

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** S. SP. <ssminow@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 10:09 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** In support of the music program

[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 wanted to write again in support of music education in Howard County. Both of my children have benefited greatly from the strings program. My oldest child hopes to be a musician and works hard maintaining excellent grades as she works towards her future goal. My youngest also works hard in school and takes playing the viola very seriously. I don't have to ask them to practice, they want to improve their skills and practice without being asked.

I would like to express my concern that tech and music, are being affected by budget cuts and would like the school board to consider spreading out or sharing the cuts to other areas such as sports and athletics. My children's sport is music, although they participate in physical activity programs outside of school. My family hopes for the chance at college scholarships as most parents do and we hope for them in music. I know sports are important for families especially those hoping for scholarships. Please consider that families like mine have those same hopes. Having just as strong a music program as sports program is vital. It enables opportunities to obtain scholarships and opens another door to college for many students.

I appreciate all that is being done to find the best solution to the budget concerns. Please consider retaining the music program as is or spreading the cuts to sports and other areas to minimize major cuts to music.

Thank you,

Sarah Stitt-Plater

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Johnathan Misamore <jmisamore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 9:08 AM  
**To:** superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** No Cuts to Our Students

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

Dr. Martirano, Dr. Ball, and County Council of Howard County,

I am writing you today to encourage you to continue your productive discussions of the past few weeks to find ways to avoid cuts to Technology Teacher positions in our elementary schools. Eliminating programs that provide our students with the skills they need for 21st century careers will cripple them for years to come. The stakeholders of HCPSS employ you to find a way to keep these programs so that our students can continue to be competitive on a national stage.

We expect that leadership of HCPSS and Howard County will come to the realization that cuts to programs that directly impact classrooms is a short sighted cost reduction that is only doing harm to the students we aim to serve.

Sincerely,

Johnathan Misamore

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Adam Burstein <adam@adamburstein.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2019 11:32 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; Chao\_Wu@hcpss.org; Jennifer\_Mallo@hcpss.org; Kirsten\_Coombs@hcpss.org; Mavis\_Ellis@hcpss.org; Sabina\_Taj@hcpss.org; Vicky\_Cutroneo@hcpss.org; christina\_delmont-small@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Addison Burstein; Barbara E. Ford; Brandon Henley; Christopher Rattay; Dara Burstein; Jason\_Morton-Ortega@hcpss.org; Kelli\_Jenkins@hcpss.org; Linda S. Isberg; Robert Burns; michele\_doyle-wetzberger@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Re: 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 again in advance of the meeting scheduled for tomorrow to determine the fate of music programming in HCPSS. I have received some responses from teachers, some council members, and some school board members. Unfortunately, I see that the responses from our elected officials indicate that my plea has been insufficient to do much to change the fate of critical programs in our schools.

You, on the "To:" line of this email, were elected to represent the wants and needs of your constituents. While I don't have the polling results that you may have, social media has been ablaze with support for music and technology programs remaining at their current funding levels, if not even expanding them. I can tell you that drastic cuts to arts and technology do not correlate well with the wants and needs of the people who have enabled you to temporarily serve in your roles, at the will of the voters.

As I stated below in my original email, I recognize that budgeting a county is no small feat, and I appreciate the challenges you face. There has got to be a better path to solving budgetary issues that does not involve ill-preparing our children for their future. And I remind you, some of these children who are affected by these changes won't just have parents at the ballots for your next elections — some of them will be voters, and may have siblings still in HCPSS.

As I am unable to attend the meeting myself due to my work schedule — and my daughter's school concert — please consider this email, along with my original, dated 18 May 2019, my red-shirt-wearing testimonial in support of our hard working, diligent, talented, and wonderful music, arts, and technology teachers.

