMS students. These students have limited to no access to technology and desperately need the weekly technology instruction they currently receive. Most students who enter kindergarten at Laurel Woods have never used a computer, printer or iPad. Without adequate time in Technology class, a student with limited or no access to Technology at home receives far less time to improve his/her typing skills, learn critical computer software & hardware, learn about digital citizenship, computational thinking, and more when compared to their peers nationally. Not only does Elementary Instructional Technology help to fulfill Dr. Martirano's Strategic Call to Action in all 3 areas of equity, inclusion, and diversity, but it also fulfills state education mandates. Such a drastic curtailing of the county's instructional technology curriculum contradicts this Strategic Call to Action. We are trying to close the equity gap but the reduction in staffing and program will have the opposite effect, and do a huge disservice to our students.

Elementary Instructional Technology program helps students acquire the skills, abilities, and knowledge necessary to become global 21st century citizens. It is in OUR classrooms that students learn how to effectively communicate online and collaborate with peers. It is in OUR classrooms where students practice computational thinking through coding and computer science. And it is in OUR classrooms that students are challenged with authentic learning experiences that will prepare them to be successful and competent lifetime learners.

This generation of students perhaps more than any before it can ill-afford any reduction instructional technology.

Sincerely,

Sarah McGuire
Technology Teacher
PDS Liaison
Laurel Woods Elementary School

Sayers, Margery

From: Chad Jarvis <cjarvis810@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 9:56 AM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; 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 Help Save Elementary Technology Education

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

I am writing to day, because I need your help. The proposed cut in elementary technology education by the Howard County Public School System from 60 minutes to 30 minutes a week is absurd. First, the decrease in technology education should be an increase, since not every child has access to technology in the home. Second, is 30 minutes per week enough time to spend on any subject? How much benefit is there in throwing what amounts to be a bone (approximately 20 total hours over 180 school days) to the guidelines?

Given today's emphasis on STEM and the fact that our educational systems are so broken that the US, on a scale from 0-1000, ranks a lackluster 500 in science, mathematics and reading, according to the Pew Research Center.

Do the right thing.

Chad Jarvis
a concerned parent of a 3rd, 6th and 10th grader enrolled in HCPSS

Sayers, Margery

From: Cara Mahoney <cjmahoney1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 8:33 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Letter
Attachments: Budget Letterword.pages

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

Tried to send this yesterday but then lost power and internet. I know there was a work session last night so these things have already been discussed, but wanted to send anyway.

Thank you.

Sayers, Margery

From: Sarah McGuire <Sarah_McGuire@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 8:29 AM
To: BoE Email; Michael Martirano; CouncilMail
Subject: Instructional Technology cuts
Attachments: Testimony.pdf

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

Good morning,
Please read my attachment testimony. Thank you for your time.

--

Sarah McGuire
Instructional Technology
PDS Liaison
Laurel Woods Elementary

Consistency*Developer*Discipline*Responsibility*Harmony

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This generation of students perhaps more than any before it can ill-afford any reduction instructional technology.

Sincerely,

Sarah McGuire
Technology Teacher
PDS Liaison
Laurel Woods Elementary School

Sayers, Margery

From: Rujun Hu <hurj717@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 11:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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

>

>> Sincerely

>> Rujun Hu

>> Resident of Tiber branch at Ellicott City

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Rujun Hu <hurj717@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 11:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School budget

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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

> Sincerely
> Rujun Hu
> Resident of Tiber branch at Ellicott City
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Chao Wu <Chao_Wu@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 9:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support Council members Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Jung bill

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

Dear Council Members,

Please support council members Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Jung's bill to give HCPSS extra eight million dollars' funding.

At the same time, the school system is working hard to cut everything besides the classroom and continue to find ways to reduce its deficit.

Thanks.

Dr. Chao Wu
Board Member
Howard County Board of Education
Email: chao_wu@hcpss.org
Phone: 443-355-9990
Web: www.hcpss.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Surabhi Gupta <agrawalsurabhi1982@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 8:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Technology education is very Important.

