

CR 08-2019

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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-wetzelberger@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> 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

From: tania lamba <tanialamba@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 | tanialamba@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

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
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

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

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](#).

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

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 response 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

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

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

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

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

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

--

Bonnie Bricker

Talk With Me • Howard County
301-648-8939

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 Chupetta <Monica_Chupetta@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 Chupetta, 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 Chupetta
Elementary Instructional Technology- Waverly Elementary

Monica Chupetta
monica_chupetta@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: barbkrap <barbkrap@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

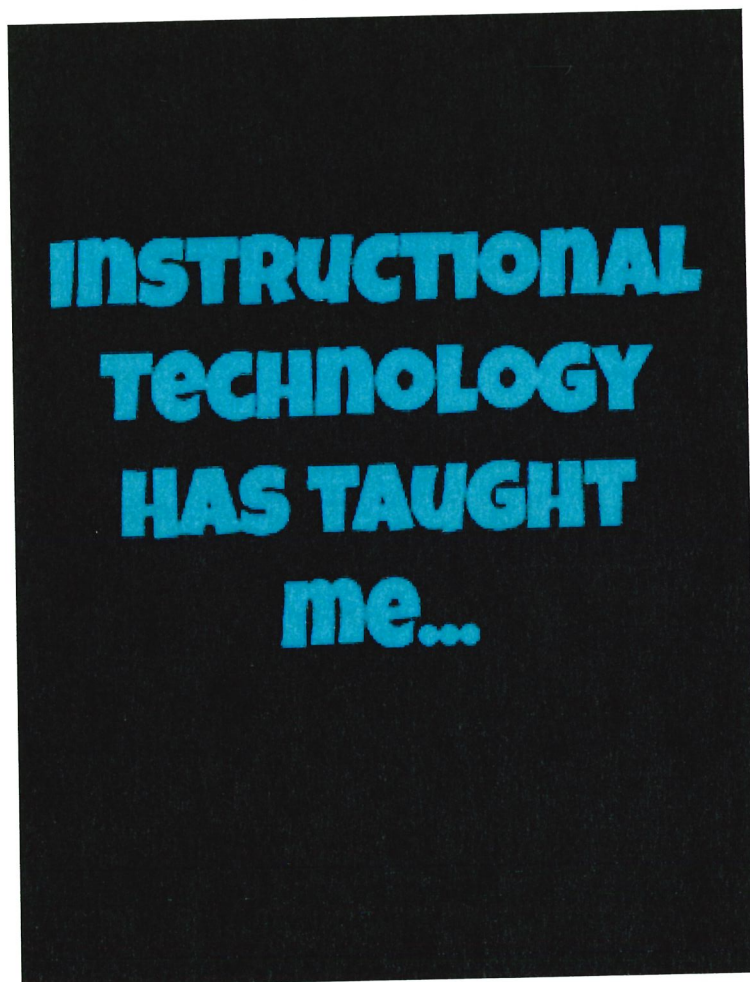
"Teaching is not a delivery system. It's an art form!" - Sir Ken Robinson

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

Paul Thacker

Christopher Jung

Joel Finn

Alex Berengoroff

Yeh Vorkman

Therese

Andrew Wei

Andrew Chen

Elizabeth Ochoa

Eric Park

Angela

Deanna

Carson Lamber

West
11/11

Camden DeRude Sean Qin

Talano Harkin

MOVING
400 BROAD
ST
NEW YORK

Wang

Deepti

Lin

ANDY

Carlina Xiong

Karissa

Sitara

Alex W.

Sumit

Patty

Henry D.

Katie Kim

Lincoln Mays Colin Grove

Joanna

Sazi Khalid

Wang



Caitlin Ball Filing laLoes

Natti Abit

Emma Burke

David Tran

Canaly Kim

MOVING 300

ARMED & DANGEROUS

Rachel

Bowers

Talg

Tracy

ari

Katie Huang

Hydian

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!

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.

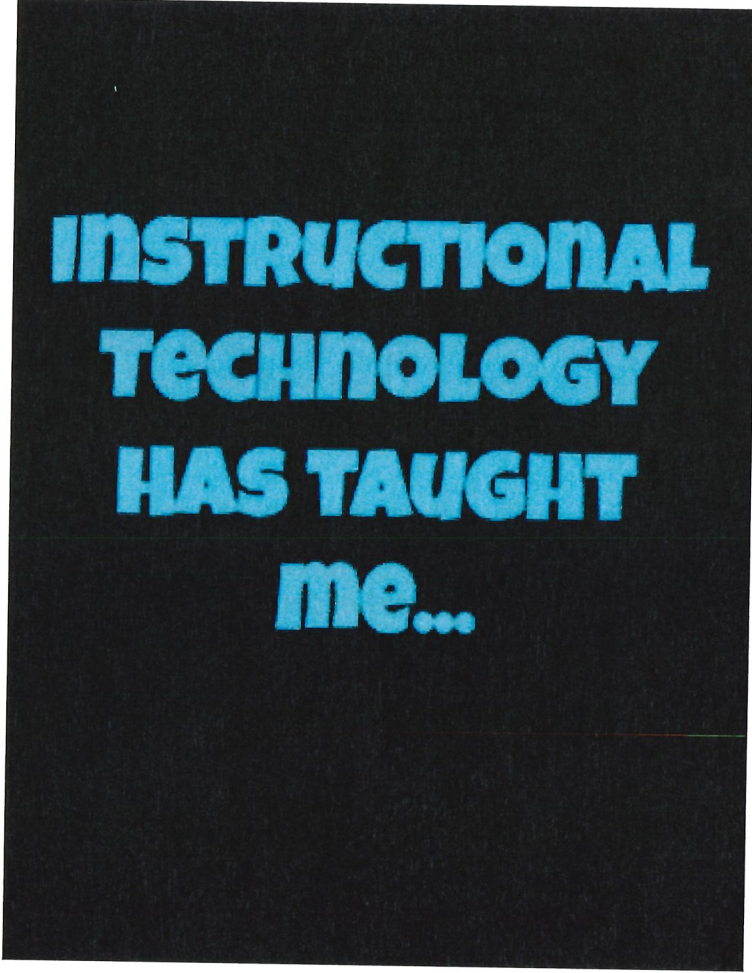
We live in one of the wealthiest counties in the country, and we should be able to find a way to ensure the best in-school instruction for all of our students.

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.]



**INSTRUCTIONAL
TECHNOLOGY
HAS TAUGHT
me...**

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 disorders, and so many other related issues.

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

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

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 <jeffreydkendrick@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:

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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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## 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

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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

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:** 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:

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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.

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Thank you for your consideration,  
Adam Burstein

**Sayers, Margery**

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**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**

**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 prefile 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**

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**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.

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.

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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 prefile 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:MSG0691302



## 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 through 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



CR 68-2018

**Sayers, Margery**

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**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](mailto: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

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Adelis M. Rodriguez

**Sayers, Margery**

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**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**

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**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

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**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be played in 8<sup>th</sup> 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

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

Dayton Oaks Elementary School

Howard County

## Sayers, Margery

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:kathleen_hanks@hcpss.org)

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**From:** Sarah McGuire <Sarah\_McGuire@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2019 8:29 AM  
**To:** BoE Email <[boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)>; Michael Martirano <[Michael\\_Martirano@hcpss.org](mailto:Michael_Martirano@hcpss.org)>;  
[councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto: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

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**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**

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**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

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**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

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.

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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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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

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**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

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**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](http://reflectiondigital.com)



**Sayers, Margery**

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**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

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**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

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**From:** Amanda Rausch <awebbbausch@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**

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**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



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

I, BRENT LOVELESS, have been duly authorized by  
(name of individual)

PTA COUNCIL to deliver testimony to the  
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

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

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

Printed Name: BRENT LOVELESS

Signature: 

Date: 5-20-19

Organization: PTACHC

Organization Address: Beverkill Road, Columbia MD



Number of Members: 25k+

Name of Chair/President: BRENT LOVELESS

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



**Budget Testimony-**

**Name:** Jennifer (Ginger) Segala

**Address:** 5013 Stone Hill Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043

**District:**1

**In favor of full funding for HCPSS**

My name is Ginger Segala. I live in District 1. I have lived in Howard County for twenty seven years. My husband and I have been parents of students in the Howard County Public School System for 18 consecutive years with 10 more years to go.

One unique quality of being a stakeholder for so long in the system is that you have the opportunity to see the ebb and flow of different personnel, a cyclical variety in pedagogy and the results of support of prized programs. Over the years my children have been exposed to different ideas, uncovered exciting experiences and looked forward to something in school every day. When I sat down to write this testimony, I had such a hard time. 3 minutes is hardly enough time to vent the frustration I feel over hearing about some of the proposed programmatic budget cuts to our children's education. It was certainly hard to listen to the list of cuts and not feel anxiety about the future of our system. But, to be fair, parents have been staunchly calling for transparency in the budget process for years. We can't complain when we are forced to ride on the budget process roller coaster.

Depending on where you gather your information, these budget shortfalls are either the results of poor planning and underfunding for years and years, or part of a political campaign to make one elected official look bad or someone else look good. Some people say that unchecked development has caused the problem and others claim that development is the reason we have money to spend at all.

After reading all of the information....I actually think that everyone is a little "right" in their interpretations of how we got here. The solution to the problem of a currently underfunded school system with increasing debt will not be easy, and the decisions can't be made in one budget cycle. These are high level overall

county decisions to hammer out with the help and cooperation of the Superintendent and our elected Board of Education. One thing is for sure----You can't allow the status quo stellar education programming to be affected.

I am here today to remind everyone at the macro levels in the budget process that decisions you make at this level are not just numbers in a ledger. They represent children and the experiences and opportunities to which they will be exposed. In particular, I am here today because of the amazing and stellar music education our students receive in Howard County.

The music programs are about music for music's sake, but they are also about team building, and mental health. The programs provide lessons on discipline, and universal language. They provide opportunity for cultural sharing and community building. The students connect with the directors over years, with their peers across grade level and across a mixture of standard academic tracks. These programs are, quite frankly, the most universally engaging, appropriate, inclusive and openly welcoming programs in the entire school system.

How do I know that? Because the students told me.

Since the program cuts were announced last week, students across the county have been participating in an opportunity offered by the Howard County Parents for School Music called Music Notes. These are love notes written by students in the school music programs-- across all grades-- about why the programs have been important to them. The words on the cards are so heartfelt and they are unedited. They are varied in their reasons. Some students are just glad they get to play music and don't have to listen to another teacher talk at them for 50 minutes. Other students say that they met all of their friends in their music classes and connected to the school through them. Many of the students....as a parent.....more than I would like to see...wrote about how these classes provided

the mental health break that they needed just to make it through their daily stressful life.

Each of you have a gift bag which contains hundreds of Music Notes from the students in Howard County. I encourage you to take some time to read them before you make decisions on the overall budget. Think about each one of them individually. Think about their little fingers learning to pluck the strings of the violin in elementary school. Think about how proud those elementary students are when they play hot cross buns as a team for the first time at their concert. And also, think about how Howard County has thousands of community members attend music concerts and musicals in school every year. We can also boast that we will have an alumnus attending Juilliard next year. Howard County should be proud of the music programs that have been offered for decades in our county.

Instrumental music is an essential part of an evolved, accomplished, world class school system. I don't even really have to tell you that...because on those cards....our children do.

Thank you.

Dear Director of the board of education

The Howard County Music program is  
neglected and discarded. This music  
program has brought me discipline so  
much the police even say we  
think that 3rd grade singing should  
stop so the upcoming 3rd graders  
can sing properly

Dear Sir or Madam,

Before I moved to Howard  
County I went to a school that  
had no orchestra and the band didn't  
start until 5th grade. I played the  
trombone all there were only 10  
kids in the band. At our concert  
we played 400 class songs. When  
I moved here I watched the orchestra  
and they were playing symphonies. Starting  
in 3rd grade (really) imported the music.

I started violin in 4th grade and it  
has totally changed my life. In orchestra, we  
not only learn about music but we  
also learn how to work with each other and cooperate.  
I have seen myself grow as a musician  
since kindergarten. But if we take it  
away, we won't improve as much.

- Burlington Mason Students

Sruddhi Gadigaram from Burleigh Manor  
Music has helped me connect with another  
world and another community of people  
that have helped me so much. I started  
in 3rd grade, and I thought I was so  
bad, but the immense support I've gotten  
since then proved how much this community  
will care about each and every person. The  
music education is very important  
because its teacher kids the endless  
possibilities of having creativity at a young age

Music means everything to me. It is part  
of my everyday life and has effected  
me in a very positive way. I did not  
always go to Howard County Public schools  
In my old school students did not have  
the opportunity to play until 4th grade.  
When I first came here I was so excited to  
learn that students could get a taste of  
playing music so early on. It would mean  
the world to me if 3rd graders could still have  
it as an opportunity.

5/10/2019

BMMS

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a string player who goes to Burleigh Manor Middle  
school. I have been playing the cello since 3rd grade. I have to  
say, music has become a big part of my life. If you take  
away specialized music instruction from these schools, other  
students will not get the opportunity I had to really learn  
my instrument. Please consider my opinion.

Sincerely,

Sruddhi



Music is very Important to me  
because without us being able to  
have our own lessons or teachers to  
help I would probably be lost so thank

Yours  
J. J. J.

to Board of Ed. From Burlington Music Middle  
School

Dear Sir or Madam,  
Please don't remove 3rd grade  
strings and specialized instruments  
because, they help student on  
specific instruments, I studied strings  
in 3rd grade and found it very helpful  
for me to grow as a string player. Sorry  
for taking up your valuable time.

Sincerely, Musimaybhu

my day is passing until I'm  
asleep.

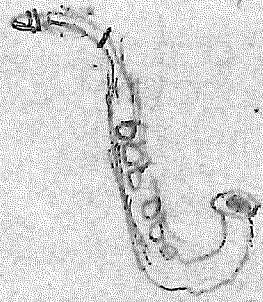
Music is important but not having it  
wouldn't really change anything.  
Most people would just keep it gone.

VA

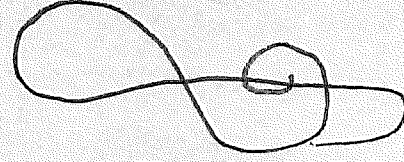
I + H + D + M + S + C + W +  
H + O + B + O + S + P + H + O + S +  
C + H + O + P + T + E + R + M + Y + O + U + R + I + F + E

Bassoon

Bird on My Phone



P.N.M.S



Saxophone

P.N.M.

## • My Favorite class

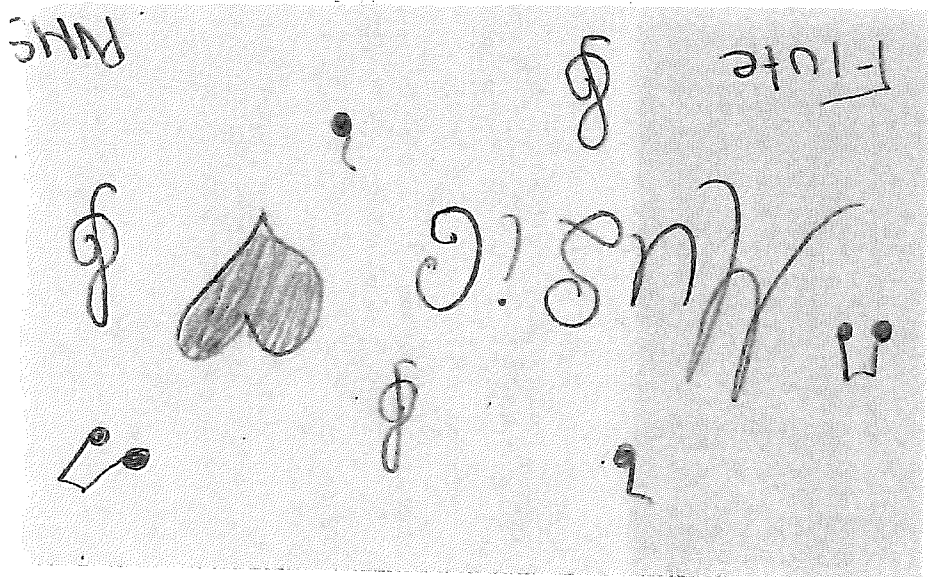
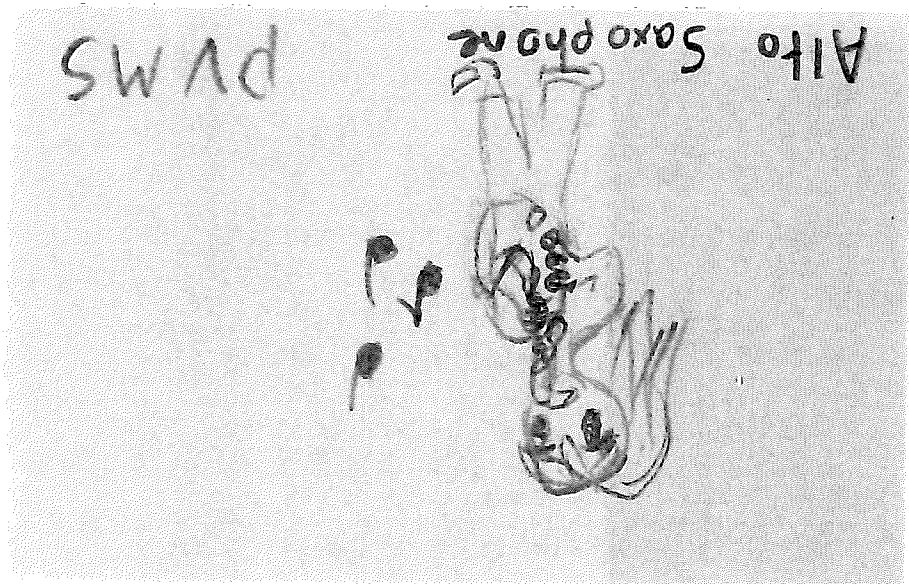
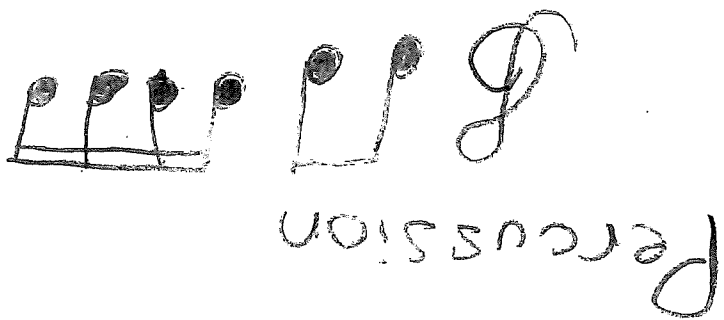
- I look forward to it everyday
- I love to play Music
- Music makes people happy
- by playing instrument I get to do new things and play cool pieces

Music is important because:

- It's fun and challenging
- It can help you make friends
- It could start a hobby or lifelong passion

Music could help  
Students get scoloreme  
and help teachers get  
jobs.







# MUSIC IS IMPORTANT

- I can express my self

- Be happy

- Have fun

- want to go to school

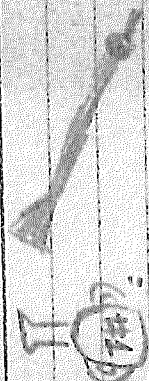
- learn/try new thing

- Have something to do at home

MUSIC IS IMPORTANT  
FUN D US!!!