Thank you,  
Adam Burstein

On Sat, May 18, 2019 at 11:14 AM Adam Burstein <[adam@adamburstein.com](mailto:adam@adamburstein.com)> wrote:

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:** tania lamba <vania\_lamba@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2019 8:03 PM  
**To:** Rigby, Christiana; Jones, Opel; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; mavis\_ellis@hcpss.org; kristen\_coombs@hcpss.org; vicky\_cutroneo@hcpss.org; christina\_delmont-small@hcpss.org; jennifer\_mallo@hcpss.org; sabina\_taj@hcpss.org; chao\_wu@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Aman Bawa  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes to Howard County School

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

Tania Lamba and Amandeep Bawa

6818 Owings Overlook Highland, Maryland | 301-455-9139 | [vania\\_lamba@yahoo.com](mailto:vania_lamba@yahoo.com)

June 2, 2019

Howard County Board of Education and  
Howard County Council members

Dear Howard County Board of Education and  
Howard County Council members:

I want to start this letter by mentioning that me and my family are very distraught with the news about the changes being considered by the Howard County Government and Board of education to address the school systems budget shortfall. We have 2 sons in the Howard County Public school system and the strong education record of Howard County with its strong GT program was the main reason that we chose to build our house in Howard County. Up until now Howard County has remained a great county when it comes to education and I am shocked that the local Government and Board of Education are willing to make changes that will definitively have a huge negative impact on the education of our children and will take the Howard County schools off the list of top schools in Maryland. It is common knowledge that if we do not invest in the school system and in the education of children we are going to have a downhill course with the next generation not having the foundation of a strong education. From a business standpoint, I also don't know how this will make sense as we are currently living here and paying high taxes for the sole purpose of giving our children a good education and once you take that away, people will not be attracted to living in this county and that will affect local businesses as well.

All the changes proposed will lower the standard Howard county has kept as an educational county. Cutting down on the number of GT teachers is a terrible idea. In my son's middle school there is not enough space for some kids to get into GT math even though they have the capability. Lowering the amount of GT teachers is going to make matters worse. If there are a large number of students that test into GT we should have the appropriate resources to meet the needs of our students.

Adding more kids into a classroom will make classrooms hard to control, making it harder to teach and will negatively impact the ability for the teachers to effectively do their jobs.

We are also very saddened by the proposal to decrease elementary school music teachers and delaying the start of band and string education in elementary schools. Howard County has remained a great county when it comes to music education but with these changes once kids enter middle school they will be behind the kids who had that experience in other counties/states and will not be able to compete with them.

People like us invest so much money to live in Howard County and avail its educational system for their children. The changes proposed will affect our schools and the education of the next generation and more to come. Howard County is known for its amazing education. Let's not change that.

Sincerely,

Tania Lamba and Amandeep Bawa

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2019 1:23 PM  
**To:** monywarner@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Music program funding for schools

**First Name:** Maureen  
**Last Name:** Warner  
**Email:** [monywarner@yahoo.com](mailto:monywarner@yahoo.com)  
**Street Address:** 5400 Chesterfield Drive  
**City:** Camp Springs  
**Subject:** Music program funding for schools  
**Message:** Please continue to find music in schools! I went to school in Prince George's County, MD. Being in the band teaches a lot more than just music!

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** panyongmei@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Hcpss budget

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

Dear BOE members

I just heard there's still 6 million shortage of HCPSS budget for the next year.

1. I strongly against any classroom size increase or any cut in GT, Music and Technology teachers.
2. There are ways to reduce cost rather than to increase class size or cut any teachers or programs to save money.
  - 1) For example, decrease teacher salary increase from 3% to 1.9% would save 10million
  - 2) decreasing heating system temperature in winter may also save money. My daughter's school building is hot in winter. How about decreasing temperature by 1c. How much it would save?

I won't vote for any BOE who supports any classroom size increase or any cut in GT, Music and Technology teachers.