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

Hello Hcpss

It is very important that kids have tech knowledge as it is everywhere & essential for today's time. Please make it necessary & don't decrease its budget .

As being a parent I feel all these things together make education in Howard county better

Thank you

Sayers, Margery

From: G Walsh <gwalsh1@umbc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 6:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin B; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: I need your help, please!

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

Dear members of the Howard County Council,

I'm writing in hopes of gaining your support with finding funding for HCPSS in order for the HCPSS Board of Education to keep the elementary technology program as it currently is. I started teaching 12 years ago. I've taught technology now for 9 years. As technology has advanced, the need for a full technology curriculum has increased. Students must learn how to become digital citizens. They must learn about combating cyber-bullying, checking for reliable and accurate sources when researching, how to keep safe from internet predators, how to comply with copyright laws, and so much more. I've lost two close friends growing up due to suicide and in my teaching career I've lost two of my students due to suicide. One student I just lost this school year. Cyber-bullying played a major role in some of their deaths. By reaching out to our students at an early age, technology teachers are able to teach students how to combat cyber-bullying, how to be respectful digital citizens, and how to stand up for themselves and get help. Technology teachers also teach students about robotics and coding. This technology curriculum will be **incredibly** difficult, if not **impossible** to continue, if we reduced the technology teaching staff and have our class time cut in half which is the current proposal. I cannot imagine not having another part time technology teacher here with me. Furthermore, I cannot imagine trying to teach this **essential** curriculum in just 30 minutes which is the current proposal. This year, MSDE has instituted technology standards. How can we complete these state mandated standards if we are reduced to 30 minutes? Removing the time it takes for students to come to class from another room, get to their computers, login, logout when finished, and lined up in the classroom, we are now down to 20 minutes. Only twenty minutes of instruction! And in the end, this cut would only save HCPSS less than one million dollars, but look what it would cost our students, our children, our **future!** This will negatively and directly impact the 650 students that are at my school, Hammond Elementary, and thousands of other students across the county, whereas other proposals would only effect a small subset of our student population, not the **entire** elementary student population. While I am not advocating that we should eliminate other student programs, isn't it our duty to pick something that would impact the **least** amount of our students if not pick something that would not directly impact **any** of our students?

In addition to our wonderful and globally relevant curriculum, technology teachers also provide incredibly important professional development for our staff. With the budget cuts we have faced in the past, professional development has suffered as we do not have the funds to bring in outside professional development. Because of this, technology teachers have played an important role in filling in this void. We are constantly providing our staff with the support needed to learn ways to further assist and engage our students. Atop our teaching responsibilities, we are here on a daily basis as a resource for our staff. On top of our professional development, we are also a first line of defense when it comes to assisting staff with

technology issues with their computers, LCD projectors, document cameras, student computers, and other technological devices.

I know that you are faced with **extremely** difficult decisions. I also know that you are hearing from so many different groups. I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for taking into consideration my concerns. I also thank you for all that you do for our students, staff, and community.

I advocated and worked at polling stations for many of you to get into office. I'm now asking for you to advocate not for me, but for my students, my children.

Thank you,
Greg Walsh

Sayers, Margery

From: Leslye PJ Reaves <leslye@reflectiondigital.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 4:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Substitute pay

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

Please support the amendment to raise sub pay.

Leslye Reaves
6029 Watch Chain Way
Columbia, MD 21044

Leslye PJ Reaves
Creative Developer :: reflection:digital
301.543.1955 :: reflectiondigital.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Crissy Johnson <bluec81@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 4:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Technology

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

Please keep technology at its normal level. Children need technology in today's world.