Music is really important because it establishes identity and community skills. Working in a band is really fun, too!

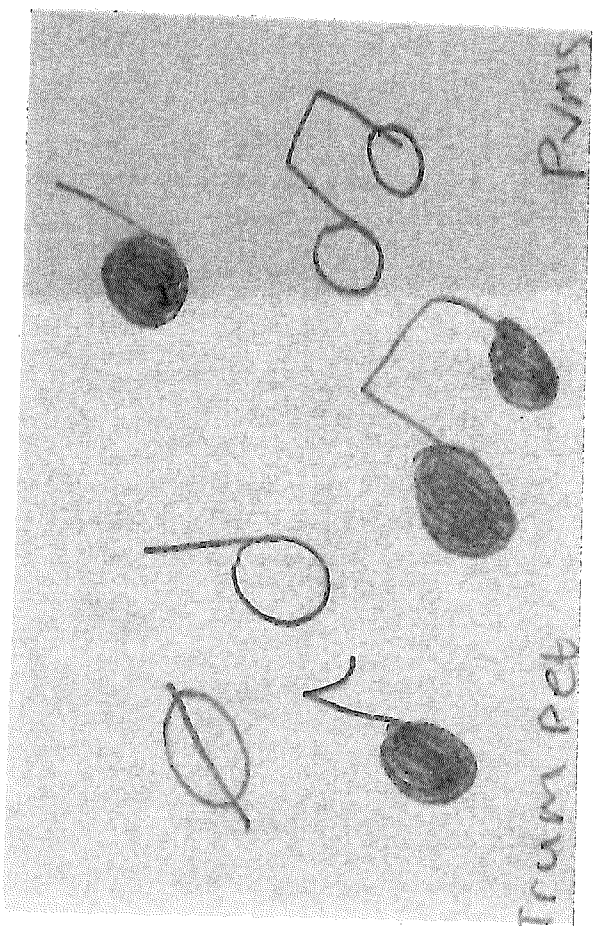
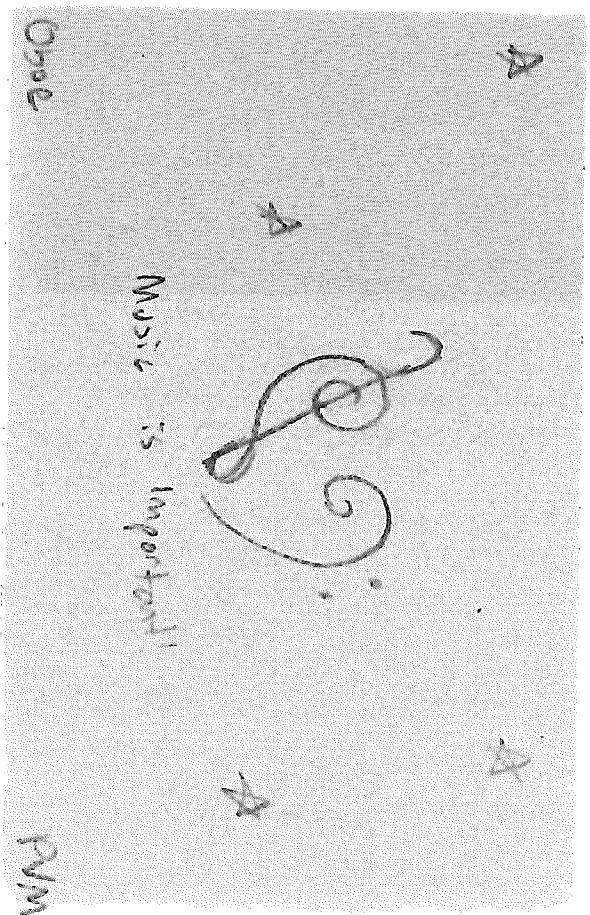
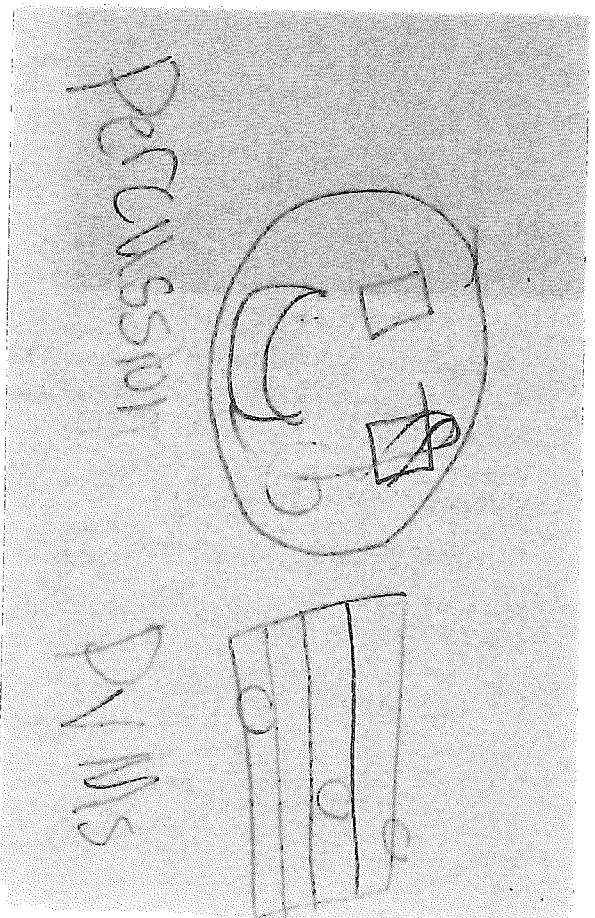
I really love my instrument and I feel so grateful that I've been able to play it as long as I have!



thank you!

# MUSIC IS IMPORTANT IS SCHOOL

because music can spark creativity in young minds, which is helpful for kids.



I think music is important in  
school because it gives us a  
break from cluttering our brain  
with information. Plus, it's just really  
fun to do.

Because we get to  
learn how to play an  
instrument

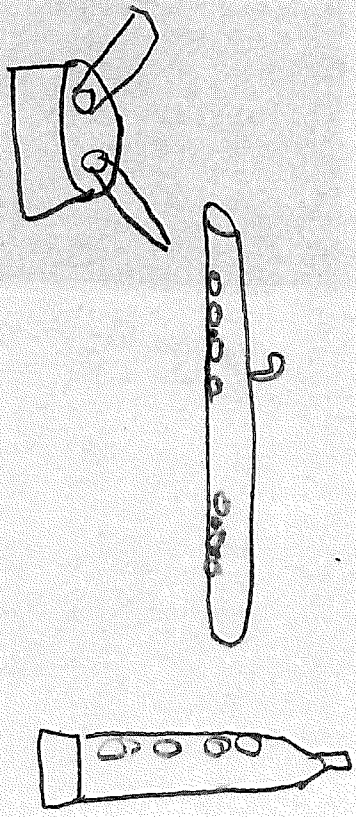
Dear County,

5/10/19

I think that you should not elimin-  
ate grade 5 kids because it educated me  
and taught me to be a better player. If  
it was eliminated it would not allow you  
players to advance and become a good  
player. If players are taught at a  
young age they will have more times to  
develop skills. I hope that you

PVLS/

EUPHONIUM



Flute

Pumps

Recommendations: keep third grade swings,

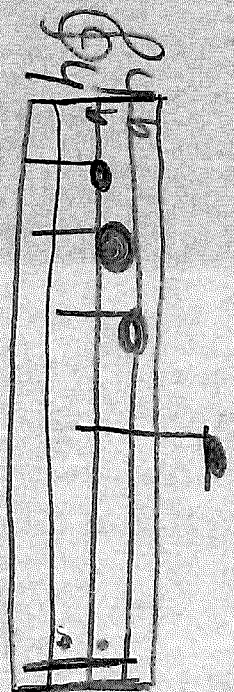


It gives students a break from leaving academic stuff and it's really fun. It's challenging but in a hard as school subjects.

Music is important because it allows students to learn how to listen to a teacher. It can also help them with math because you have to count the measures and the notes.

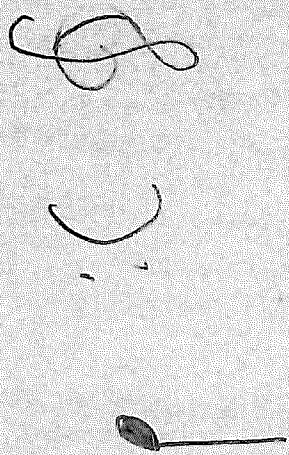
Music is important to the students and the entire school. Music allows students to express themselves! Music also can allow students a career option and is important for our future. Music also brings people together. Not only with common interests, but music causes happiness. To take this away from us would make me feel terrible.





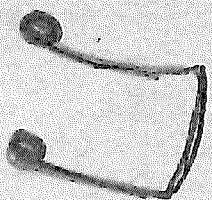
flute

PVMS



Trombone

PVMS



Flute

(Pat. Dept. Val.)  
PVMS

music is important in school  
bc there must always be  
a variety of things 'in school

Dear BOE,

I know this may not be a lot, but I am a  
student from Burleigh Manor that plays the violin. I  
started middle school, I started the violin in 1  
grade. However, none of my other friends were  
doing it at the time. When almost everyone started  
doing orchestra in 3rd grade, I was overjoyed  
because I could play an instrument with my  
fellow 'peers'. We could talk about which  
piece was the best in our free time and make  
a beautiful sound with one another. It really

- Orchestra makes me complete.
- For once I feel like I belong somewhere.
- Orchestra and music makes me happy.
- It helps depression and anxiety.
- Orchestra helps and removes the  
feeling of suicidal thoughts and  
makes me happy.
- I love the music.

Violin

Handwritten musical notation for a violin part, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a complex melody with many notes and slurs.

connected us and linked us together. It has influenced us greatly and here we are. In 6th grade orchestra. Redding what we have done in 3rd grade. My point is, PLEASE do not remove 3rd grade orchestra. It might have shaped everyone today. If you take it away, my brother, in 7th grade will not get in orchestra and feel what I felt before. Thank you for reading and (hopefully) consider this note.

Handwritten musical notation for a piano part, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a complex melody with many notes and slurs.



Dear Board of Ed,  
we have been informed in Burleigh Manor  
Middle of the potential cuts they may take  
place in the music department. Personally, I  
consider 3rd grade strings is SO important  
to the progression of the players. Learning  
in 3rd grade was so fun and a great  
learning experience because we got to  
start so young. I understand that  
cutting some teachers is very upsetting,

Dear Sir or Madam, Burreigh Manor  
Middle  
Music really means a lot  
to me. Starting strings in  
3rd grade is amazing because  
it lets me experience this from  
an early age. The teaching of  
strings has also been awesome.  
The teachers are great and I  
never want to get anything less.  
Thank you for having me.

Dear Sir or Madam,  
Everyday I listen to music, to  
help me think, relax, get energized.  
Exposing kids' early on to the  
wonders of music lets them find  
an outlet and explore a world  
where they can feel comfortable.  
Learning how to read music and  
play an instrument is like learning  
another language. I wish you be

but one teacher being cut\*can help many children, (which the schools are for) gain an understanding of an early age. Please consider these details, and think of the children.

- Arianna M.

\* Per school

Samuel Sudhakar  
Grade 8

to think about the many  
negatives that go with the  
musical budget cuts proposed.

From,  
A concerned  
Student



• Music is a way to express yourself and music creates family for kids and safe environment where EVERYONE fits in!!!

• Also music when I was in elementary school is what helped me to realize this is what I want to do the rest of my life. I want to be a choral music education teacher and kids find joy in music.

• For the teachers this is their PASSION!!!!

MUSIC education is important to me and to all the kids in the country. Music is a way for everyone to express themselves and to share how they feel. I love to share my music and share it with everyone. Music is a special thing. I want to be a teacher and I want to be a musician. I want to be a teacher and I want to be a musician. I want to be a teacher and I want to be a musician.



music education is important because kids in elementary schools may want to pursue music later. They might be able to earn money if you cut 3rd grade. I think it's extremely disrespectful to cut something that helps people get through stuff. Music is so important - cut down \$ on pads and mics instead of music. We've been taking music since kindergarten. Don't make kids dream's of to waste.

me

Chorus helps. I got on a day when I have a lot of my mind. I loved it. I respect it. When I was in elementary school, they thought of some kind of denied the opportunity to learn and enjoy music is unthinkable. Maybe they should give less funds to sports or some activity and use it as big. Teachers getting paid are so unnecessary and it is very die pressing.

Music gives kids an outlet to do something creative. It helps inspire them and gives them something they can do all the time.

Music is a huge part of my life and can be the beginning of many futures for others. Getting rid of music is like getting rid of any other class, like math or science.

MUSIC EDUCATION IS AN IMPROVISED HOME. IT ALLOWS ME TO  
SHOW MY CREATIVITY, AS I AM NOT REJECTED IN PHYSICAL  
ART. MUSIC HAS ALLOWED ME TO GROW AS A PERSON.  
I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN MUSIC SINCE THE THIRD GRADE, AND  
EACH YEAR IS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER. CARRYING THE MUSIC  
PROGRAM ~~THROUGH~~ THROUGH WOULD BE MORE THAN A GAME.  
PEOPLE PICK UP THE MUSIC CARRIER TO GET THEIR  
CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING. PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT I HAVE  
A MUSIC CARRIER ALL OVER ME. PEOPLE KEEP THE MUSIC PROGRAM  
STRONG. OUR CHORUS, BAND AND ORCHESTRA START EARLY,  
IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - BY CARRYING THE ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS,  
NOW, AMONG MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

Early music education gives students opportunities  
to get off of it early when to study music is the more  
music allows people of all ages to keep their minds  
and not be more creative people. If these teachers  
are cut, more pressure will be placed on the  
remaining teachers.



MUSIC EDUCATION IS A VALUABLE  
GUTLET IN A DAY THAT IS OTHER-  
WISE COMPLETELY FULL. NO MORE  
FEELING OF WINE IS THAT I ONLY  
STARTED TAKING MUSIC CLASSES AGAIN THIS YEAR  
AS A JUNIOR. I SIT W/ EVERY AS I LEARN  
ANEDOTES OF THEIR EXPERIENCE  
EARLIER ON.

ADDITIONALLY, THOSE REMAINING TEACHERS  
WILL BE SPENDING THEIR LEARNING THE  
PRACTICE OF HOCO MUSIC EVERYWHERE PARTICIPATING  
A VICIOUS CYCLE.

MUSIC ED IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT EXPOSES KIDS  
TO MUSIC, SOMETHING FOUND IN THE WORLD  
EVERYWHERE. MUSIC IS IMPORTANT IN & OUT OF  
SCHOOL AND TAKING IT OUT OF THE SCHOOL  
SYSTEM TAKES IT AWAY FROM ALL THE KIDS THAT  
USE IT TO FIGHT STRESS & ANXIETY IN SCHOOLS.

MUSIC EDUCATION IS MUCH MORE THAN A CLASS CALL.

MUSIC IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECTS FOR SOUND EDUCATIONS.  
MUSIC IS A WAY TO EXPRESS YOURSELF, AND OTHER PEOPLE SHOULD STOP  
USING A CENSURING SKILL, IT IS BECAUSE WE CAN BE  
THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT, YOU ARE A VITALLY IMPORTANT  
ASPECT IN OUR LIVES.

LIFE WITH MUSIC IS MUCH BETTER, AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
THROUGH FUNDED SPONSORING, CHANGE WHAT IT OFFERS.

MUSIC IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTRODUCED ME INTO  
CHOIRS WHICH I HAVE BEEN TAKING FOR 2 YEARS AND  
BAND THAT I TOOK FOR 5 YEARS. WITHOUT IT I  
WOULD HAVE NEVER GOTTEN INTERESTED IN THE FLUTE  
OR SINGING!

Dear Board of Ed,

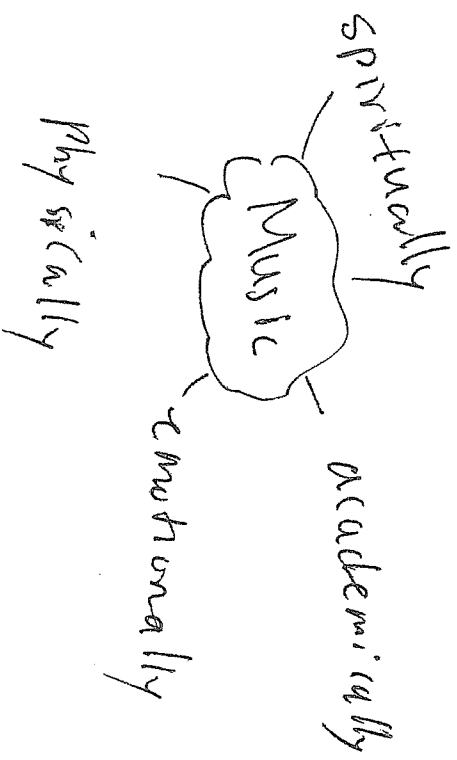
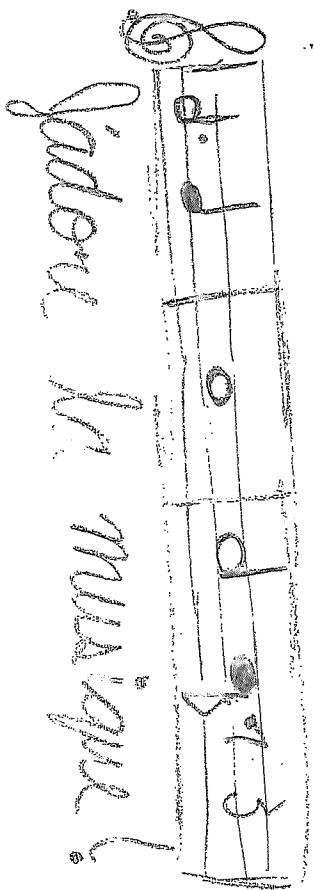
I joined choir in third grade just to take  
a break then came and loved it so much  
my life. Music classes + teacher kids to play  
instruments in the end of music. It looks boring  
to us, my friends did and teachers in  
elementary school. DON'T deserve to be  
forced. You are taking a kid in elementary  
school (2nd-5-9 grade old) that  
music doesn't matter and it deserves to be  
taken away. We should have  
the school should be advanced.

I'm sorry, but this is absolutely insane.

Music is everything to me. Music is elementary  
school. Opened my eyes to my talents, and ultimately  
to my passion in life. You are taking away  
STUDENTS RIGHTS to gaining their passion.  
Plus, why is music the first one to be cut?  
This WAS NOT the music program's fault.  
and the students and their wonderful, hardworking  
teachers SHOULD NOT have to pay. This is  
shameful.

MUSIC IS AN IMPORTANT PART  
OF EDUCATION, AT ALL LEVELS.  
PERSONALLY IT ENHANCES MY LEARNING  
AND GIVES ME SOMETHING TO LOOK  
FOR. THE MULTIPLE PERFORMANCES  
EACH YEAR,

MUSIC. Music is not just playing  
instruments and making songs. Music is  
something that some people like or  
even love to do that attracts them in  
certain way. For me personally, music helped  
me so much throughout my life. I had  
to deal with stress and picking a hobby or  
dream was hard for me. Music popped up in  
my head in Elementary School. It was a  
good experience and I continued to love  
and deal with music.