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

Sent from my iPhone



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** heather.urner@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2019 3:43 PM  
**To:** Jung, Deb  
**Cc:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** RE: Budget

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

Good Afternoon,

I know that BOE decides how the money, the Council approves gets used, in school system. I am disappointed Council only saw fit to increase 2million for the BOE to work with. The 8 million you Councilwoman Walsh proposed would have given the BOE more to work with at least. Now BOE will have to figure how to cut less when the Council approves the funds that they dispense into the different functions of school system, which has been in an underfunded trend. Thank you for finding a way to get 2 million, but yes the 8 million restoring would have been better.

Thank you

Heather Urner

On Fri, May 31, 2019 at 3:32 PM, Jung, Deb  
<djung@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your input. Adequate funding for HCPSS is one of my top priorities. The County Council voted on May 29 to adopt the County Executive's FY2020 Operating Budget.

Councilmember Walsh and I proposed several amendments that would have restored a total of \$8 million to HCPSS budget. We were unsuccessful in garnering a majority vote to support this increase in full. However, a much smaller increase of \$2 million passed the Council with allocations for the following: \$300,000 for substitute teacher raises, \$400,000 for bus-routing software, and \$1.3 million for instruction.

This falls short of our initial goals for HCPSS funding. Now the approved budget goes to HCPSS Superintendent and the Board of Education for final distribution to the various categories and departments. The Council does not determine if, where, and how budget cuts will be made.

I believe that our school district will continue to face fiscal challenges, and I will do all that I can to be responsive to this situation and educate others about their needs.

**Deb Jung**

**Councilmember, District 4  
Howard County Council**

**3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043**

**410-313-2001**

**Sign-up for my District Update [here](#).**

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

**Sent:** Saturday, May 25, 2019 10:55 AM

**To:** Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

**Subject:** Budget

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

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

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**From:** Nina Hunter <nhunter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:55 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Fwd: 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 Council Members,

I am writing in reposes to the proposed budget cuts that would severely impact our elementary school programs. First, I'd like to address the reduced number of GT teachers at the elementary school level, which would result in only 1 GT resource teacher per elementary school. Currently, we rely heavily on the 2 excellent GT math teachers we have at Dayton Oaks Elementary School.

I am writing to you as both a parent and a scientist. Recent research from Stanford University has shown that problem-solving ability improves from second to third grade in ways that are associated with changes in the brain. The researchers believe these brain changes are the result of skills that the children are acquiring in school. The study, which focused specifically on math reasoning skills, addresses both questions of how the brain improves and how children acquire new knowledge.

The third graders' brains showed greater "cross-talk," or signal transfer, along pathways that deal with information between those two regions, and help with more efficient numerical problem solving. Third grade is precisely the time when these signal transfers may be developing in the adolescent brain. It is through the opportunities provided by the GT teachers at Dayton Oaks Elementary School where curriculum enrichment units are able to provide children with the additional challenges and stimulations that they need as this crucial time during their academic and biological development.

We all know the importance of math, but did you know the math skills that you learn early on in life directly go hand in hand with your brain development well into adulthood? Math skills learned at a young age are the basic foundations for what you learn for the rest of life. Math teaches logic and order. The discipline of mind that children develop in math class can carry over into everyday life. Math can also provide a vehicle through which critical-thinking skills are put into practice and refined. These are just a few reasons why it is crucial that we continue to support GT math programs in our elementary schools.

I am also writing in response to the proposed budget cuts that would delay the start of string instruments until fourth grade. Several recent articles in scientific journals point to the wide range of significant effects that learning music has on the brain development of children.

Based on the use of various neuroimaging techniques, research shows how early music training produces actual physical changes in brain structure and function.

One study found an increase in the white matter in the corpus callosum (the switchboard in the center of the brain) which results in increased brain connectivity. Another recent study determined that early musical training increased the grey matter in the cerebral cortex, particularly in the sensory-motor area of the brain. The improved coordination this produces was also found to improve emotional regulation and the ability to inhibit responses to events.