Sayers, Margery

From: Michelle Baker <Michelle_Baker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 4:33 PM
To: Mavis Ellis; Kirsten Coombs; Vicky Cutroneo; Christina Delmont-Small; Jennifer Mallo; Sabina Taj; Chao Wu; Student Board Member; superintendent@hcpss.org; Michael Martirano; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: equitable opportunities for all

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

Dear Dr. Martirano and Members of the Board of Education,

The County Executive has provided the most funding ever to the HCPSS, naming education a top priority with a principle goal being to foster Ready and Successful students. What makes a ready and successful student? For Howard County Public School System students, Dr. Martirano's Strategic Call to Action states that to be ready and successful, students will acquire the skills, attributes and knowledge necessary to become global citizens and obtain meaningful and rewarding employment in a dynamic, international workplace; receive a high-quality education through access to individualized instruction, challenges, supports and opportunities; and have their voice infused throughout their educational experience to inform teaching and creating learning experiences engaging and inspiring to all students. These goals match the drive and purpose of the Elementary Educational Technology program.

Based on both Dr. Ball's and Dr. Martirano's words and beliefs, I am having a difficult time understanding the justification for so strongly pushing the cut to a program that literally affects every student's success rate. Removing access to authentic learning experiences that students have in their 60 minute a week technology class would mean our students are no longer engaging in equitable practices. We talk about the haves and have nots. In this case, both sides lose. Our haves may have equipment at home - phones, tablets, gaming machines, but that does not guarantee skills beyond video games, selfie style youtube videos, and social media. In fact, it puts these kids in dangerous situations they have not been educated properly on. Stranger danger and bullying take an extreme turn.

Our have nots have the drive and desire but not the access. For some, technology class may be the only chance these students have to put their hands on not only the equipment but the resources and challenges that come with supported problem solving, real world application, and innovative thinking. It has been a priority and pleasure to watch my students discover how they can be successful in the world whether or not they have the opportunity outside our classroom to believe that. Technology students have been empowered and are prepared to strive. They have worked through design processes, connected stand alone classroom content with the world around them, attempted to solve problems, grew confidence in independent thinking, failed and learned from those failed attempts and ultimately discovered they too could have a successful future.

I am a lifelong resident of Columbia, a Wilde Lake graduate, parent to a Longfellow 5th grader, Harpers Choice 8th grader, a 23 year HCPSS employee 19 of which have been at Longfellow Elementary School and am

extremely passionate about what Columbia stands for. We celebrate our diversity and support everyone in our community equally and proudly. Understanding that extremely difficult decisions need to be made, I again plead with you to maintain the technology program, its teachers, and the opportunities it provides to ALL our students.

Michelle Baker
Educational Technology Teacher
Longfellow Elementary School

Sayers, Margery

From: Amanda Rausch <awebbrausch@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 3:17 PM
Subject: Equity in Technology

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

Good afternoon. I would like to introduce myself to you. I am #53 on “the list” of HCPSS Elementary Technology teachers. I have a Master’s Degree in Educational Technology and I’ve been proud to work in this great county as an elementary technology teacher since 2009. I was part of the cadre of Elementary Technology teachers that were trained in, wrote curriculum for, and then piloted each of the Engineering units in our elementary schools today. Each week, I am responsible for the technology instruction of over 400 students at Clemens Crossing. In addition, I am responsible for providing on the spot tech support (tier 1) and professional development to over 55 teachers and staff members at my school. In a typical school year, I am able to provide roughly 34 hours of instruction to my students. If you continue with your plan to reduce elementary technology, students will have only 17 hours of time in technology. Imagine a teacher being given a total of 17 hours to teach an entire year of Science, Social Studies, Math, or any other subject. Mind boggling, isn’t it? In addition, teachers will lose a cumulative of 8.5 hours of planning time. And, even though, I am an expert in my field with an advanced degree, I will be forced to return to being a classroom teacher.