"MUSIC is a language  
that doesn't speak in  
particular words. It speaks  
in emotions, and if it's  
in the bones, it's in the  
bones". - Keith Richards

"band class is one of class that I have passionate about playing clarinet

- Playing clarinet makes me feel proud of my-self
- music is all about everything in the world, no one can live w/o music

Music has impacted my life in so many ways. Ever since in band I am surrounded by a trustworthy community of people with similar interests. I have made friends that I may have never had if it wasn't for music.

Music has brought me something to look forward to at home and in school. County-wide activities like G/T band and MS670 have brought me together with students from all over the county, bonding over a love and passion for music. Band at a school level has caused me to explore my love for music outside of school, and I hope every HCPSS student to come can share in this joy.

-Presha Walcott, HMS, 8th Grade

Music is...

DON'T CUT FUNDING  
FOR MUSIC

- Teamwork

- Hard work

- Determination

- The ability to make  
a difference

- The ability to calm the mind

- Unique

- Important in our lives

What would we do without it???

Music has impacted my everyday life from  
listening to playing. It gives creativity and  
talent and a person put this or would love to do

Music education is incredibly important to me. I have invested a lot of time and effort into it and am very proud of it. I work hard and want to get better at my instrument with my friends and teachers. It is the thing I look forward to the most every day. I love my band program and the music department.

Music unites people of various backgrounds and creates a positive atmosphere for people around the world to interact. Music serves as a form of relaxation and as a release for stress and anxiety for millions of people. Thousands of people have received mental therapy that stems from a childhood obsession of playing an instrument and growing to love it. Music is vital.

Music and the arts are extremely important. Cutting funds will most likely impact the Arts department. This is a big mistake since music is one of the only things a lot of kids use to grow and develop their personality. The arts are a key stone of someone's personality. Asking these are specially a mistake when considering the fact that a lot of the art programs are exponentially growing.

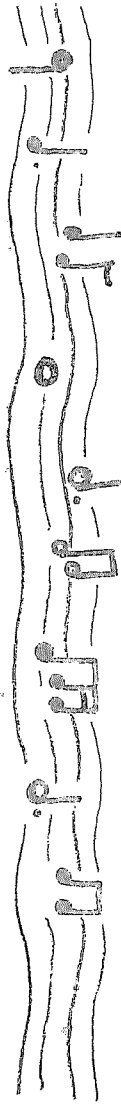
The value that music education has had is giving me friends. Most of my friends have come from the band program. One way and for the same person I can fight now if not for music education. It has allowed me to make it through the difficulty that is school and is always a bright spot on my days.



Band has had a large influence on my life. It's been a great way for me to engage in something different and enjoyable, and I met tons of friends along the way. As an individual, I have learned skills like independence and confidence that continue to benefit me too. Band has helped me so much, and I wouldn't give it up for anything.

Stacy

MUSIC



Music is an inspiration and passion of mine. Whenever I'm happy, I listen to music. Whenever I'm sad, I listen to music. Music is always there for me. I have had so many great experiences in music and have made some of my closest friends. Without band class, my life would be way different, and it wouldn't be for the better. Music is as significant as Art or Dance or Gym, even up there with Science, English and Math. Even though it may not look like it, music is very important and shouldn't be taken away.

As someone that grew up in an instrumental household, elementary education was that stepping stone for me into a world that impacted my life forever. Starting music that early made me into who I am today and I wouldn't ~~be~~ give that up for anything in the world. Children need an outlet; some choose sports or school, others choose music. Protect the music program.



Roses are Red,  
Violets are Blue,



I Love Music!  
So should you!



ff

are code to  
music  
to stick

Music has given me a wonderful family and a sense of purpose in life.

Music is something I grew up with and I strongly believe everyone should be able to have the same great experience I had.



# Music written by students in M4H

Big Dog



Niall's Cool Song



I'm a Dentist



Hit That Fish



The Carl

Nicky's  
Cadence

People love music because it isn't just  
a way to have fun while learning.  
Music is expressing and involvement,  
and teamwork, and learning new  
skills, which are all life skills we need.  
Music is a necessity we all need,  
life without music is nothing we need.

Music has such a huge part at my life for such a long time. Starting band in elementary school introduced me to an entire new world of expression and beauty that I never would have found otherwise.

Music has made a big impact on my life positively for a number of reasons. The first one is it pumps me up and gets me ready for the day. Since I have band first period my band director really got me up with his loud voice and great advice which I never forget! My band director helps me musically and in life. He makes me laugh in which turns the bad days around. The class challenges me to take risks and when I take risks in band class those risks encourage me to take risks out of the class as well. Let's not forget all the studies there have been to show that doing a music class does correlate to the students grades! by all means take every funding but keep in mind many students will lose some of that if you do

Kennedy Grant  
8th grade  
Hammond Middle School  
Daniel Pendley

5/19/19

Imagine the world

- without music

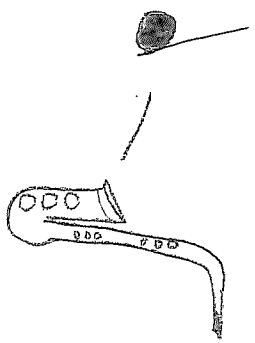
"Music is to the soul

what words are to the mind."

- Modest Mouse

Don't Do It

I am currently a senior & have been playing the French horn for 9 years. We played the piano with my grand mother since before I could remember & it sparked my love for music. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, I was given the opportunity to play the violin & I'm, this just made me enjoy music even more. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade I knew I'd switch to band to play the French horn after seeing my grandfather's neighbor play. My love for music kept me in the marching band even during soccer & cross country & I will be sticking with it during my time at Stevenson University even while running track & cross country. I have come across many hardships in high school like the death of one of my best friends, Yash Shah, during my freshman year & band was my only escape. I'd hate to see that the younger students may not have the same opportunities & experiences that I have been given.



Just think of  
our futures



CALG-2019

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Beth Magen <bmagen@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 9:42 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Budget Shortfall - Elementary Technology

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

Dear HoCo County Council and BOE,

I am extremely dismayed to see that one of the options for dealing with the HCPSS budget shortfall includes reducing the time each student spends per week in Elementary Technology classes by half, from 60 to 30 minutes. 30 minutes is hardly enough time to get the students to focus and learn anything at all. The United States is struggling to compete on the world stage when it comes to STEM. Reducing critical learning at early ages in technology is NOT the way to ensure we are preparing our students for the future.

While I don't want to see cuts to any program, one area that seems to be off the table is reduction of instrumental music. While instrumental music and the arts are important for a well-rounded education, Instrumental music is being prioritized over teaching ALL children relevant technology skills in our elementary schools that they can employ in the classroom and in real life. Instrumental music only impacts those children who choose to participate and can afford to rent or buy an instrument. General music is still in the schools.

In a time when world leaders are advocating for STEM education and the need to be ready for a digital world, HCPSS is prioritizing instrumental music for only a percentage of children over technology education for all elementary children.

Please reconsider the reduction of technology education time as you attempt to remedy the budget shortfall.

Thank you,

Beth Magen

7127 Rivers Edge Road

Columbia, MD 21044

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Michelle Ho <mhvan2000@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 9:40 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Howard County Public School GT Program

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

Dear Councilman,

I have recently learned about the budget shortfall and cutting program, GT and Technology program. GT and Technology program are one of the very important program in our county and it's make our county one of the best school system in the country. Congress has also released STEAM act and Artificial and Intelligence(AI) and Machine Learning(ML) Act. We are living in the world that has many cyber attacks. Our adversaries can't wait to make us vulnerabilities and attack our country. Therefore, building and investing in the next Generation is critical and important. This is why parents and teachers in Howard County really value GT program to support the future needs.

Please maximize funding to fill the budget gap for HCPSS.

Thank You,

Michelle

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Kristin Clark <kc@wellbeingmedicalcare.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 8:21 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Budget FY2020

[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 County Council,

I am writing to express my hopes that the budget for the music and educational programs continues to provide the resources at their current levels. In The Power of Habit the author writes that the reason that we teach children music is because we are teaching good habits. As we work on societal issues such as obesity and the opioid epidemic we need to understand that a key to success is understanding cues and rewards and learning to develop them around behaviors that are good for body, mind and spirit. Teaching children these things from a young age is really important. Playing music is a renewal activity. At this time I think burnout is an issue for our teens. Treating burn out is not about doing less but rather it is about being able to devote time to a renewal activity and be mindful in that moment and to build on that momentum. I do not think we are at a time where we should reduce our music programs or our teaching staff.

Sincerely,

--

Dr Kristin Clark

Wellbeing Medical Care  
Restoring the Patient-Doctor Relationship

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Margaret Glyder <glyders@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 7:35 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; superintendent@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** FY2020 Budget

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

Dear Mr. Ball, Mr. Martirano, County Council & Board of Education Members:

I want to express my concern about the current Howard County and HCPSS budget cycle for FY2020. I have lived in Howard County since 1996. Over the past 22 years, I have seen Route 100 built, homes infilled into neighborhoods originally developed in the 1960's, schools expanded to accommodate full day kindergarten and temporary classrooms added to all schools to accommodate overcrowding caused by new development everywhere in our county.

I am disturbed that any of you would think that surplussing teachers is a good idea. Teachers are not line items in a budget! My schools - Centennial High, Burleigh Manor Middle and Centennial Lane Elementary - are already overcrowded. How is it serving my family and my children by removing our resources? The current budget proposals treat students, teachers and the community we are all a part of as if it doesn't matter.

I urge you to find a solution that does not take teachers out of our schools and our communities.

Sincerely,

Margaret Glyder

9905 Springfield Drive, Ellicott City, MD 2104



**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Kejing Chen <jing\_dan@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 3:46 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Concerns on HCPSS budget shortage and school program cut

[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,

The local news show that there are proposals to cut HCPSS education program including music education, GT program, and others, across Howard County elementary, middle, and high schools, due to insufficient budget. As a parent of two students in the HCPSS, I am very concerned about the situation that HCPSS has insufficient budget and plans to cut education programs for the students.

Spanish language education program was already cut last year due to reported shortage of budget. Now more programs are being planned to cut, including music, GT, and others. I am strongly opposing this plan since sufficient budget and education program should be available for the kids in the county. I ask that you consider a budget strengthening but NOT CUTTING the current educational programs for the students.

Thanks,

Colin Chen

2004 Crescent Moon Court  
Woodstock, MD 21163  
Tel: 443-798-1961



**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Steve Chen <steve.x.chen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 2:57 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Against the planned cut to public school GT and music programs

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

Dear County Council Members,

As a parent of two Howard county elementary school students, I'm against the planned budget cut to the school's GT and music programs. Since the county and its officials have long been proud of the quality of the public school and have repeatedly vowed to keep it that way, I don't understand why there is a planned cut to the GT and music program in the coming year. Does it mean the the county officials think it's OK to sacrifice the education of school children in order to maintain or even increase the benefit of adults including the school officials and teachers? Of the cut has to be made somewhere, I would rather see its from the adults instead of the children.

Best regards

Steve Chen

Father of two children who is enrolled at Waverly Elementary.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Rigby, Christiana  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 1:46 PM  
**To:** Sayers, Margery  
**Subject:** FW: Education Funding: Increasing Property Taxes by 23%

**From:** Sunmy Brown <s\_brown0304@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 6:32 PM  
**To:** Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Cc:** Feldmark, Jessica <jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Education Funding: Increasing Property Taxes by 23%

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

2019

May 14,

Dear Howard County Council,

I recently read an alarming article published in the Baltimore Sun that County Executive Calvin Ball may consider raising property taxes in Howard County by 23% or eliminate the entire police department budget in order to fully fund education in this county. I am astonished and discouraged to find out that these are the two options he is considering.

As an educator, I know how crucial it is to adequately fund schools so that teachers can meet the needs of all students. In order to maintain high quality education in Howard County, class sizes need to be reduced, eliminate overcrowding in schools, provide teachers and support staff with access to excellent materials, school facilities need to be upgraded, etc. I could go on and on. However, I am also a single mother, on a teacher's salary. By raising property taxes by 23%, this will make it almost impossible for educators like me to live in this county. I will literally be forced to consider options moving to a county with lower property taxes, which will be an incredible burden and life-change placed on my son and I. Currently, I live on Columbia-assessed property so I am not only paying Howard County taxes, but also Columbia-Association fees and taxes.

Increasing property taxes in Howard County will also force others such as those living on a fixed income, to consider life changes as well. Essentially, property tax increases will disrupt family livelihoods, segregate communities by socio-economics, and destroy the diversity that exists in Howard County.

I am imploring each member of the County Council to truly think about the impact this property tax increase will have on the retirement community, lower income families, lower-middle class families, and public servants who work tirelessly to serve the community. I am confident each member of the County Council can look at other alternatives to funding education, without raising property taxes.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

In Service,

Sunmy Brown  
Ellicott City, MD

**Sayers, Margery**

---

**From:** Michael D. Kilberg <Michael\_Kilberg@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 11:23 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Important Aftermath Digital Citizenship Email

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

The teacher in me can't let that formatting problem of my original email go. Please use the link below to see the original google doc and read it with proper looking paragraphs.

[Council Letter](#)

Michael Kilberg  
Technology Teacher  
Centennial Lane Elementary



## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Michael D. Kilberg <Michael\_Kilberg@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 11:08 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Re: Aftermath of work session (Important: Saving Digital Citizenship)

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

I apologize for the awkward formatting. I copied from a google doc. Apparently, outlook did not like that.

---

**From:** Michael D. Kilberg  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 11:02 AM  
**To:** councilmail@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** Aftermath of work session (Important: Saving Digital Citizenship)

After watching the entire work session yesterday, I was left with some hope given that some council members said they could potentially find money. However, if they did, it would be with the goal of potentially earmarking that money for specific purposes. I ask that you please request some of that money to save the technology teaching program from trimming.

There is only one topic that I am aware of that Dr. Martirano has had to reach out to every parent in the school system about. That topic is cyberbullying. I give my fifth graders a project called Activate every year in which they choose a topic and create materials for distribution to get the word out and make a change. This year and every year, some students on their own choose cyberbullying as their topic. It is a real concern for them in their everyday lives. This is a still [work-in-progress website](#) and petition that has been created by my students this year on cyberbullying. This will go out to every member of our community when finished.

Digital citizenship can only get better in this country if we teach our elementary school children how to properly use technology. Technology in the hands of children who are not taught how to properly use it is useless or in the worst-case scenario a weapon. If the thought is that homeroom teachers would pick up the slack in the area, I would ask with what time are they doing that?

The strategic call for action says the county mission is to ***ensure academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps***. We as technology teachers are providing these students with the knowledge of how to properly navigate this technological age thus ensuring better social-emotional well-being. We are equitably closing opportunity gaps for those who socioeconomically would not have the technological exposure and expertise at such a young age. If you would like to learn more about why teaching digital citizenship at an early age is important, please read this [fantastic article](#) that breaks it down as a positive behavior intervention and support.

While Dr. Martirano said several times in the work session that a technology teacher would still be in every building, the new structure of 30 minute classes would not allow the necessary amount of instruction and work time for the digital citizenship PBIS units to be taught in the way they should. My students are excited to be in my class and want to work on these projects. Imagine if you wanted to solve this Herculean task of the

budget problem and you were told you could only work for 7 minutes a week on solving that. Below is a reminder of how the 30 minute class time per week would break down.

**15 minutes of typing practice (Necessary because state assessments are on the computer)**

**5 minutes of instruction time (There should be more but this would be all I could use)**

**7 minutes of student work time**

**Time to log out and line up**

Please do what you can to maintain such an important program in HCPSS and today's world. Thank you for listening again.

Michael Kilberg  
Technology Teacher  
Centennial Lane Elementary

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Heidi S. Shorter <Heidi\_Shorter@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 10:58 AM  
**To:** Heidi S. Shorter  
**Subject:** The TRUTH about Technology Teachers

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

First of all, thank you for all that you do to support the school system. At this time, I know you have a difficult decision. I want to share my support of the elementary technology program and also invite each of you to **come to my classroom and see all that takes place with these young learners. It is impressive to say the least!!**

Currently, Dr. Martirano' Strategic Call to Action focuses on connecting with students and supporting them emotionally while cultivating relationships with students to promote an environment for learning. In the digital world in which we live, this is now more important than ever! Our current generation does not know a world without smart phones, computers, tablets and being so connected.

THIS is what technology classes offer. Instruction that is infused with curriculum connections, that includes support and proper use of equipment that builds upon a solid healthy digital experience. Technology classes that only last 30 minutes will not provide the time for any of this. After all, elementary students are still learning the basics of logging in and how to use digital tools and they need processing time for their younger brains that allows all of this to happen. 60 minutes a week makes it tough. 30 minutes a week will make it impossible.

No one would build a house without a solid foundation.

There is no way our county can be expected to create future learners without a foundation of digital knowledge of how to SAFELY use technology as a tool for learning. Classroom teachers at this level are already stretched to the brim. Putting digital citizenship as well as the now required MSDE computer science outcomes on their plates will in no way allow teachers the time to foster any relationships with these young people when they are forced to add more to their already full plates.



Last, sadly, and most importantly, the problem of increased mental health problems in our young students continues to rise. We all know that a large contributor to this mental health crisis is the presence of the digital behaviors of our society and the social media life that our students are a part of. It is their world. There is so much that happens so quickly and so much that these young people need to manage. When we start instruction these students at the youngest of age on how to behave online and the importance of their own digital footprints we can help them navigate a bit more clearly and hopefully think about their own as well as others behaviors in safer and more productive way. How can we even attempt to make a difference in this area in 30 minutes a week? Seriously.

Dr. Martirano has called on all of us to take care of our children. Take care of them emotionally and support them in the world in which they come from and where they live. They live in a digital world whether we like it or not. And, teaching them from the beginning and showing them the right way will only support further what our superintendent has asked of us.

This cannot and will not be done in a 30-minute class period one time per week. Taking away proper technology instruction from our youngest learners will have a greater impact on the future of these kids and their mental health and is a risk I do not truly believe this county is willing to take.

Think about it. We need this technology instruction for our youngest learners more than ever.