Just last year, a panel of scientists highlighted research findings showing that in addition to promoting language development, music has a positive effect on the development of other cognitive functions including attention, visual-spatial perception, and executive function. For musicians, the act of playing an instrument not only activates the brain but also influences brain development. In general, the brains of musicians are larger, and more extensively connected than those of the general population. They also have a superior working memory, auditory skills, and cognitive flexibility.

In addition, playing an instrument can lead to a sense of achievement as well as an increase in self-esteem. Further advantages can include increased confidence, persistence in overcoming frustrations when learning is difficult, and self-discipline.

We need to continue to fight for and support music programs in Howard County to ensure that they are available to our children. Specifically, this includes ensuring that strings instruments are available to third graders and that band instruments are available to fourth and fifth graders, as well as the availability of GT orchestra and band, and the Howard County Lyric and Cantus Choruses. As parents and residents of Howard County, it is our duty to strengthen these programs that enrich our childrens' lives outside of the traditional classroom and provide our musics teachers with the resources that they require to teach our children successfully.

In conclusion, I implore you to reconsider the proposed cuts to the GT math and music programs in our elementary schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nina Hunter, Ph.D.

443-860-9439

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** susanne stahley <scstahley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Substitute Teachers - There's No Substitute for Fairness!

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

Please support Council Members Walsh & Jung's amendment supporting modest raises for substitute teachers. Thank you!

Susanne Stahley  
4013 Arjay Cir, Ellicott City, MD 21042

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2019 7:24 PM  
**To:** ee11brian@gmail.com  
**Subject:** proposed county budget

**First Name:** Evelyn

**Last Name:** Brian

**Email:** [ee11brian@gmail.com](mailto:ee11brian@gmail.com)

**Street Address:** 12871 Highland Rd

**City:** HIGHLAND

**Subject:** proposed county budget

**Message:** Shame on you - put the money back into the proposed operating budget that was taken out to fund the public school needs. The county has been hit with another F1 tornado last week and who knows what the summer, fall and winter will bring with public safety needs Quit robbing Peter to pay Paul as the old saying goes. We all live on a budget and that goes for the school system too. thank you for your time Esther Brian



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Jones, Opel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 5:02 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Support the Walsh/Jung Amendment

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**From:** Bonnie Bricker <bonbricker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:14 AM  
**To:** Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Support the Walsh/Jung Amendment

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

I'm writing to ask for your support of the Walsh/Jung proposal to move additional monies to the HCPSS budget, in a similar move to that proposed last year by then Council-Members Ball and Terrasa.

Our revenue stream has not kept up with the realities of appropriate demands for our school system and our county. We don't wish to fail our citizens with inadequate service in any realm, be it county services or school-based services. The realities of inadequate revenue will need to be managed in the very near future; but for now, the consequences of inadequate monies can have real impacts on our students.

I appreciate your willingness to serve our residents, and I understand how difficult these budget decisions have become. I believe we are obligated to serve our students as best as we can, even when budget demands are difficult. Our community asked for- even insisted upon- more mental health supports in schools in the face of increased suicide and stress among our students; more training for staff to support equity initiatives; more Special Education staffing support; clean environments for our students and staff to work in each day. The lack of such services caused great harm to many, and now monies for these initiatives and services have been included in the full budget. Town Halls and forums were highly focused on these requests in past years and the BOE rightly responded by directing a budget reflecting these priorities to be submitted. Any steps we take to add monies to the budget now brings us a bit closer to fulfilling these needs.

Having recognized the great needs of many in our county, I am entering my third year of working for free to impact the gaps that many of our children have when they begin school through the Talk With Me initiative. I have offered my time in this endeavor, as well as on social media in my education-oriented group, because of my commitment to future generations. I know you wish to support our children as well; your support of this amendment is one small part of bringing our students needs to the forefront.

Thank you for your time and attention to our community.

Bonnie Bricker

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Bonnie Bricker