The department for which I work, the Office of Instructional Technology, is full of smart, innovative, creative, and talented Technology Teachers. This spring, two of my peers won state awards. Mike Kilberg was named Maryland Technology Teacher of the year and just today, David Floyd was named Maryland STEM Educator of the Year. Many of my colleagues also have advanced degrees in our field. We are experts in educational technology and take great pride in the instruction we deliver to ALL of our students on a daily basis. We take great pride in the impact we have on every single elementary school aged child in this county every week. Instrumental music cannot say they touch ALL elementary students each week or even each year. GT cannot say they touch ALL elementary students each week or even each year. Your elementary technology teachers are serving students regardless of skin color, regardless of socio-economic status or intellectual level, regardless of how many devices their family may or may not have access to at home. We provide a level playing field for over 26,000 elementary students in Howard County. Each and every one of them are provided instruction on internet safety. They understand that what they put on the internet cannot be erased. They understand how to recognize when something is ‘off’ on the internet. They understand that personal information should never be shared over the internet unless their adults are involved. They understand cyberbullying and how to be an upstander online. They understand the problem solving, the perseverance, and the computational thinking involved in computer science. They don’t panic when they are given a computer based test because they have been prepared in advance by their technology teacher. They have the skills to navigate an online testing environment and utilize the tools on those tests. They understand how to harness the power of technological application like Canvas, G Suite, Wixie, Comic Life, and countless others to showcase their learning and ideas. I could go on and on. ALL of our students have access to and benefit from 60 minutes of weekly instruction in our program. ALL of our students are given the tools to be successful in secondary schools and to eventually enter a diverse and global economy.

If you are interested in the history of how our position came to be, I invite you to reach out to some of our original technology teachers. Ruth Walker at Talbott Springs has been around since the beginning and would be happy to share with you. If you spoke to them, they would relay to you the history of how our position was created to provide opportunities for students in high poverty areas. In a county highlighting equity among students, I implore you to consider how this will impact our most vulnerable. Elementary students who may not have access to any type of device at their homes will now have that access reduced by half. Elementary students who may not have adults at home that are available, in a position to, or have the knowledge to teach them how to be safe online and navigate what can be a scary place will now have that access reduced by half.

I was at the BOE meeting on Tuesday at 4pm when two of our colleagues took the time to attempt to share a small piece of what we do on a daily basis. I was struck by the words of the BOE Chair Woman, Ms. Ellis, when she said there was a lot of conversation about the elementary technology teacher positions. I was struck because there has been no conversation with those of us on the frontline. Those of us that are providing instruction to over 400 students and support to over 50 staff members each week. I invite each of you to take a moment to reach out to an elementary technology teacher. Stop by our classrooms. We are proud to share the great work we do with our students and staff. I think you would be proud of it as well.

If I can, I'd like to leave you with a few parting thoughts. The Elementary Technology Teacher program at HCPSS is an EXCELLENT example of the successful marriage of equity and equality: those in greatest need and those wanting the same thing. 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.

Very Respectfully,
Amanda Rausch

Sayers, Margery

From: Cindy Jun <cindy.jun@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 1:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: VOTE FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS!

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

PLEASE VOTE for INCREASED FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS!
Thank you!

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Broughton <kathy_broughton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 1:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HoCo School Budget

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

Hello,

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

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

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

Remember that you are elected officials. Howard County is full of passionate parents who turn up when it's time to vote - don't forget recent changes to elected positions on the Board of Education are evidence that we follow through with necessary change if students and teacher needs aren't put first.

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

Kathy Broughton

kathy_broughton@yahoo.com
14204 Pioneer circle
Glenelg, Maryland 21737

Sayers, Margery

From: Peg Glasser <mglasser@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 11:04 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: are: Pass Bill: Substitute Teacher Pay Increase

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

Please!!
Support and pass the bill to increase sub teachers' pay NOW!
I support it 100%.

Peg Glasser
11047 Nashville Ct
Ellicott City, Md 21042

iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: John Ringstad <mainstream@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 10:29 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support the amendment to raise sub pay NOW!

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

Thank you!

John Ringstad
1779 Woodstock Rd, Woodstock, MD 21163