Thank you,

~Heidi :)

*TODAY is an Opportunity!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Heidi Shorter  
Technology Teacher  
Hollifield Station Elementary

~~~~~

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

From: Heather Tom <heathertom@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 10:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: yesterday's work session with the HCPSS superintendent and BOE

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

Hello, Council Members--

Thank you for making this email address available so that a Howard County resident like myself can contact you. I am married and a mom of three. My husband works full-time in Howard County, and I work part-time in Howard County. I'm writing because I attended the work session with Superintendent Martirano and the BOE yesterday for about 45 minutes in the afternoon (because that's what my schedule would allow), and I'd like to comment in response to statements made by two of the members.

For Councilwoman Jung-- As the discussion of Equity Programming began, you made a comment in reference to fund-raising by PTA's and booster groups at schools that some groups are able to raise \$50,000 in a snap. If you know of groups who have had that level of success in fund-raising that easily, I would like to know who they are so I can contact them and learn their secrets. As a PTA volunteer and volunteer for county-wide school-related organizations over many years, I have supported and been involved in many fundraisers to support my children's schools, and I have never seen \$50,000 raised in a snap. I suspect that you knew you were using exaggerations relative to amount of time needed and quantity of funds raised, but I'd appreciate it if you would speak with more accuracy.

The reality I see is that it's gotten more and more difficult, and organizations have had to get more creative, over the years to hold successful fundraisers to support our schools and our children, even in areas of Howard County that statistically seem to be wealthy compared to others. A fund-raiser recently held at Ilchester Elementary School raised just over half of that number you used, and that was a real achievement for the IES PTA. It was a fundraiser tied to kindness; and, it had a positive impact throughout the school, not just because of the end result, but also because of the ways in which acts of kindness were encouraged. The funds were not raised in a snap-- hours and hours of time and effort over a series of weeks by many volunteers and community members went into the fund-raiser. So, again, I would ask that you speak with more accuracy when in a work succession making comments that the public is witnessing and are the basis of recommendations you're making to the superintendent.

I also understand that your real concern is in regard to availability of funds for schools that do not have as much access to wealth, and you suggested that a Policy committee consider rules for distribution of funds raised by schools that are in wealthy areas. As you may be aware, this topic has come up before. When I donate my family's funds to school fundraisers, I do so in anticipation of benefits to my own children, my children's schools and our local community. Rules that would possibly force distribution of funds raised to other school communities, would, in my opinion, wind up being detrimental to the school volunteer organizations who still have the good fortune (through their hard work) to gain support from their communities in raising funds for materials and programs that the county government and school system seem unable to provide. If I want to donate funds to other communities, I will make that choice. The school system is welcome to request support for other schools, as is done for the Homewood School every year (and many PTA volunteers from other schools do step up and support Homewood), but I would disagree with the idea of putting rules in place.

For Councilman Yungmann-- One comment and one request-- I was watching the video of the meeting later in the afternoon when you seemed to question a statistic given by one of the HCPSS staff members that suggests an increasing number of families who are eligible for FARMs are coming to live in Howard County. You seemed to question the statistic based on the fact that, to quote you, "Howard County is expensive." I agree with you that Howard County is

expensive. I would assert that families are still taking the risk of moving here because they believe that it's the best decision to benefit their children, and then they work very hard to be able to live in Howard County. I know of one Latino family, for example, that operates two businesses next to each other on Route 40 in Ellicott City, and they live in a modest single family home located off of Route 1. Their children attend Howard County public schools. I've talked to the mom, and she has told me she is willing to work hard and put in long hours for the benefit of her children. I have seen her and her husband doing just that. I do not know for sure whether they are eligible for FARMS or not, and it's none of my business. I couldn't help thinking of them as you seemed to question the statistic. Also, please keep in mind, as I'm sure you're very well aware, that these are very serious topics having to do with people's jobs and our children's education, and they are not a joking matter.

For all of the council members-- I grew up in Dundalk in Baltimore County in the 1970's and '80's. We lived where we could afford to live and our family had roots. We went to the public schools to which we were zoned while our parents worked hard. They had faith that the school system and staff were doing the best they could for their children, and they volunteered (and still volunteer) to help at the local, state, and national levels. I find that it is different in Howard County. Many of the citizens who contribute to the economy every day moved here because we think it will be safe for us and our children, and we think the schools aren't just trying their best, they are the best. Please continue to fund the school system, especially in regard to Class Size and School-Level Staffing, Special Education, and FARMS, at the levels that will help HCPSS to be the best.

Thank you again for the opportunity,
Heather Tom
5446 Autumn Field Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: legislative_herren@ptachc.org
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org
Cc: PTACHC President Brent Loveless
Subject: PTACHC Position Letter on Budget
Attachments: May 16, 2019.PTACHC ltr.pdf

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

PTA Council of Howard County

5451 Beaverkill Rd.

Columbia, MD 21044

410-740-5153

May 16, 2019

Calvin Ball, County Executive

Howard County Council

3430 Court House Dr.

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Board of Education

Howard County Public School System

10910 Clarksville Pike

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Re: Budget

Dear Howard County Executive Ball, Council Members, and Board of Education Members,

The Parent Teacher Association Council of Howard County (PTACHC) has taken great interest in the ongoing budget talks pertaining to funding the Howard County Public School System. As you continue in your talks and deliberations, we ask you to consider the recent vote of PTACHC delegates. The organization has taken the position that funding should, at a minimum, cover negotiated salary increases, fully fund the health fund, and provide enough funding for staff and resources for the expected enrollment growth so that class sizes do not increase above the target sizes listed on the current HCPSS website.

It was pointed out to delegates by BOE Member Mallo that school population increases are at least on pace with prior years with 481 additional students entering the Howard County School System since the beginning of this school year. Since traditionally most new enrollments occur in the spring and summer months, growth is expected, yet again, to be in or around 1,000 new students. Thank you for your continued efforts to work with and listen to each other and community leaders to find solutions to the complicated budget problems Howard County is facing. Let us continue to hold quality education as one of our highest values.

Kind Regards,

Karen Herren, Esq.

PTACHC Legislative Committee

legislative_herren@ptachc.org

PTA Council of Howard County

**5451 Beaverkill Rd.
Columbia, MD 21044
410-740-5153**

May 16, 2019

Calvin Ball, County Executive

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Board of Education
Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Re: Budget

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expected, yet again, to be in or around 1,000 new students. Thank you for your continued efforts to work with and listen to each other and community leaders to find solutions to the complicated budget problems Howard County is facing. Let us continue to hold quality education as one of our highest values.

Kind Regards,

Karen Herren, Esq.
PTACHC Legislative Committee
legislative_herren@ptachc.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Sherri Sloat <Sherri_Sloat@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 9:46 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Elementary Technology

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

Good morning.

I emailed last week, so I will not go into detail again, but after watching the last 45 minutes or so of the budget work session this evening and I am again deeply disappointed that in today's world of technology, Dr. Martirano and his team feel that elementary technology is expendable and unimportant. It only reiterates to me and my colleagues that he truly has no idea what it entails to be an elementary technology teacher. Because of this, I will be forced to return to the classroom next year (my evaluation year), which in turn, will cause a classroom teacher at my school to be surplussed. I also believe that it is not a "one size fits all" approach, as Elkridge is a school of over 900 students, so it would not be equitable to have the same amount of technology teachers at every school when some schools in the county have half that number of students.

While I understand that the budget was not cut and that instead spending was left unchecked by HCPSS as a whole, I believe that you have it in your power to make certain that this cut doesn't take place.

I urge you to think about the impact cutting technology positions will have on our students in this world of advancing technology as you are writing the amendment to the budget.

Sherri Sloat
Instructional Technology
Elkridge Elementary School

Developer~Empathy~Adaptability~Belief~Input

Sayers, Margery

From: Johnathan Misamore <jmisamore@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 8:59 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; 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; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B
Subject: Dr. Martirano,

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

In yesterday's budget work session you continue to reference precision cuts to several programs included in the proposed HCPSS FY2020 budget. Specifically, you continue to reference elementary technology education teachers and the reduction of their positions. This would seem counter-intuitive considering how heavily the county continues to invest in technology to make our students career ready for advanced technologies of the future. Cutting them off from learning basic technology skills during their elementary years puts them behind students from other counties, states, and across the nation. This will make them less competitive throughout their education and eventual careers. I suspect this is not the mission of HCPSS and I urge you to cease your focus on precision cuts to important programs and look more broadly at spending across the county budget. You're taking the easy way out through the suggestion of precision cuts instead of tackling excess spending across all programs. You were hired to do the hard work, let's put the focus back on making sure that happens and that HCPSS can continue to be one of the leading school systems in the nation.

Sincerely,

Johnathan Misamore
A Concerned Parent

Sayers, Margery

From: David Floyd <David_Floyd@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 8:36 AM
To: superintendent@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail; Mavis Ellis; Kirsten Coombs; Vicky Cutroneo; Christina Delmont-Small; Jennifer Mallo; Sabina Taj; Chao Wu
Subject: Don't Cut Instructional Technology

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

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

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

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

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

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

that increase every year because of the chronic underfunding of our equipment. Also, decreasing the number of Tech teachers to one per school will make it nearly impossible to see every student. Our school has over 800 students, there would not be enough time in the week to effectively see, not to mention build relationships, with all students.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

David Floyd
Elementary Technology Teacher
Bellows Spring Elementary School

David Floyd
Instructional Technology Teacher
Apple Teacher
Bellows Spring ES

Consistency Includer Positivity Achiever Responsibility

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 5:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Music program cuts

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

From: Tahirih Samadani <tahirihs@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 10:25 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Music program cuts

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

Mr. Jones,

As you already know, the Board of Education is planning major cuts to the music program here in Howard County. The cuts will reduce elementary school music teachers and access to certain grades to take an instrument at school. This is very disheartening. My oldest daughter has been learning flute and playing in the band for 2 years now at Phelps Luck Elementary School. It has had such an impact on her that she choose (without any persuasion from husband and myself) to continue flute in Middle School at Bonnie Branch. My understanding is that Howard County has one of the top music programs in the US. It would be such a loss to make so many cuts. My understanding is that groups of instruments would have combined lessons. It sounds like one teacher could not possibly do this and produce the same results as what Howard County has achieved. I have two younger daughters that had also hoped to be part of the music program starting in 3rd grade with Orchestra but now they will have wait longer. Early access to these musical instruments has had a huge impact. The younger the children, the more readily they can pick-up a new skill. I'm sure you already know the benefits of music outside of the music program and the development of neurons in the brain that would not have developed otherwise leading to better achievement in other subjects. We already lost our Spanish program at PLES last year, please push for them not to cut the music program too. Our school has one music teacher for band and orchestra- they have already slimmed the music program down as much as it can go. Please do whatever you can do so that music program is not cut. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tahirih Samadani

Esquire

Parent of two students at Phelps Luck Elementary School

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 5:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget shortfall

From: Jan Shipley <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:23 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget shortfall

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

Opal Jones,

Hello, I just want to say that ESY is not worth the effort or the money. One of the criteria is asking if the student shows regression during winter or spring breaks. But we have a 6 week break after ESY so it makes no sense to offer ESY. I think this would be very cost saving. Just saying! Thanks

Jan Shipley
js2268@gmail.com
33 Westmoreland St
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 4:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: No to increasing classrooms

From: Jennifer Busby <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 1:19 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: No to increasing classrooms

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

Opal Jones,

My husband and I recently enrolled our 4th child into a Howard county elementary school. We feel that there should not be an increase in class sizes because children will not get enough individual attention and I'm sure it will put more stress on the teachers. Howard county is one of the top Counties in Maryland and I feel like this would put a strain on that and our community. Please do not increase classroom sizes!

Jennifer Busby
JBusby1201@gmail.com
8723 Hayshed Lane Unit 14
Columbia , Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: PTACHC President <president@ptachc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 4:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Local PTA fundraising

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

Good afternoon Councilperson Jung. We greatly appreciate your support of education in Howard County. I listened to your statements this afternoon in work session regarding fundraising equity between local PTA's in Howard County. I appreciate your encouragement to discuss this topic and effort to recruit volunteers to discuss this through HCPSS policy review.

The PTA Council takes this matter seriously and would like the opportunity to discuss this further with you. Local PTA's work closely with HCPSS, but are separately chartered under the State PTA which in turn are chartered under the State of Maryland under National PTA bylaws as a 501c3 organization. The topic mentioned is not insignificant and has been a reoccurring item of consideration nationwide. This will involve a fair amount of research on both our parts to review appropriately, but the time spent to know the issue better will be worthwhile.

Brent Loveless
President - PTACHC

Sayers, Margery

From: Angeli Rahman <angeli.rahman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 3:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Concern of cutting GT funds

[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 express my concern over the pending budget cuts to the GT program in Howard County. Like many families, we moved to the county for the schools. We had many options to choose from but selected Howard County for the amazing school system and specifically the opportunities that are presented to the students. Our girls are in 4th grade at Clarksville Elementary and have participated consistently in the GT offerings at their school since Kindergarten. Our school has two GT teachers. They are excellent educators and role models to our kids. Our kids love school but the days they love the most are the days they have their GT classes. These classes provide a fulfillment to curious students in a way that is difficult to address outside of this program. Note, each one of our two GT teachers' classes is filled to the maximum. The demand exists to keep both of these teachers.

I'd like to provide some context to our personal situation. We are a single income household and my husband works three hours driving distance away. He is a professor and part of his research covers educational systems. We have chosen to continue living in Howard County for the schools. He commutes weekly to support our kids and the amazing educational opportunities they have been and are given. The school system is tying us to this area. In our opinion and research, no other counties can compare to what we have here. When families like ours see educational cuts being considered, it is incredibly disheartening. Please know, there are many residents like us. It would be a shame to inadvertently drive away the community we have by cutting such critical educational programs.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance or provide additional information.

Angeli Rahman
443.433.6039

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Misamore <Jennifer_Misamore@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 2:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS FY2020 Budget

[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 to express my concern regarding the suggested "Savings Items" that are being proposed as part of the draft FY2020 Operating Budget for HCPSS. Although budget constraints are increasingly common across government, commercial, and academic organizations of all types I believe it is in our best interest to closely evaluate both the perceived and concrete impacts of the proposed savings items currently being considered. It is apparent that the school board and senior management of the school system have been diligent in their assessment and proposed changes and these efforts are both appreciated and received with an open mind. However, as a professional educator with over a decade of experience in multiple counties I have the opinion that some of the cuts will directly impact our students not only now but as they progress into additional schooling and eventual careers. Therefore, I suggest that we cannot be short sighted in our efforts but ensure that we are making a concerted effort to find efficiencies in the system without hindering our students for the future.

One savings item directly impacts my position as an elementary technology teacher and that is the reduction of technology teacher positions in elementary schools. The increased use and availability of technology is undeniable both in our professional and personal lives. The use of technology will undoubtedly increase at a rapid rate over the next several decades in ways that we cannot even imagine at this time, much has been the case over the last twenty-five years. As a result, it is imperative for our students that we start building a foundation of technology skills and responsible usage starting in elementary school. We use our technology classroom time to teach them real life skills that will carry forward in their education, facilitating eventual advanced uses of technology both in school and their professional careers. We help to integrate this technology into classroom environments where teachers can create immersive and engaging lessons not thought possible only a few years ago. It is truly remarkable what our students can achieve, even at a young age, when properly mentored and given the skills to utilize the technology as it was intended to be used.

If one of the duties of HCPSS is to make our students "career ready" look no further than the start of technology education at the elementary level. These students are our future engineers, physicists, scientists, authors, artists, doctors, politicians, and jobs that haven't even been created yet because the technologies

haven't been invented. It is our duty not to fail our students by cutting their time in technology class, but to empower them with the skills they need to change the world with concepts never heard of before.

As a result, I'm asking you specifically to re-consider reducing the amount of time spent on technology education in elementary schools. Not only will this handicap our students as they enter future high tech education but also their eventual careers. Additionally, you're taking away opportunities for the creation of highly engaging and student-centered learning environments in all elementary classrooms.

I accept nothing than the best to prepare our students for the future and I am concerned we will fail at that duty if the proposed savings items in the FY2020 budget become a reality.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Misamore

Sayers, Margery

From: Sarangi Parikh <sarangi.parikh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 2:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS funding

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

As a parent of 2 children in the Howard County Public School System (it will be 3 children in the school system this Fall), I urge you to maximize funding to fill the budget gap for HCPSS. Many of us have moved to Howard County for the amazing school system and programs offered at the public schools.

More specifically, my older 2 children have been fortunate enough to participate in the GT programs offered at the school. Between the two of them, over the last 6 years, they have engaged in almost every seminar, curriculum extension unit and GT course available at their school. These opportunities are extremely valuable to students who are quick learners. If these opportunities are not available, these students may not get challenged to their fullest abilities thus creating a situation where you have gifted and talented students claiming they are bored.

My children have personally gotten a lot out of these GT opportunities and have become more self-motivated and curious learners. They look forward to going to school everyday and are eager to take on new challenges. The GT programs help develop excited students that become life-long learners and I truly hope that there is a way to maintain funding as is for these programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Sarangi Parikh

--

Sarangi P. Parikh, Ph.D.
President & CEO
SPP Consulting, LLC

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Register <Laura_Register@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 2:39 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; BoE Email; CouncilMail; CouncilMail; CouncilMail
Subject: technology

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

Hi,
I am writing this email on behalf of the technology teachers in Howard County as a teacher and as a parent. As a GT teacher in Howard County, I rely on my tech teacher at CCES, Amanda Rausch, to teach my gifted students how to use various programs at an early age. These programs include Wixie, Canvas, Comic Life, and many more. Due to the fact that she teaches students these skills, I can spend my time focused on the curriculum and not teaching my students how to use the technology. My own children have been fortunate enough to have Mrs. Rausch as a teacher for 60 minutes a day, one day a week, and I can say that they are very technologically sound. Please do not cut these positions! We also need tech teachers to help out the teachers in our school when something goes wrong with the technology that we use on a daily basis. Not only is Amanda my colleague, but she is my best friend. Please, please., please keep these positions! Thank you for your time.

--
Mrs. Laura Register
Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher
Clemens Crossing Elementary School
410.313.6866

Sayers, Margery

From: Lixin Zhang <lixinzhang@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 2:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fw: support full funding of the HCPSS budget

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

Dear Councilman /woman

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Lixin

Sayers, Margery

From: Benjamin M. Weiskind <Benjamin_Weiskind@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 2:13 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: A GT Teacher's Perspective on the Budget

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

Good Afternoon Members of the County Council,

My name is Benjamin Weiskind, and I am a GT resource teacher at Clarksville Elementary School. I have given 17 years of my life to working in Howard County Schools. I have worn a badge of pride and honor for all of those years knowing that I am employed here and am part of the Howard County family. Our school system is the most incredible of its kind in the United States in that our motto is to make decisions based on the needs of the students. In HCPSS, we aim to meet the needs of every single student, including those with special needs, those who are musically talented, and those who need accelerated instruction. Every one of them has the right to have their needs met.

I have been fortunate to work with the GT students for a decade. Before that time, I did not truly understand the concept of meeting the needs of all kids. Cutting GT positions will fundamentally alter the nature and structure of the GT program here in HCPSS, a program unlike any other in the United States. It is undoubtedly the best GT model for how to meet the needs of all children in that it allows the resource teachers to find opportunities to work with all students, even if they are not identified as GT. We work on talent development by offering instructional seminars that are open to all students. That would not be possible were schools to only have 1 GT teacher. There is simply no way to meet with all of the students who want and yearn for some sort of opportunity for acceleration in areas of interest.

Kids do not see limitations. Adults do. If we remove that 2nd GT position, we will be imposing those limitations on the minds of these young children, who have the desire and right to learn at their level.

I grew up in Dayton, Ohio and recall a pivotal moment in 7th grade. A teacher told our class that we were all mathematically gifted. That statement forever changed my life. It showed me I could do better and that someone believed in me. I have the daily opportunity to provide that sentiment to children who, like all other students, deserve to be challenged.

Please preserve the opportunities of GT instruction in its current model for all children, opportunities provided by a program that set our county apart from any other in the state and the country.

Respectfully,

Benjamin Weiskind

-- Benjamin Weiskind
Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher

Clarksville Elementary School
410-313-7050

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Sayers, Margery

From: David Ryan <dcryan7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 11:57 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: substitute pay issue re: HCPSS FY 2020 proposed budget

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

Council Members:

I have communicated at length with my Council member representative, your colleague, Ms. Walsh, my concerns regarding substitute teacher pay, and I am sending this email to you all so that my insights and research are also included as part of the public testimony. I have communicated this all as well with the Board of Education and relevant HCPSS personnel.

I am a relatively veteran substitute teacher, and I urge you to encourage the Board of Education to maintain as a priority the proposed \$6/day raise (my sources inform me that is the proposed amount) for substitute teachers as they approach final decisions regarding specific allocations for the HCPSS FY 2020 budget.

While I personally do subbing more as a way to "give back," the reality is that HCPSS' ability to fill teacher vacancies is reaching a discouraging, dare I say, brewing crisis situation, particularly on Mondays and Fridays. We subs and on-the-ground staff surely know that to be true, and my further research indicates that to be the case as well.

HCPSS used to, up until recently, be able to fill approx. 95% of daily teacher vacancies. Today, that figure is more like 85%. And on Fridays, the number of vacancies is often 600+, with only approx. 70 - 75% of those likely to be filled.

And while long-term sub positions used to almost always require certification, that prerequisite, in reality, has pretty much "gone out the window." (I don't do long-term subbing myself, but this highlights the overall situation.)

I have subbed for four years, mainly within the county's high schools, and the number of days I have been asked to cover all six periods in high schools has increased dramatically. Some of us subs, again, for philosophical reasons (I am not trying to make us heroes, it's just how we feel), do not shy away from accepting assignments from schools where teaching may be considered more of a challenge and/or discipline more of an issue. But working six straight periods in such environments can often be exhausting. Some subs are indeed saying "enough" and pulling back, especially while others within the system are being "locked in" for raises in the upcoming budget. (Remember too, we subs do not get any benefits.)

Subs do much more than act as sitters. Even the minimal requirements call for more than that. And most of us try to add some value to the instruction. In fact, some teachers rely on subs to actually teach content. For example, while I am not a former teacher, I do have a masters degree, and I happen to know Spanish, and so I often conduct skills review and introduce new concepts.

I invite you or any of your colleagues to "shadow" me some day to see what the current on-the-ground realities really are. Talk to HCPSS temporary services administration personnel. They will tell it to you straight as well.

There are of course other reasons for the sub shortage. For example, aspiring teachers have less need or feel less inclined to view subbing as an entry path. And the current overall high employment rate is another factor. There are indeed many subs who do rely on subbing to be one of their significant income sources, so to not raise the daily rate will undoubtedly lead to a smaller available pool.

I realize that one might ask, "Well, what would be so bad if schools increasingly cannot fill daily vacancies?" As I mentioned above, instruction quality would continue to be negatively affected, and staff and administrators would have to scramble even more to find coverage, which distracts them from their primary duties.

I respect that raising staff teacher pay is a current priority and that there are extreme pressures to reduce classroom size. But fostering suitable working conditions for staff also needs to be a priority. To not do that counteracts the other thrusts. And as I have tried to show, substitute pay is intricately woven with that.

I am not saying that raising the daily rate by \$6 will fully solve the brewing sub shortage crisis, but to not do that will most certainly serve to only make it worse.

Subs deserve a raise now given the pay raises that are being allocated throughout the rest of system. Substitute teachers do not have a union to represent them, so I am appealing to you to strongly advise the Board of Education / HCPSS to do the right thing.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback.

And thank you for you what you all do in serving our fine county!

Respectfully yours,

David Ryan
m: 301-717-3747
4013 Arjay Circle
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Dianne Beer <dianne.beer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 11:38 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget for HCPSS

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

As a Howard County resident and parent of two kids in HCPSS, I'm writing with my concern about the budget.

I expect the Howard County Council to maximize funding to fill the budget gap for HCPSS, while preserving the current class size, for the benefit of all students AND members of our community.

Thank you,

--

Dianne Beer-Maxwell

Sayers, Margery

From: Pamela Abrams <pabrams26@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 9:15 AM
To: CouncilMail; Michael Martirano
Subject: Class Size & School Level staffing Impact on surplussed staff

[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 selfishly regarding the class size and school level staffing item on the agenda. I am a concerned parent for the Burleigh Manor Middle school community at large concerning the surplus of Beth Berkeley among other staff members at BMMS. Many times I have witnessed her dedication both to her field of social studies and more importantly to her students in a personal manner, all of whom are much better young people for having been taught by her. Three days after finding out she was being surplussed, which happened to be Teacher Appreciation Day, she attended the National History Day event this past weekend on her personal time. This is only ONE example of her commitment to the students of BMMS.

She is a remarkable teacher, one who is able to reach both the gifted students and those who struggle. As PTA president and parent for 5 years at BMMS, I have seen mediocrity and I have seen excellence. Beth Berkeley is an excellent teacher, co-worker, & parent. It is a shame that a teacher with her vision, imagination, dedication, and love of this school should be asked to leave. The saying "Last hired, first fired" should not apply in this situation. All of her years as a para-educator, media assistant, and her assistance in many aspects of this school cluster should also be noted in her resume for retaining her position. How does this successfully set her up for the future? She will eternally be the 'last hired' to any school she continues to be surplussed. The implication that these years of dedicated service should not be counted doesn't make sense to those of us that have always known Beth in the building.

Below is the copy of her letter (shared with permission) she sent to BOE and Dr Martirano but I wanted to send another communication regarding Beth's value at Burleigh Manor to yet another level! Thank you!

Pam Abrams
(Parent & former PTA President, BMMS)

From: Elizabeth Berkeley <elizabeth_berkeley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 10:04 AM
To: Michael Martirano
Cc: BoE Email; cball@howardcountymd.gov; ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Concerns

Dr. Martirano, Dr. Ball, Ms. Walsh, Esteemed Members of the HCPSS Board of Education,

The other night I attended the Work Hard, Be Kind award ceremony in support of one of the many amazing teachers in Howard County. I am very proud of everything she does for our community and I appreciate that she had the opportunity to be recognized for her work ethic and her never-ending desire to improve the community around her.

However, after receiving word that, if the budget is not fully funded, I will be surplussed from the school and community that I hold close to my heart - and work so hard for - I began to question why I am in this profession, to begin with. In years past, I have been modest about my skills as an educator. As this is the second year that I am going through this upheaval, I will be modest no longer. I am good at what I do. I work hard for my students, I build relationships with them and their families, I reach out to those who need some extra TLC and work tirelessly to make sure that everyone has access to my curriculum. I volunteer with after-school programs such as Delta Scholars and invest MANY extra hours supporting students and families in completing National History Day projects including celebrating with them at the county, state, and national level on my own time. I am honored to say that I am a recipient of the GT Recognition award two years in a row. I incorporate technology, provide authentic learning opportunities for my students and provide choice in order to increase engagement. I attend all professional learning days, recently completed my Master's degree, and strongly believe in continuing education for teachers in order to evolve in a profession that should not remain stagnant. My peers, supervisors, students and their families respect me and trust that I will do everything that I can to make the whole child successful.

The fact that the audience laughed, Dr. Ball, when you mentioned the budget struggle during your speech at the award ceremony struck me to the core. My career is not a joke. The impacts this is having on schools, students, families, and me are not funny.

I strongly feel that I should not be surplussed. I know that there are procedures to follow, and I know that that procedure points to me. However, in such an important profession it should not boil down to who is the last in, first out. We are talking about the impact on children and the future of our community. As a 10-year Howard County educator, whether or not this surplus comes to fruition or not, I feel it is a sad day when those in a position of power forget about the impact this has on the individual and the community.

Dr. Martirano, you always ask us to take care of ourselves. I cannot knowingly put myself through this every year. I have a son going to college this coming fall, with his sister only two years behind. I cannot handle not knowing what my fate is every year. My mental health right now is not good. I'm sad, I'm disillusioned, I'm anxious. My family feels it, too. How can I put them through this?

Actions (or lack of action) will cause you to lose teachers. Good ones. Ones that are needed. You may lose me - I spent the last few days updating my resume and job hunting. Later today I will create my first LinkedIn account. This will be for my sanity and that of my family. I don't want to leave teaching; I truly love my students with my entire being. I have always felt that this is where I am meant to be and I know that my students and their families would agree.

Please, for the sake of our community, fix this. For me, for my family, for my students.

Sincerely,
Beth Berkeley
7th Grade GT Geography and World Cultures
Burleigh Manor Middle School

Sayers, Margery

From: Rachel B. Gelinis <Rachel_Gelinis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 8:30 AM
To: superintendent@hcpss.org
Subject: Please Save Instructional Technology Positions in the HCPSS!

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

May 15, 2019

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

I am writing to you concerning the proposal for the reduction of staffing in Elementary Instructional Technology positions for the 2019-20 school year. I understand that our county is facing a fiscal crisis that is directly affecting the school budget; however, decreasing the instruction technology program to ease budgetary concerns is short-sided and will negatively impact each and every elementary student and will diminish HCPSS's standing as a public education school system model for the nation.

As a technology teacher, I have the privilege of coming to work each and every day knowing that I have a job that I am most passionate about. When students walk into my classroom they have a smile on their faces because they are coming to a class they enjoy. I value the time to develop relationships with my students that foster trust and respect. Under the HCPSS Strategic Call to Action, it states, "support students' social-emotional development and build healthy school relationships through restorative practices." It is not realistic for only one technology teacher to be able to develop these nurturing relationships with only 30 minutes of instruction once a week for 900 students, as proposed in the new budget.

In my classroom, students K-5 learn the foundational skill to be 21st century learners. Students have the opportunity to learn how to be a good digital citizen when interacting online or with social media. Research skills are taught early in my technology classroom to support classroom instruction, a skill which students will continue to rely upon throughout their formal education and beyond. Students have the opportunity to use platforms and tools to demonstrate their knowledge and creativity. Students who struggle with language arts or math, have thrived in my technology class. These students excel when it comes to computer science and coding. All my students are taught to think critically, analyze, collaborate, and be creative.

Mental health has been at the forefront of initiatives in the Howard County Public School System. As a technology teacher, we help teach our future adults the importance of use and guidelines of social media. It is essential that we promote responsible use of social media and impress upon our students the importance of critical thinking in an era where there is unlimited access to appropriate as well as inappropriate social media.

MSDE has put into effect computer science standards that must be taught as part of the curriculum. Having only 30 minutes of instruction a week with students is not going to allow that one technology teacher in each school to teach the computer science standards, the International Society for Technology Education standards, and be able to develop meaningful relationships with every student. At the start of the Kindergarten school year, it may take 30 minutes just to login all the students into the computers to begin learning!

Please take into consideration that our youngest student learners develop the foundation in technology that will carry them through their elementary years. Being able to access learning through technology is becoming more important each and every year. Our students need the skills that are an essential part of our society. Students learn to develop these skills upon entry into the HCPSS and never stop learning them throughout their educational careers. HCPSS is a model for enabling its students to develop these skills at an early age so that they can utilize these skills as they progress through their academic careers. To continue to stay at the forefront of public education, the HCPSS needs to fully fund the instruction technology program. Reducing instruction to our youngest learners who are enthusiastic and excited to learn will result in a diminished technology program that will negatively impact their ability to learn a most important skill that is simply essential today. HCPSS has a national reputation for excellence. Cutting the instructional technology program by half will certainly not enhance our system's reputation, but rather would demonstrate that HCPSS is no longer on the cutting edge of public school education. I sincerely hope that the instructional technology program will continue to be fully funded for all elementary school students.

Thank you,
Rachel Gelinas
Instructional Technology Teacher
Hollifield Station Elementary School

Rachel Breslow Gelinas
Instructional Technology Teacher
Hollifield Station Elementary School

Discipline | Communication | Harmony | Arranger | Consistency

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Sayers, Margery

From: Eileen G. Volker <Eileen_Volker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 11:26 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.]

Hello,

I am the Technology Teacher at Clarksville Elementary in Howard County and am writing to you in regards to the HCPSS budget. I appreciate that there has been a proposed increase in funding from previous fiscal years. However, the amount allotted would still leave HCPSS short of what it needs. **One** of the Potential Savings Areas proposed by our Superintendent to offset this budget shortfall is to reduce the number of Instructional Technology Teachers and to decrease Instructional Technology class time for our elementary students from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.

While I realize that the decision to allocate funds falls to the Board of Education and our Superintendent, I want the County Council to appreciate what's at stake in the education of our children. It would be devastating to the Technology instruction I provide each week, to only see my students for half the time. I would only be able to accomplish half of my current curriculum. I've spent the past few sleepless nights worrying about what I wouldn't be able to cover with our children... Online safety? Netiquette? Digital footprints? Cyberbullying? Online reputations? Balancing screen time? Coding/Computer Science? ...And so much more!

None of these *critical* 21st century skills should be on the chopping block. I implore you to consider increasing the funds to the HCPSS budget.

Sincerely,

Eileen Volker
Technology Teacher
Teacher Development Liaison
Clarksville Elementary School
410-313-7050

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Sayers, Margery

From: Michelle Baker <Michelle_Baker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 11:10 PM
To: superintendent@hcpss.org; Mavis Ellis; Kirsten Coombs; Vicky Cutroneo; Christina Delmont-Small; Jennifer Mallo; Sabina Taj; Chao Wu; Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail
Subject: Proposed Reduction of the Elementary Technology Program

[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,

Our technological world is constantly evolving. How do we assure that our students find success and thrive today and in the future? Starting in kindergarten, Howard County students begin direct technology instruction for 60 minutes a week. We are the springboard for students to connect classroom content to real world issues and ideas and discover how that will drive their own success.

Empowered learners challenging themselves, problem solving both independently and collaboratively, and being creative grow from the opportunities they have to make their learning meaningful in the technology classroom. This stretches beyond the capacity of our general education classrooms. While it may be easy to imagine the storybook picture where it all integrates seamlessly because the student has a computer in their hands, that is not the reality. A tool cannot be used effectively if the skills aren't there. From the beginning, students are benefitting from direct instruction using Canvas, G Suite, and Wixie to establish the essential skills needed to successfully use the technology available to them for all that it has to offer.

Although extremely important, technology education continues far beyond digital citizenship, internet safety, and keyboarding skills. In technology, first graders produced stop motion animation to share a personal narrative, third graders coded a robot to use a magnet and rescue a stuck "victim," and fourth graders designed kinetic creatures and built in the electronic circuitry. These students, as just a few examples, have now engaged in what was stand alone content. They worked through a design process, attempted to solve problems, failed and learned from those failed attempts to ultimately create an innovative new way to share their knowledge.

Learning styles vary significantly from student to student. The textbook classroom is not always the ideal scenario. Our students use what they learn in technology to flourish in academics and with self confidence that is not found in the classrooms. That first grade student who was struggling in his classroom to understand what a personal narrative meant and how to formulate his thoughts into sentences created a 1st place award winning stop motion video to tell his story.

The loss of technology teachers and therefore the reduction of direct technology instruction from 60 minutes to 30 would have a dire impact on every student in the Howard County school system's day to day learning and future success. Understanding that extremely difficult decisions need to be made, I plead with you to maintain the technology program, its teachers, and the opportunities it provides to our students.

Thank you very much for all of your time.
Michelle Feldmesser Baker
Educational Technology Teacher
Longfellow Elementary School

Sayers, Margery

From: Jessica Scheffer <jessica.a.scheffer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 8:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support full funding for music!

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

Hello,

I am a parent of two young children in Howard County and we are thrilled to be going through the Howard County Public School System. One very important part of school is music education. Music gives children a way to learn outside of the "box" and to be creative. It expanded my way of thinking and expressing myself significantly when I was in elementary, middle, and high school and even in college! Music education is critical to the development of children and it **MUST** stay part of the curriculum at **EVERY** school. I understand that the budget is tight, but there are other ways to deal with that. Please do **NOT** consider cutting music. If I can help in any way, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Jessica Scheffer

Sayers, Margery

From: Trudy M. Grantham <Trudy_Grantham@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 6:53 PM
To: Japjit Sidana; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Sandeep Sidana; Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: [External] Concerned about proposed budget cuts

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

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

Kind regards,

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

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From: Japjit Sidana <japjit_s@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 10:49 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: Sandeep Sidana <sanj_s@hotmail.com>
Subject: [External] Concerned about proposed budget cuts

To Board Members and County Executive Calvin Ball

I am writing as a concerned parent of one, and soon to be two, students attending Pointers Run Elementary School. I have heard and read about the new budget proposal put forth by Dr. Martirano for the upcoming

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

Japjit and Sandeep Sidana

Sayers, Margery

From: Michelle L. Stein <michelle.l.stein@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: GT and Instrumental Music Programs in Howard County

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

As a parent of two children within the HCPSS school system, one in K and one in 4th, I am writing to ask you to maximize funding to fill the budget gap for HCPSS, including funds for the GT Program and ES Instrumental music programs.

These programs are huge components of the quality education received within Howard County. They are not available to the same degree within other surrounding counties and make our educational system one of the best.

The GT program at Waverly Elementary has afforded my older daughter with opportunities to learn in an enriched and accelerated environment, has enabled her to cultivate her interests in various topics that were only briefly discussed in class, and has inspired her to love learning. The GT program has increased her creativity and writing skills, further developed her ability to think innovatively and ask questions, and has had a significant impact on her overall self esteem. I look forward to my younger daughter being given the same opportunities.

The Elementary Instrumental Music program at Waverly Elementary has helped my older daughter to become a more well rounded student. As a result of the program and my child's involvement, she has learned dedication, cooperation, and responsibility.

I urge you to find funding for these programs, so that all children within Howard County can continue to be given opportunities to enrich their learning and become well rounded members of our community.

Thanks,
Michelle Stein
2680 Thornbrook Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Trudy M. Grantham <Trudy_Grantham@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 1:42 PM
To: Robert B. Martin; BoE Email; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Cc: Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: [External] Support for Age Appropriate School Hours

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

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

Kind regards,

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

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From: Robert B. Martin <robertbmartin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 3:21 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; CalvinBall@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Support for Age Appropriate School Hours

Dear Board of Education and County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Robert B. Martin

Sayers, Margery

From: Trudy M. Grantham <Trudy_Grantham@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 1:17 PM
To: Yi, Xin; CouncilMail; BoE Email
Cc: Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: [External] HC BOE: Save the Music and GT program

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

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

Kind regards,

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

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From: Yi, Xin <yi.sheen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 1:21 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>
Subject: [External] HC BOE: Save the Music and GT program

Dear Council and BOE members:

We've heard our precious Music and GT programs at HCPSS are risking being cut or reduced. Funding for education is not sufficient for our kids. Facing an increased student population, we ask that Howard County Council allocate enough funding to BOE as necessary please. Having enough GT programs attracts top students and higher school performances. Many residents move to Howard County because of high

performances from our schools. If the schools starts to go downhill, it's not hard to see people moving elsewhere, property values & taxes reducing, leading to more fiscal burden for this county.

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

Sheen Yi

Sayers, Margery

From: Trudy M. Grantham <Trudy_Grantham@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 1:10 PM
To: Sherman Canapp; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Debra Canapp; Amy Syversen; Patricia K. Hammer; esorchestra@hcpss.orgemail; gjsegala5@verizon.net; Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: [External] HCPSS Elementary School Music Program Funding

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

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Phone: 410-313-1584
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From: Sherman Canapp <SCanapp@vosm.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 12:52 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: Debra Canapp <Dcanapp@vosm.com>; Sherman Canapp <SCanapp@vosm.com>; Amy Syversen <Amy_Syversen@hcpss.org>; Patricia K. Hammer <Patricia_Hammer@hcpss.org>; esorchestra@hcpss.orgemail; gjsegala5@verizon.net
Subject: [External] HCPSS Elementary School Music Program Funding

Dear Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Drs. Sherman and Debra Canapp

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

Chief of Staff,
Veterinary Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Group

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

Founder & CEO,
Project GO (Global Orthopedics)
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Fax: (240) 295-4401

<http://www.vosm.com>

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

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Trudy M. Grantham <Trudy_Grantham@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 12:45 PM
To: Sherman Canapp; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Debra Canapp; Amy Syversen; Patricia K. Hammer; esorchestra@hcpss.orgemail; gjsegala5@verizon.net; Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: [External] HCPSS Elementary School Music Program Funding

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To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: Debra Canapp <Dcanapp@vosm.com>; Sherman Canapp <SCanapp@vosm.com>; Amy Syversen <Amy_Syversen@hcpss.org>; Patricia K. Hammer <Patricia_Hammer@hcpss.org>; esorchestra@hcpss.orgemail; gjsegala5@verizon.net
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With the HCPSS being one of the strongest programs in the country it seems reasonable that you should be further developing the program, not dismantling it. You are in the process of removing one of the the treasures that brought our family as well as others to Howard County. We strongly hope you will reconsider this action.

Respectfully,

Drs. Sherman and Debra Canapp

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

Chief of Staff,
Veterinary Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Group

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

Founder & CEO,
Project GO (Global Orthopedics)
People helping animals helping people...

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Fax: (240) 295-4401

<http://www.vosm.com>

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

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Joan M. Tellish <Joan_Tellish@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 11:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School System 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~

My name is Joan Tellish and I am currently a Mathematics Support teacher with HCPSS. I service 3 schools. I have been a teacher for 24 years, the past 17 with HCPSS.

I am dismayed with the budget shortfall. I have been reading all of the articles and am wondering why this all just came to be last week? The school environment is one filled with stress as teachers are finding out they are suprlused while others are in fear of losing their positions. So much for social emotional health!

I have read and reread Dr. Martirano's list of possible cuts. Wow! I am aware that the County Council is doing everything in their power to find additional funds. I want to advocate first to please, please do not raise class size. Through my years as an educator and providing support to teachers, I have found that low class size is crucial. Elementary teachers are expected to teach ALL subject areas and to differentiate when needed. There are so many levels of learners in each class, each with their own unique style. Large class size will take away everything that we have worked so hard for. In many schools, student behavior affects learning, and now we want to increase class size?

Mathematics and Technology are the future of education. Math helps students to think analytically and to have better reasoning skills. Problem Solving is needed for the jobs of the 21st century. I read where GT positions could be cut - leaving one at each school. As a former GT teacher this saddens me, however, I plead that if these positions are cut, please have them teach math. The CEU's and Instructional seminars are "fluff". Our students need good math instruction.

Thank you for your doing all that you can to problem solve and to find a solution for this situation.

Joan Tellish
Mathematics Support Teacher
Howard County Public School System
Bushy Park, St. John's Lane, Worthington

Sayers, Margery

From: Michael D. Kilberg <Michael_Kilberg@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 9:29 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Thank you for listening

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

I wanted to say thank you for listening to my testimony yesterday. I started yesterday's testimony with somewhat of a joke about how Mrs. Kucler's child asked out of band that morning to stay and finish a project for me. The shame of this process is that I have to make a joke where I pit myself and my program against another outstanding colleague. This is Mr. Owen's email address (Frank_Owens@hcpss.org) if you wanted to reach out to him and listen to his passion for teaching.

The truth of the matter is that Mr. Owens is outstanding and deserves all of the people who were there to support him and the music program. The sad part is that parents there apologized to me after the testimony because they were representing the music department with their 3 minutes and not mine. Parents should not feel forced to spend three minutes of testimony choosing which great program they want to save from trimming.

I was in All-State Chorus myself in high school and music has played a huge role in my life. I have written parodies like [troubleshooting](#) to the tune of Taylor Swift's Trouble to help teach the kids about the computer log in process (not my best singing). My own students have created [raps](#) about the American Revolution and [original songs](#) about it as well. When we have a great county with a great education system, all of these programs are intertwined.

We are preparing these students for success in a global world. Currently, my 4th grade students are in communication with a CEO of a tech company attempting to get some changes made to the way the program works. As you know, students from my school used their tech skills along with the time and effort of GT teachers to get a law written banning coal tar in our county. Those students already have a leg up on others just for the experience of creating presentations and making real change. With the trimming, the likelihood something like that happens is much smaller.

Our tech program has collaborated with Music, Art, GT, PE, Math, Science, Language arts, and Social studies in our project-based learning approach. Please take the time to listen to the rap and the the original song. Again, what these students who are 11 or younger are able to produce is truly amazing. They just need the time and instructors in order to do it. Thank you for listening and working with the Board of Education to come up with a solution that does not have the kind of impact that this trimming would.

Michael Kilberg
Tech Teacher
Centennial Lane Elementary

c R 68-2019

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear council members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From what I read and experienced

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for listening.

--Xiang Yu

Sayers, Margery

From: Amanda Reyes <radnama@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 11:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Fully Fund the HCPSS Budget

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

Dear Howard County Council Members,

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Amanda Reyes

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Council Members,

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

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

Sincerely,

Simon Plunkett & Jenifer Kirin

simon.plunkett1@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

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

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

To Board Members and County Executive Calvin Ball

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

Japjit and Sandeep Sidana

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Steve Luke
5804 Silent Sun Place
Clarksville Maryland

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Sir and Ma'ams,

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

Best Regards,

April

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

Hello!

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

Thank you,

Lindsay Edmonds

Lindsay Edmonds

lindsay.renee.edmonds@gmail.com

2380 Ballard Way

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042-1780

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

Good morning,

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

Sincerely,

Amy Ashmore

Amy Ashmore
sewwrapit@gmail.com
2892 Florence Rd.
Woodbine, Maryland 21797

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Elected Howard County Council Member(s):

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Respectfully.

"When words fail, music speaks" - SHAKESPEARE

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

David Yungman,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

Hello,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kathy Broughton

Kathy Broughton

kathy_broughton@yahoo.com

14204 Pioneer circle

Glenelg, Maryland 21737

■

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Respected Members of the County Council ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank for your consideration to these concerns.

Sincerely ,

Jackie DeBella

Mom of Nico and Francesca

22 year resident of Howard County

Teacher

Jackie DeBella

jacquelyndebella@yahoo.com

7913 Hammond Parkway

Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Hello Mr. Jones,

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

Thank you,
Sarah Madison

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Council Member,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Tarp

Dayton Oaks Elementary Parent

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

From: Christine Kaiser <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 5:26 PM

To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>

Subject: class size increase / loss of teachers

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

Opal Jones,

Dear BOE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christine Kaiser

Christine Kaiser

kaiserchris13@gmail.com

10137 Maplewood Drive

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Dear Council member Jones,

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

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

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

With great respect,
Raana Aghdassi

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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

Sent from my iPhone. Please pardon my thumbs!

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

Dear County Council Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Heather Green

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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

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

Rosalie Naglieri

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Good Morning,

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

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

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

Thank you,

Rachel Coutts
Columbia, Md 20145

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Claire Kachnycz

Claire Kachnycz

cestyer@gmail.com

9505 Evergreen Street

Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

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

Please heed our heartfelt plea and keep the music going.

Alison Gatwood

Alison Gatwood

afgatwood@gmail.com

6473 Onward Trail

Clarksville, Maryland 21029

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Opel Jones:

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

Advocate for the HCPSS Music Programs.

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

Thank you!

Jen Sellers
HCPSS Parent of 6th and 3rd grader

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Elected Howard County Council Member:

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

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

Thank you!

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

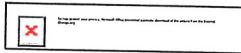
Sayers, Margery

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

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

Petition by CHS Friends of Music · 100 supporters



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

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RECENT SUPPORTERS



Bernard Bikki

College Park, MD · May 11, 2019

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



Lisa Wilde

Ellicott City, MD · May 11, 2019

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



Adria Price

South Point, OH · May 11, 2019

I was in band



Teri McWethy RN

Glenwood, MD · May 11, 2019

Teri McWethy



Lisa Logan-Roussell

Ellicott City, MD · May 11, 2019

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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



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RECENT SUPPORTERS



Jeffrey Johns
Olney, MD · May 11, 2019

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



Sam Coard

Woodbine, MD · May 11, 2019

Music matters. Without it there would be silence.



Bethany Hamilton

Burlington, NC · May 11, 2019

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



Debra Sagmiller

Columbia, MD · May 11, 2019

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



Kirsten Garrison

Elon, NC · May 11, 2019

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

[View all 100 supporters](#)

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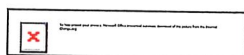
Sayers, Margery

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

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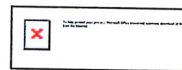
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New signatures

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



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

[View petition activity](#)

RECENT SUPPORTERS



Michelle Kvech

Ellicott City, MD · May 10, 2019

Michelle Kvech



Tianzhu Li

Ellicott City, MD · May 10, 2019

I strongly support the HCPSS music program.



Andrew Murray

Clarksville, MD · May 10, 2019

Music changed my life in high school



Connor Dunlop

Glenwood, · May 10, 2019



Katharine Durbin

Laurel, · May 10, 2019

[**View all 100 supporters**](#)

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

On Change.org, decision makers like you connect directly with people around the world to resolve issues. Respond to let the people petitioning you know you're listening, say whether you agree with their call to action, or ask them for more information. [Learn more.](#)

This notification was sent to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov, the address listed as the decision maker contact by the petition starter. If this is incorrect, please [post a response](#) to let the petition starter know.

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Board of Education and County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Robert B. Martin

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~Harmony~Developer~Empathy~Adaptability~Communication~

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Mr. Jones,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How Children Benefit from Music Education in Schools | NAMM Foundation

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

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

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

Thank you for your time,
Abigail Wedeking
Oakland Mills resident

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Opel,

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

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

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

James Reynolds
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

Nancy Putman
nancy_putman@hcpss.org
3913 Sharp Rd
Glenwood, Maryland 21738

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Katy Do

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Mr. Jones,

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

Sincerely,
Josie Wedeking

Sayers, Margery

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

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

To whom it may concern:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time,

Kelly Green

Concerned Parent and Citizen of Howard County

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Elected Howard County Council Member:

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

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

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

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

Christa Bucks Camacho

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Opal Jones,

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

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Mr. Jones,

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

Thank you,

Ye Yan

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

Beth Stolte

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear Councilman Opel Jones:

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

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

I am asking you to:

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

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

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kathy Younkin

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

Dear Howard County Council Member Jones:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Liz Frommer

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Executive,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Hui Liu

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Council and BOE members:

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

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

Sheen Yi

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Council,

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

Thank you very much for your consideration,
Kristy Castonguay

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Drs. Sherman and Debra Canapp

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

Chief of Staff,
Veterinary Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Group

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

Founder & CEO,
Project GO (Global Orthopedics)
People helping animals helping people...

10975 Guilford Road

Annapolis Junction, MD 20701

Phone: (240) 295-4400

Fax: (240) 295-4401

<http://www.vosm.com>

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process on the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing. The public is able to submit written testimony until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at BOE@hcpss.org.

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

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

Kind regards,

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

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

Dear Board of Education and County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours gratefully,

Joanna Ramos-Romero

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Dear County Council Member Jones,

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

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

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

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

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

Columbia, MD 21045
410-313-6900

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process on the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing. The public is able to submit written testimony until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at BOE@hcpss.org.

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

Kind regards,

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

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

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

Dear superintendent, boe, county council members

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

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

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

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

I would appreciate any feedback from you.

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

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

First Name: Ryan

Last Name: Schaaf

Email: rschaaf@ndm.edu

Street Address: 6234 Ducketts Lane

City: Elkridge

Subject: Funding HCPSS - Technology, Technology Teachers, and OIT

Message:

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Esteemed Howard County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Very Respectfully,

Nicholas Rausch
Parent of a Howard County Elementary School Student

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good Morning,

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

Kind regards,

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

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

Dear Board of Education Members and County Council Members,

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanna Carpenter

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

DJung@howardcountymd.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

Best Regards,
Sarah and Christian Bi
Residents of Howard County

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Melvin

Sarah Melvin
Technology Teacher

Pointers Run Elementary

*Empathy*Developer*Communication*Includer*Harmony*

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Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Elise Allen

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Council Members,

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

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

Sincerely,

Merilee Thompson

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Amanda Rausch
Elementary Technology Teacher
Clemens Crossing Elementary School

Amanda D. Rausch
Instructional Technology
Clemens Crossing Elementary
410.313.6866

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Council Members,

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Board of Education and County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours gratefully,

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Council members and Dr. Ball,

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

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

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

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

I appreciate your consideration.

Jiachen

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Council Members,

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

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Kim Oberly

9945 Springfield Dr

Ellicott City MD 21042

H: 410-461-5523

Sayers, Margery

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

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



Dear Board of Education and County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours gratefully,

Van Doan

Atholton HS

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Board of Education Members and County Council Members,

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanna Carpenter

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear superintendent, boe, county council members

>

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

>

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

>

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

>

> I would appreciate any feedback from you.

>

> Thank you

> Yongmei Pan PhD

> Proud parent of 2nd and 6th HCPSS students

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear superintendent, boe, county council members

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

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

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

I would appreciate any feedback from you.

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

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

First Name: Cara
Last Name: Krol
Email: Krolmobile@yahoo.com
Street Address: 11412 Barley Field Way
City: Marriottsville
Subject: Budget

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Elisabeth Holloway

Building resilience by nurturing creativity. Art Where We Are www.artwhereweare.org

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Howard County Council,

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

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

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

Please make this an immediate priority.

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Thank you-
Gabri and Scott Blackman

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Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Dr. Ball and council members,

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

To whom it may concern:

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

Please reconsider this proposal!

Respectfully, a former HCPSS Parent of four,
Kim Wissman

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear elected official,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much for your time and consideration!
Helen Yang

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Members of the County Council,

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

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

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

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

Michael Kilberg
Technology Teacher
Centennial Lane Elementary

[MSET Video](#)

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

GIS BioBlitz Module

Dash Saving Dot

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

Learn the meaning of GIS

Students create a simulated GIS map

Students explore and analyze data using GIS maps.

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

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

Makerspace MSET Artifact Website

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

Kindergarten/First Grade: Plants for Earth Day

Second Grade: Ozobot maps for urban suburban and rural communities

Second Grade: Recreated coded fables using Scratch Junior and recorded to be shared with parents using

Zoom conferencing

Third Grade: Business websites

Fourth Grade: Paper circuits

Fourth Grade: Animal inspired technology inventions through biomimicry

Fifth Grade: 3D printed logos for social activation projects

Fifth Grade: American Revolutionary class websites with content that includes:

Google trivia quizzes

A personality quiz matching you with the Revolutionary figure you most resemble

Scratch stories

Scratch games

A garageband rap

A garageband original song

Green Screen Movies

Posters

Comic Strips

Google Slideshows

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Howard County Council and County Executive Ball:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Andrea F Bento

9673 Old Annapolis Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042
[Afbento1@gmail.com](mailto:afbento1@gmail.com)
443-812-0558

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Hello,

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

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Cheng

--

Sarah Cheng
sarah.cheng1@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

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

First Name: Tao

Last Name: Bai

Email: taobailuo@gmail.com

Street Address: 6434 Galway drive

City: Clarksville

Subject: Stop Cutting Elementary GT and Music Teacher#

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Council and Board of Education,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Janna Spranza

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Hello County Council folks,

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

Thank you,
Charles Sellers

Sayers, Margery

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

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

To whom it may concern,

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

Thank you!

Mannie

发自我的 iPhone

Sayers, Margery

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

First Name: Paula
Last Name: Mergler
Email: Paula.Mergler@yahoo.com
Street Address: 4125 Hogg Court
City: Ellicott City
Subject: Education funding crisis

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good Afternoon:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process on the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing. The public is able to submit written testimony until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at BOE@hcpss.org.

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

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

Kind regards,

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

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

Dear Board of Education and Council members-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Kathryn Branstad
Parent of Howard County Public School students

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Kind regards,

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

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

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

Sara Hammer
410-370-3131

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Kind regards,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kristen Farina

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Kind regards,

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

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

Hello all,

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

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

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

Sincerely
Jerry

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Kind regards,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time.

/s/

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

To whom it may concern:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

Sherri Sloat
Technology Teacher
Elkrige Elementary School

Developer~Empathy~Adaptability~Belief~Input

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Thank you,
Donna Trang

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good Afternoon Ms Rigby,

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

Thank you

Heather Urner

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

Good afternoon Heather,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours,

Christiana

Christiana Mercer Rigby

Councilwoman, District 3

Serving North Laurel, Savage, Columbia, Jessup and Guilford

Howard County Council

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

crigby@howardcountymd.gov

410.313.4101



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Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Board of Education and Council members-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Kathryn Branstad
Parent of Howard County Public School students

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Elected Howard County Council Member:

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

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

Thank you!

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

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good Afternoon,

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

Thank you

Heather Urner

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

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

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

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

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

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

David

David Yungmann

Howard County Council – District 5

(410) 313-2001

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

From: heather.urner@yahoo.com <heather.urner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:41 PM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Testimony

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

Good Afternoon,

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

Thank you

Heather Uner

Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--
Radmila Yashnyk



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Sayers, Margery

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

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

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

Sara Hammer
410-370-3131

Sayers, Margery

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

Gladys,

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

Thanks!

Rick Leonard

Howard County Dept of Fire & Rescue Services
2201 Warwick Way
Marriottsville, MD 21104

rleonard@howardcountymd.gov

410-313-6022

410-984-8030 cell

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Council,

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Sent from my iPad
Lynda Robey

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Leidos Proprietary

Hello,

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

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

I implore you – KEEP THE TEACHERS!!!!

Sincerely,

Kerry Richardson

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Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear Council,

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

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

Thank you.

Marina Vornovitsky

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

[203-610-4550](#)

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Dear County Executive Ball and County Council Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Kim Birnbaum

Sayers, Margery

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

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

Good Morning Howard County Council Members,

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

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

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

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

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

mental well being?

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

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

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kim Rullan

Sayers, Margery

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

-----Original Message-----

From: xia yan <ailsa.yanxia@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 10:27 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin B <cbball@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support our schools and fully fund their budget request

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am contacting you to request that the Howard County Public School's proposed budget for FY2020 be fully funded. If the Council does not fully fund the budget, already overcrowded class sizes will increase, staff numbers may be reduced, and programs may be cut from the curriculum. I am particularly concerned about the impact of lack of funding on HCPSS music and arts, including band and orchestra. As a parent of a student involved in band/orchestra, I see the daily positive impacts of music education on my child. I urge you to preserve the budget to support all teachers, but particularly our instrumental music teachers, whose work teaches the students creativity, teamwork, communication skills, self-discipline and supports student achievement in non-music subjects. Music education also teaches the whole child, providing a source of self-esteem and stress relief, which improves student mental health and wellness. As a Howard County resident, I implore you to support our schools and fully fund their budget request.

Best,
Ailsa

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Kristen Farina <kristen_menz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 9:00 AM
To: BOE@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Cuts

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Last week, many Howard County schools held meetings for their staff to inform them and discuss the possible challenges that may occur with proposed school funding for 2019-2020. Some of the topics discussed was the potential surplus of staff and the increase of class sizes across all grades and additionally cutting key arts programs such as instrumental music instruction.

I am a parent of several children in the county and an educator in another county. Class sizes and teacher cuts should be a last resort only in dire financial situations. Children need small class sizes to ensure their needs are recognized and addressed by a multitude of staff members who are there to help and guide them to be their best and thus provide our county with a bright and successful future. Increasing class sizes should not be on the table at this time.

Arts are critical to children's development. Music and art programs increase their knowledge base and aid in developing well-rounded children. For many students this is their only exposure to such music and art programs and it can not disappear!

Larger class sizes and removing important programs is not a solution that will help our students. We need to maintain our level of academic excellence and always try to improve. Howard County prides itself with "being one of the best educational systems in the state and nation"- such choices in our children's future does not reflect that of a high level educational system that puts students first.

Initially, I reached out to the County Council and I received several responses indicating that the school budget has been increased over last year and that the BOE is proposing these options to balance a budget. The County Council blames the Board of Education for suggesting these changes with the provided budget. The BOE is stating that they can't fully fund everything necessary and increase teacher pay with this limited increase. We need both sides to work together for the county's children, they are all OUR CHILDREN and we need to continue to provide the best educational system for them as it will benefit us all.

Cutting staff, increasing class sizes and hampering our children's academic and developmental growth is not a way to improve a budget or our future. Please go to bat for our kids and keep them at the forefront of your decision making. Keep class sizes small and our great educators with our children at their current levels.

Sincerely,

Kristen Farina

(My husband and I are graduates of Howard County Schools K-12 and we worked hard to insure our children were educated in this county as we had faith in the system which helped us, please keep the schools a top priority)

Sayers, Margery

From: J J <jerry@jje.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 7:54 AM
To: BOE@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Save music program for our kids

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello all,

As parents of music students were are utterly astonished and appalled at the proposed budget cut to elementary school music education. This is not the first time that the HCPSS has been in the position of cutting programs or staffing to meet the allotted budget. It seems like every year treasured programs and important educational staff are cut to meet an increasingly tight budget while continuing to attempt past debt reconciliation.

County Council members must help the HCPSS by finding a way to fund important programs this year. Then, they must do the difficult job of assessing the revenue stream. It is unacceptable to slice important music programs to balance the budget. These programs are unique and cannot be easily added back into a budget once they are gone. Our talented staff will be forced to find alternative employment and our younger students will lose years of education while the level of music is catastrophically destroyed in our system.

Sincerely
Jerry

Sayers, Margery

From: Brandie Vassor <brandievassor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 7:43 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HELP HCPSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS!!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Reduction of the any kind of program that benefit the children/students of HCPSS is a horrible decision. Each program gives children a chance to learn, experience and grow in a way that otherwise would not be possible. Most children do not have an environment nor the means outside of school to grow in most of these areas. Having access to music, G/T math and help from Paraeducators support the growth of children which in turn helps the community and our school system as a whole. For example, when my daughter was in 3rd grade was hesitant about playing an instrument, but her teacher encouraged her to 'try it', well she struggled and stuck with it. Not only did she receive help from the school with a loaner instrument, but she even missed recess to practice. Now she loves it! She is in the 4th grade, still playing viola and even taught herself how to play various pop culture songs. She would NOT have been able to learn to read sheet music nor thought of playing an instrument in the 1st place. The work and dedication of teachers is priceless, the results of the concerts and county ratings are what they are because of the teachers having the funds to do all they can to make Howard County what it is.

Thank you,

Brandie Vassor

Sayers, Margery

From: Angela <angelagbrunner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 12:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Hcpss budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

The hcpss is entertaining the idea of cutting the elementary instrumental music program. Please consider providing hcpss the revenue needed so that this does not happen. The elementary instrumental music program is truly amazing. It is one of the best things that my family has experienced in the schools. It helps makes the system exceptional.

Thank you,
Angela Brunner

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: kpetty79@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 11:53 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org
Subject: Concerns About Howard County's Budget, Especially As It Relates to HCPSS' Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Executive Ball, County Council Members, Board of Education Members, and Superintendent Martirano:

My husband and I moved to Howard County 15 years ago with the plans of starting a family. Although we were both raised and educated in Montgomery County, we purposely chose Howard County because of the excellent reputation of its schools. Now that we have children in elementary school, I must say we have been disappointed by what we have experienced thus far. The teachers' morale has always seemed low and it seems that the schools are lacking in resources. We were hopeful that teacher morale would increase after former Superintendent Foose's exit. While the teachers appear receptive to Superintendent Martirano and he has made positive changes, the morale continues to suffer because of the constant threat of budget cuts, surplussing of teachers, and elimination of necessary resources and programs brought on by the lack of funding by the county.

Over the last few weeks or so, we have been following the hearings concerning the county's budget, especially as it relates to the money allotted to the school system. We were incredibly disappointed to hear that one of the proposals to accommodate the lack of full funding requested by HCPSS was to increase class sizes. Presently, my children are at an elementary school that has over 940 students, requiring 8-10 portables to accommodate them all. This means that each child's class size is already very large and my older child is "sprinkled" into related arts classes. As it stands now, I have no idea how my children are able to get the quality education advertised by HCPSS with such large classes. If you increase class size even more, I am greatly concerned that my children will become just a number and that they will fail to get individualized assistance from the teacher when necessary. Further, I do not understand how you can expect teachers to reach all of the students in the classroom and effectively teach them the curriculum. This seems like an unworkable proposal that will ultimately lead to many disappointed residents questioning why they moved to this county in the first place. I think you will also find that our quality teachers will ultimately leave their jobs and move on to something less stressful.

I am also disappointed to hear that the school is considering cutting the GT programs and surplussing GT teachers at the elementary level. If you shrink the GT program, I think it will negatively impact HCPSS' reputation. From what I understand, the GT curriculum is not something that can be easily absorbed by the homeroom teachers. Thus, you will hurt teacher morale again as they are forced to take on more kids and more complicated curriculum with less resources. This equation is not conducive to a positive and supporting learning environment that exemplifies the caliber of students in this county.

At the end of the day, the County Executive, the County Council, the Board of Education and the Superintendent need to come together and figure out how to balance the budget so that the kids will not suffer further. Please think outside of the box and consider what needs to be done to not only balance the budget now, but also what is needed for the future so this untenable situation is not repeated every single year for years to come. For instance, the County Executive and County Council need to focus on recovering more money from developers in our county that can be passed on to the schools. The County needs to stop allowing exceptions for developers to build in areas where the schools have reached capacity. It is unconscionable that the County has allowed overdevelopment which in turn has caused a lot of the overcrowding and underfunding problems we see in the schools. The unchecked development has also caused a lack of infrastructure to support the increased population caused by the developers' desire to build on every green space. The constant uncertainty in this county as to whether it will have enough money to fund the county resources and programs, including its schools, is going to cause residents to flee to cheaper counties where class sizes are smaller, especially if Howard County residents do not feel they are getting the value of their very high property taxes. While those neighboring counties may not presently have as good of a reputation as HCPSS, their smaller class sizes where kids get individualized assistance is growing more appealing by the day.

My husband and I are watching how you handle these issues. We do not vote party lines or for incumbents simply because their name is familiar. Rather, we cast our vote based on what you have done to improve Howard County, especially the schools. We hope that you will focus your efforts on improving Howard County and not let special interests persuade you to take actions detrimental to its residents, including its youngest residents, the children.

Thank you for your time.

/s/

Katy and Derek Petty
6935 Newberry Dr.
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: natigozalo <natigozalo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:24 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: School budger

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Ball and County Council members,

I propose the Howard County Council increase funding to HCPSS to cover the negotiated salary increases, to fully fund the Health fund, to provide enough funding for staff and resources needed for expected enrollment growth without increasing class sizes, and to keep our Music program going at all levels.

As Howard County keeps growing by attracting new residents, it is imperative that we do not diminish the quality of education that has set us apart. High quality education is the single most important thing for all of us Howard county residents and all options should be looked at to not hindered its standards.

I appreciate the difficulty of balancing the budget but it is important to keep priorities clear.

Respectfully,
Natalia Gozalo
9350 Duff Ct, Ellicott City, 21042

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

Sayers, Margery

From: Ashley Ekpo <ashleyekpo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening

I am the proud parent of three children who attend Phelps Luck Elementary School. We moved to this county three years ago for the school system. It has exceeded our expectations. I'm so glad we chose to buy a home here over a neighboring county, who also invest in education.

We were very disappointed last year when foreign language instruction for young children was terminated. Not only is language development especially successful among young children but it seems germane to a community that celebrates diversity.

Now it is my understanding that the schools are facing up to a \$30 million budget cut? This was not what I voted for, what I moved to this county for. There are cheaper places to live- but we wanted to live in a community that invests in schools. The school system helps our county flourish, helps ensure a prosperous future as we invest in our youth.

My son is in 3rd grade and has been tremendously successful in cello this year. He has learned so much and is developing a great love for music. My daughter, who is in 2nd grade, has spoken all year about how excited she is to play violin next year. I now learn that 3rd grade instrumental is at risk of being cut.

What exactly do we represent in our county? Who do we want our children to become? If we want Howard County to stand out as a pillar of excellence, education and diversity then we have to invest in what matters.

I hope you will reconsider the detrimental impact these cuts would have on our students, our future, and the quality of the county as a whole.

Regards,

Ashley Ekpo

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Sara Fox <SaraMFox@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 6:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: budget cuts

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Dear Council Members,

My name is Isaac Fox. I am a student at Oakland Mills Middle School. Please don't reduce the instrumental music program. I love playing my cello. It has taught me a lot. Our instrumental teachers are already so busy and they care about us so much. If you don't make cuts to the program it would mean a lot to me.

Thank you,
Isaac Fox

Sayers, Margery

From: SHERYL GOERING <srgoering@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 7:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Concerned Howard County parent

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmen and Councilwomen,

I am writing to urge you to fund our schools. Superior education is one of the greatest assets we can give our children and the thought of cutting programs like music, or increasing class size, and reducing the quality of education for our children is not acceptable. Please, please consider the future of our country, our county, and our children and fully fund our schools.

Sincerely
Sheryl Goering
Parent of 3 current HCPSS students

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 4:19 PM
To: Danny Mackey; BoE Email
Cc: CouncilMail; Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: [External] Suggestions on the Operating Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr. Mackey:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Your email attachment will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process on the Board of Education's Requested FY 2020 Operating Budget. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing. The public is able to submit written testimony until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at BOE@hcpss.org.

Note, the Board is scheduled to have a budget work session with the County Council on Wednesday, May 15 (at the Council's Offices), and also on Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m. All meetings will be televised and web streamed live.

Once again, thank you for contacting the Board and providing valuable input.

Kind regards,

Kathy Hanks
Administrator
Board of Education
Phone: 410-313-7194
Fax: 410-313-6633
Email: kathleen_hanks@hcpss.org

From: Danny Mackey <daniel.b.mackey@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 11:03 AM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>
Cc: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Suggestions on the Operating Budget

Chair Ellis and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I write you today to suggest some unique short-term and long-term approaches to mitigating HCPSS's budget shortfall. Some of these suggestions are already part of the conversation while others are not.

Priorities within your current discussion:

- I find it prudent to focus short-term budget reductions on technology education at the elementary school level. A long-term discussion surrounding the development of a more effective technology-integrated

- curriculum should occur. In a time of budget shortages, it is wise to target reductions in areas where little curricular guidance currently exists and students are not graded on performance. This falls into a larger necessary discussion on program evaluation system-wide.
- I encourage you to find additional savings in Central Office. While I recognize that there are many hard-working individuals who perform vital support services for our School System, I have grown increasingly concerned with the number of individuals employed at the administrative level, as well as a general lack of accountability to the performance and production measures that the Central Office is held to. With many Central Office employees earning \$100,000+, I am confident another \$1-\$2 million in additional savings can be found in the short term.
- Do everything in your power to avoid the proposed cuts to elementary school music and elementary school paraeducator positions. If nothing else, we must continue to provide a well-rounded education to our students; this includes a strong music program in each elementary school. As for paraeducators, I encourage each of you to shadow one for a day, reflect upon their role in the larger school ecosystem, and then imagine our schools trying to function with half of the individuals we currently have in these positions. I know a decent para over at RBES who would be more than happy to host you for a day.
- I encourage you to find some money to pay down a portion of the Health-Fund Deficit or, at the very least, allocate dollars to health fund expenses. While I support carrying the deficit for FY2020 to avoid large impacts to our schools, I find it prudent to show taxpayers a good-faith effort to close this gap – think of it as making the minimum payment on our credit card.

Suggestions outside your current discussion:

- Short-term: If not done so already, in Program 0301 eliminate the three new proposed positions for FY2020.
- Long-term: There are 19 individuals in the Communications Department and 4 in the Budget Department. If you want to prioritize solving the budget crisis that occurs year after year make these numbers align with that priority.
- Long-term: As an extension to my earlier points regarding paraeducators I encourage you to look to our neighbors in Frederick County to sustain current staffing levels while reducing the financial burden on the school system. Currently in HCPSS our 0.5 para positions receive full benefits. This is not sustainable. FCPS employs two types of paraeducators/instructional assistants: benefited and non-benefited. Typically 0.5 positions, the non-benefited positions are filled by retired teachers who wish to stay connected to the schools or other individuals not requiring benefits. I encourage a discussion with our colleagues at FCPS to explore implementing a similar structure within HCPSS.
- Long-term: The timing of our negotiations with the Howard County Education Association (HCEA) is not conducive to forward-thinking budgeting. As it stands we agree to salary steps/increases prior to knowing the levels of funding we can expect from County authorities for the coming school year. We need to shift our negotiation calendar to after the budget process to not continuously commit funds we may not receive and limit options for budget adjustments. If multi-year deals are made this information needs to be shared with the County. It is inconsiderate to our educators to negotiate agreements that are subject to change based on available funding and the current process breeds budget insecurity (\$27 million committed this year with severe budget shortfalls at play). Without knowing funding levels HCPSS cannot continue to negotiate in good faith. Settling on a budget prior to negotiating with HCEA is necessary going forward.

So many of you campaigned on strengthening this school system and encouraged the people of Howard County to dream big on what we could do with HCPSS. I understand we are in a difficult situation. We must make systemic adjustments and implement long-term goals to reduce the burden budget discussions place on our community each year. With more predictability we can focus on the hard work of improving the opportunities provided to our students.

If I think of more recommendations I will not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

In Service,

Danny Mackey

Education Advocate

Graduate of Wilde Lake High School, 2012

Candidate for Howard County Board of Education, 2018

Sayers, Margery

From: Sara Fox <SaraMFox@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 2:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: proposed budget cuts

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Dear Council Members,

My name is Sara Fox and both of my children go to Howard County Public Schools. I am writing today to tell you how beneficial the elementary orchestra program has been for our family and urge you to protect this wonderful program from budget cuts.

My husband and I decided to move to Howard County when we were married because we knew the schools were some of the best in the country. Both of my children attended Thunder Hill Elementary School and both started strings in the third grade. I was blown away by the quality of the instruction and the dedication of the orchestra/band teachers. I've always said that the orchestra/band director are the busiest and hardest working teachers in the county. I don't know how they do it-but what they do is incredible. Allowing our children to start playing in the orchestra at such a young age is amazing. My son is now in middle school and he is still playing the cello, which he loves. My daughter is in her last year of elementary school and plans to continue the viola in middle school.

You have such a tough job. I know making budget decisions is incredibly difficult. I just wanted you to hear how much my family values the orchestra program and urge you to keep it funded. Our county has one of the best music programs in the country. Let's keep it that way!

Thank you for your work to make Howard County the best place to live.

Sincerely,
Sara Fox

Sayers, Margery

From: Danny Mackey <daniel.b.mackey@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 11:03 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Suggestions on the Operating Budget
Attachments: HCPSS_BOE_FY2020-BudgetSuggestions.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Chair Ellis and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I write you today to suggest some unique short-term and long-term approaches to mitigating HCPSS's budget shortfall. Some of these suggestions are already part of the conversation while others are not.

Priorities within your current discussion:

- I find it prudent to focus short-term budget reductions on technology education at the elementary school level. A long-term discussion surrounding the development of a more effective technology-integrated curriculum should occur. In a time of budget shortages, it is wise to target reductions in areas where little curricular guidance currently exists and students are not graded on performance. This falls into a larger necessary discussion on program evaluation system-wide.
- I encourage you to find additional savings in Central Office. While I recognize that there are many hard-working individuals who perform vital support services for our School System, I have grown increasingly concerned with the number of individuals employed at the administrative level, as well as a general lack of accountability to the performance and production measures that the Central Office is held to. With many Central Office employees earning \$100,000+, I am confident another \$1-\$2 million in additional savings can be found in the short term.
- Do everything in your power to avoid the proposed cuts to elementary school music and elementary school paraeducator positions. If nothing else, we must continue to provide a well-rounded education to our students; this includes a strong music program in each elementary school. As for paraeducators, I encourage each of you to shadow one for a day, reflect upon their role in the larger school ecosystem, and then imagine our schools trying to function with half of the individuals we currently have in these positions. I know a decent para over at RBES who would be more than happy to host you for a day.
- I encourage you to find some money to pay down a portion of the Health-Fund Deficit or, at the very least, allocate dollars to health fund expenses. While I support carrying the deficit for FY2020 to avoid large impacts to our schools, I find it prudent to show taxpayers a good-faith effort to close this gap – think of it as making the minimum payment on our credit card.

Suggestions outside your current discussion:

- Short-term: If not done so already, in Program 0301 eliminate the three new proposed positions for FY2020.
- Long-term: There are 19 individuals in the Communications Department and 4 in the Budget Department. If you want to prioritize solving the budget crisis that occurs year after year make these numbers align with that priority.
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benefited positions are filled by retired teachers who wish to stay connected to the schools or other individuals not requiring benefits. I encourage a discussion with our colleagues at FCPS to explore implementing a similar structure within HCPSS.

- Long-term: The timing of our negotiations with the Howard County Education Association (HCEA) is not conducive to forward-thinking budgeting. As it stands we agree to salary steps/increases prior to knowing the levels of funding we can expect from County authorities for the coming school year. We need to shift our negotiation calendar to after the budget process to not continuously commit funds we may not receive and limit options for budget adjustments. If multi-year deals are made this information needs to be shared with the County. It is inconsiderate to our educators to negotiate agreements that are subject to change based on available funding and the current process breeds budget insecurity (\$27 million committed this year with severe budget shortfalls at play). Without knowing funding levels HCPSS cannot continue to negotiate in good faith. Settling on a budget prior to negotiating with HCEA is necessary going forward.

So many of you campaigned on strengthening this school system and encouraged the people of Howard County to dream big on what we could do with HCPSS. I understand we are in a difficult situation. We must make systemic adjustments and implement long-term goals to reduce the burden budget discussions place on our community each year. With more predictability we can focus on the hard work of improving the opportunities provided to our students.

If I think of more recommendations I will not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

In Service,

Danny Mackey

Education Advocate

Graduate of Wilde Lake High School, 2012

Candidate for Howard County Board of Education, 2018

Daniel Mackey
4273 Coattail Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042



Howard County Board of Education
10910 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042

May 9th, 2019

Chair Ellis and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I write you today to suggest some unique short-term and long-term approaches to mitigating HCPSS's budget shortfall. Some of these suggestions are already part of the conversation while others are not.

Priorities within your current discussion:

- I find it prudent to focus short-term budget reductions on technology education at the elementary school level. A long-term discussion surrounding the development of a more effective technology-integrated curriculum should occur. In a time of budget shortages, it is wise to target reductions in areas where little curricular guidance currently exists and students are not graded on performance. This falls into a larger necessary discussion on program evaluation system-wide.
- I encourage you to find additional savings in Central Office. While I recognize that there are many hard-working individuals who perform vital support services for our School System, I have grown increasingly concerned with the number of individuals employed at the administrative level, as well as a general lack of accountability to the performance and production measures that the Central Office is held to. With many Central Office employees earning \$100,000+, I am confident another \$1-\$2 million in additional savings can be found in the short term.
- Do everything in your power to avoid the proposed cuts to elementary school music and elementary school paraeducator positions. If nothing else, we must continue to provide a well-rounded education to our students; this includes a strong music program in each elementary school. As for paraeducators, I encourage each of you to shadow one for a day, reflect upon their role in the larger school ecosystem, and then imagine our schools trying to function with half of the individuals we currently have in these positions. I know a decent para over at RBES who would be more than happy to host you for a day.
- I encourage you to find some money to pay down a portion of the Health-Fund Deficit or, at the very least, allocate dollars to health fund expenses. While I support carrying the deficit for FY2020 to avoid large impacts to our schools, I find it prudent to show taxpayers a good-faith effort to close this gap – think of it as making the minimum payment on our credit card.

Suggestions outside your current discussion:

- Short-term: If not done so already, in Program 0301 eliminate the three new proposed positions for FY2020.
- Long-term: There are 19 individuals in the Communications Department and 4 in the Budget Department. If you want to prioritize solving the budget crisis that occurs year after year make these numbers align with that priority.
- Long-term: As an extension to my earlier points regarding paraeducators I encourage you to look to our neighbors in Frederick County to sustain current staffing levels while reducing the

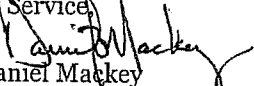
financial burden on the school system. Currently in HCPSS our 0.5 para positions receive full benefits. This is not sustainable. FCPS employs two types of paraeducators/instructional assistants: benefited and non-benefited. Typically 0.5 positions, the non-benefited positions are filled by retired teachers who wish to stay connected to the schools or other individuals not requiring benefits. I encourage a discussion with our colleagues at FCPS to explore implementing a similar structure within HCPSS.

- Long-term: The timing of our negotiations with the Howard County Education Association (HCEA) is not conducive to forward-thinking budgeting. As it stands we agree to salary steps/increases prior to knowing the levels of funding we can expect from County authorities for the coming school year. We need to shift our negotiation calendar to after the budget process to not continuously commit funds we may not receive and limit options for budget adjustments. If multi-year deals are made this information needs to be shared with the County. It is inconsiderate to our educators to negotiate agreements that are subject to change based on available funding and the current process breeds budget insecurity (\$27 million committed this year with severe budget shortfalls at play). Without knowing funding levels HCPSS cannot continue to negotiate in good faith. Settling on a budget prior to negotiating with HCEA is necessary going forward.

So many of you campaigned on strengthening this school system and encouraged the people of Howard County to dream big on what we could do with HCPSS. I understand we are in a difficult situation. We must make systemic adjustments and implement long-term goals to reduce the burden budget discussions place on our community each year. With more predictability we can focus on the hard work of improving the opportunities provided to our students.

If I think of more recommendations I will not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

In Service,



Daniel Mackey
Education Advocate

Graduate of Wilde Lake High School, 2012

Candidate for Howard County Board of Education, 2018

Council Resolution 55-2019

Introduced: May 6, 2019

LA: Lynne Rosen

Legislative Intent: This Resolution would approve the appointment of Michael McPherson to the Commission on Aging.

ANALYSIS

Who would be replaced by the nominee? Andrew Monjan

Is that person still actively serving? Yes. His term of office expires in May.

Is that person eligible for reappointment? The Commission on Aging advised that Mr. Monjan was cycling off, and there is a vacancy.

If eligible for reappointment, does that person wish to continue to serve? See above.

If the board has specific qualifications for different members, where the nominee fits in that mix.

Section 12.501 of the County Code provides that the Commission on Aging shall be composed of no more than 15 members. The qualifications of the members are as follows:

- (1) All members shall be residents of Howard County.
- (2) A majority of members of the Commission shall be at least 55 years old.
- (3) Members shall be selected because of their interest in the problems of the aging and shall be broadly representative of the citizens of the County.

Mr. McPherson is at least 55 years of age.

<https://www.thebeaconnewspapers.com/proud-to-be-a-political-activist/>

Sayers, Margery

From: Matthew Bucksell <matthew.bucksell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:42 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council and Board of Education,

Please consider increasing HCPSS' budget for FY 2020. I believe this will better serve the needs of all children, especially the marginalized communities that need special attention and care. If we want Howard County to remain one of the top school systems in the country, the children themselves should be the priority in achieving that goal and subsequently be an example for others. Increasing HCPSS' funding will enable schools to hire more staff charged with helping the schools meet their goals and supporting the current staff in providing them with the resources they need and have asked for to succeed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matthew Bucksell
Columbia, MD Resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 7:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Concerns

From: Kallie Beem <KALLIE_BEEM@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:21 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget Concerns

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I am an elementary school teacher for HCPSS. I am very concerned since learning about a major budget gap which could impact our vital human resources and support. Increasing class sizes would be devastating. We are already struggling to meet the needs of all of our diverse learners. We cannot afford to be spread more thin. Academic achievement would certainly suffer, as well as teacher morale. A decrease in support would result in safety issues as well. We need adequate materials and supplies in order to deliver effective instruction. I urge you to bridge your budget gaps by other means. Our students deserve better and it is the reason you were elected. Thank you for your consideration.

Kallie Beem
KALLIE_BEEM@hcpss.org
2109 Knights Squire Rd
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 7:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Teachers

From: Zack Krasney <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:12 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Teachers

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Our teachers, schools, and students deserve the best. We're one of the wealthiest counties in the country. It's crazy to think that we can't support our community better than this. Do better.

Zack Krasney
zkrasney@gmail.com
1101 Marksworth Rd
Gwynn Oak, Maryland 21207

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: BOE please STOP increasing class size

From: Lauren Kleinman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:49 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: BOE please STOP increasing class size

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Please protect our students and the strong educational system we have in the county by either maintaining or reducing class-size, NOT increasing!!

BOE must do More to maintain the quality of education the county is known for

Lauren Kleinman
laoliner@yahoo.com
7021 Long View Rd
Columbia , Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:34 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Our children deserve more

From: Cristina Mabry <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:43 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Our children deserve more

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Good morning,

I write to you today to please increase the budget for schools to bring class size down and hire more teachers.

Our children deserve more individualized attention that they cannot receive with large class sizes. While I understand it's not the same but can you imagine having 26 five year olds in your house as a parent? How are teachers supposed to give the attention, caring and discipline that these children need all while creating a nurturing learning environment? Howard county is known for their schools. Please do not let us begin this road to becoming one of the many failing school systems.

Thank you

Cristina Mabry

Cristina Mabry
cmabry02@gmail.com
5505 Tang place
Columbia , Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:20 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Class Size

From: Sara Hammer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:43 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Class Size

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Hello- I am a constituent and have two children who attend HCPSS schools- one in elementary and one in middle. Both of my kids have 504 plans and large class sizes make learning even more challenging. At the size increase suggested at the meeting last night, I question whether anyone will be able to access the general education curriculum. This increase in class size is negligent and harmful. Please reconsider this decision. If class size can't be reduced, at least keep it where it is. Don't let it get worse on your watch. Thank you.

Sara Hammer
hammersa@gmail.com
2130 Bexley Drive
Woodstock , Maryland 21163

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:16 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Kelley Flesher <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:38 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Dear Council Members,

Our school system is the crown jewel of Howard County. We are consistently ranked as a high performing school system which draws families and other businesses to our county. If class sizes increase our children will suffer and families will make the difficult decision to no longer choose Howard County or to move. I know that my husband and I moved to Howard County specifically for the schools.

Our schools are already at a breaking point with teachers being asked to control too many students at once. Increasing class sizes is unfair to our hard working teachers and robs children of valuable education time. It is very difficult for a teacher to create a bond with her students and really get to know them in such large groups.

Teachers are society's safety net. They recognize students who are struggling educationally, socially, or at home. Teachers are the most important support that many students have. Increasing class sizes will negatively impact the teacher student relationship.

Increasing class sizes will create safety issues of too many children in classrooms which is especially dangerous in emergency situations.

Properly funding education and supporting our teachers is our most important priority in Howard County as our school system is the foundation of our county.

Please act in support of our teachers, schools, and most importantly our students.

Sincerely,
Kelley Flesher

Kelley Flesher
kelleyflesher@yahoo.com
8340 Glenmar Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:15 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Do not increase class sizes

From: Tanya Roche <tanyaspann.roche@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:36 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Do not increase class sizes

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Howard County needs to get its act together. We have such a high tax base in this county - why on earth are we increasing school class sizes? The county council, county executive and school board need to work together to help our kids instead of hurting them. Our elected officials need to significantly increase the amount of money that developers pay for impact fees (like Montgomery County does), reduce or at least not increase administrative costs, and pass the burden of other county improvements like renovation to Merriweather Post on to event ticket purchasers rather than to our students. If Howard County wants to continue to attract high income residents with its "world class" schools, then our elected officials need to stop making our school system worse. A class size of 35 kids in grades 6-12 is ridiculous! How can a teacher teach and a child learn in that crowded environment? Stop giving the developers free reign to build expensive houses without the appropriately expensive impact fees. How can we live in one of the richest counties and always be in a budget shortfall when it comes to our schools? The only reason people want to live here is for the schools - work on making them better, not worse!

Tanya Roche
tanyaspann.roche@verizon.net
8425 Shears Ct
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:12 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School funding

From: Rebecca Carter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:29 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: School funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I believe that class size limitations are essential for maintaining the strength of the school system. Do not sacrifice our children's learning by increasing class sizes.

Rebecca Carter
rebeccacarter83@gmail.com
2505 River Ridge Trail
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:08 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Size

From: Karen Jablon <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:25 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class Size

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I understand that we are having issues with the budget. I STRONGLY urge you to get into classrooms and talk to TEACHERS, paras and the KIDS about the impact of class size. As a teacher, I CANNOT do my job properly with 30 kids in a class much less 33. Even with a parent volunteer coming in most days a week, I am unable to meet with half of my students over the course of a week. How am I supposed to get to know them well enough to meet their needs? This doesn't even mention grading papers, meetings etc. Our kids are going to suffer and the great school system we boast about is going to quickly go down hill.

Karen Jablon
kjabajab@yahoo.com
2373 Ballard Way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:07 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Reduced class sizes and less staff

From: Angela Swann <a.wswann@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:23 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Reduced class sizes and less staff

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Dear Christiana Rigby, You came to my house last year when you were seeking election and spoke to my husband. It was a great conversation and we agreed on your platform, and votes for you. I am now asking that you help make sure that our school system isn't hindered by reducing class sizes and staff. I raised both my daughters in this County and now they are both teachers here. I volunteer in their classrooms and see what happens with increased class sizes. There are more children in the room than there are desks. Also, trying to manage classes of 29 middle schoolers in one room is a challenge to both the teachers and students, who have trouble learning in such a crowded classroom! This County has always been known as a great place to live, because of the school system, and crowded classrooms, with less staff, does not bode well for that reputation. Please remember your campaign promises to help maintain the reputation of the education system by not reducing the staff and increasing class sizes-our children, and teachers are already so challenged! I appreciate your thoughtfulness on helping to make the best decision for our students and staff.

Angela Swann
a.wswann@verizon.net
10006 Hackberry Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Laura Mettle <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:22 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Hello,

My family moved to Howard County in 1985 for the high quality of the public schools. My three children attended and graduated from Howard County Public Schools. I have worked for as a special education teacher at Wilde Lake Middle for 15 years. When I first started teaching, the student/teacher ratio was 20:1 in HCPSS middle schools. This budget calls for a ratio of 35:1. That's an unacceptable increase. Our brand new academic classrooms do not have space for 35 students in them (at least not without new furniture), if we are to have space to walk around the room, and if the teacher has a small desk and a chair to sit in during the day. I co-teach English to students who need a great deal of individual attention. My partner teachers and I would not be able to check in with all the students who need help during a typical class period when they're working on an assignment; there simply would not be enough time. Student misbehavior increases as class sizes increase, which further detracts from instruction. Grading 35 essays well can take hours of a teacher's personal time. At about 5 minutes an essay, you're talking 6 hours per class. Multiply that times 5 classes, and a good English teacher might spend 30 hours, outside of school hours, grading a single assignment for their classes, because they might have 175 students. Computer carts come with only 30 laptops, if they all work. Thirty-five students per class is way too many.

Laura Mettle
ldmettle@yahoo.com

. 3320 Daisy Road
Woodbine , Maryland 21797

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 6:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Meredith Yakscoe-Markle <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:17 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget Needs

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Dear Council Members,

I am a twelve year veteran teacher in HCPSS. Over the years I have seen our school district rise to national rankings and is identified as one of the top school districts in the nation. I am proud to be a teacher for this county. However, I have also experienced the motto of "Do more with less."

Increasing class size will exacerbate an already difficult situation. Teachers are expected to teach a rigorous curriculum, become counselors who are able to identify social and emotional needs/crises and be able to intervene, teach core values, and reach every student so we can make a difference. We are to teach small groups and whole group lessons with less time due to student pull out groups and schedule conflicts. I am to conduct science investigations without enough materials for my already large class size. I am not even able to comfortably fit 30 fifth graders in my class and also have space to meet for small groups.

Students are suffering the worst. For the past three years I have personally seen an alarming increase in mental health concerns with my students. They are stressed. They are dealing with conflicts at home that are directly affecting their ability to focus at school. My main concern is their emotional well-being. I simply cannot help these suffering students if the class size increases. It is impossible. We are asking more of these students without giving them an adequate support system to help them. It is appalling. The teachers and guidance counselors

are the ones who are "putting out the fires" everyday and we don't have enough water to do so.

I was Charlotte Zaremba and Sean Crizer's teacher when they were in third grade at Waterloo. I was Albert Yin's teacher when he was a fifth grader at Bushy Park. I have been a confidant to students who feel they have no way out. Fridays are the worst days for these increases in self-harm threats. Students know they are going home and won't be at school which they consider their safe spot. I lay awake on the weekends hoping I don't get a call that a student has harmed themselves. I am sick and tired of going to funerals for kids. I am afraid this increase will lead to a direct correlation with increase in suicidal tendencies because I simply won't be able to connect with them due to more students in my class.

Please help our students. Thank you.

Meredith Yakscoe-Markle

Meredith Yakscoe-Markle
myakscoemarkle@gmail.com
6693 Rockridge Place
New Market, Maryland 21774

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:57 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School staffing

From: Joanne Grabowski <joanne.grabowski@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:12 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: School staffing

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I am a Special Education teacher for HCPSS. This has been a very difficult year for education. I have been stretched so thin when servicing my students. When students are struggling to keep up with their peers, they often do not know how to express themselves. Aggressive behaviors increase when this happens.

I worry about the safety of all children and staff. This past quarter, I have experience violent behaviors from three students. One student hit me in my face and I was sent to urgent care. When students become aggressive, other student don't get the help they need. It just spirals. Having increased classroom sizes would not help this situation.

I spend a lot of my own money to make sure I have teaching materials that are engaging for my unique population of student. Every special education teacher has a unique caseload.

This past election period brought hope for me as the people running spoke of putting education high on the priority list. It does not seem that promises have been kept. If we want to maintain our reputation of one of the best school system, we have to have the funding to maintain out high standards. We lose great teachers to other counties because they pay more.

I work in a very positive school environment. We want the best for our students. The subject of staffing has brought down morale. This has an impact on everyone in the school: staff,

students, and families. Please consider funding our schools so increase class sizes don't have to be a result of lack of funding.

Joanne Grabowski

joanne.grabowski@verizon.net

6678 Washington Blvd

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:56 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Five Year Olds

From: Melissa Gallo <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:03 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Five Year Olds

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Hello,

There are so many expectations on our five year olds in this county. Parents and preschool educators have worked tirelessly to prepare our children for kindergarten. What will the county do to ensure our kids meet expectations? We need excellent teachers and small class sizes!

Melissa Gallo

Melissa Gallo

Msgallo33@aol.com

old Willow way

ELLICOTT CITY, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Hope Kassman <hope@kasconinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:00 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Let's keep HCPSS one of the best in our he country. What could possibly be more important than the education of our children?

Hope Kassman
hope@kasconinc.com
Evening shadows court
Clarksville, Maryland 21029

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Erika Reigle <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:57 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

My daughter will be going into first next year at Fulton. We've already experienced the budget shortfall in the scaling back of afterschool care but losing quality teachers and increasing class size is ridiculous. Howard County is a wealthy county in part because professionals like me choose it due to the schools. Please prioritize the schools.

Erika Reigle
ereigle@mac.com
8145 westside
Fulton, Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Teacher surpluses

From: Allison Downey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:47 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Teacher surpluses

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

This is not okay. You need to approve the budget and get class sizes down.

Allison Downey
anw302@gmail.com
9562 Red Apple Ln
Columbia, Maryland 21046-2044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Teacher ratio

From: Emily Arker <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:44 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Teacher ratio

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Please consider the importance of appropriate student- teacher ratios in Howard County schools.

I am a school psychologist and have worked in several nearby counties. I have seen firsthand how student-teacher ratios are one of the most important factors for student success.

When a teacher has too large of a class, academic and behavior issues often emerge that could have been prevented. If managed the wrong way, this can then lead to more children being identified with educational disabilities such as Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and ADHD, when their needs are not met through good Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction. It actually costs more money to educate a child with an IEP with special education needs than to be preventative in the general classroom setting.

Sincerely,

Emily Arker
School Psychologist and Mom

Emily Arker
ebecker_84@yahoo.com

3895 Woodville
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increasing Class Sizes in Elementary School

From: Keva Ballard <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:43 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increasing Class Sizes in Elementary School

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Dear County Council,

I am deeply concerned with the increase in the total amount of students in each classroom. Also, I am concerned with the decrease in the teaching staff. While the county thinks this is for the better of students, it is not. Students will not be able to receive the extra support in all subjects because of the crowded classrooms. Also, students academic scores and learning ability extremely will go down. It is not safe to have that many students in one class. Furthermore, I am in favor to retract the language Arts class that was offered but then taken away to students due to a budget. My children found that class helpful to communicate with other students and helpful to be prepared in middle and high school. I am concerned with the direction of Howard County Public School System. Please do not increase the classroom sizes out children will benefit. They are our future. Let's help make the classroom sizes better for the teaching staff not worse. Thank you.

Keva Ballard
kevaballard@gmail.com
9215 Bridle Path Ln Unit A
Laurel, Maryland 20723-1550

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding HCPSS

From: Ammoría Shewchuk <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:37 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding HCPSS

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Hello,

I am writing about the current budget needs of the Howard County Public School System. The biggest problem teachers face everyday is not having enough time to give their students the personal attention they need to thrive. With 30 students in each homeroom, there is not enough time to form personal connections and check-in daily with every student they teach. With growing concerns about students' social and emotional well-being, we must have decreased class sizes. The biggest way to enable teachers to impact students' social and emotional well-being is to have less students in all classes. The only way to make this possible is to increase funding to hire more teachers. Schools would also benefit from having more than one school guidance counselor and school psychologist to help impact students' mental health and well-being in ways that classroom teachers cannot. This also requires increased funding to hire these support staff.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ammoria Shewchuk
amashe@ gmail.com
10926 Hammond Drive
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: We need your support!

From: Meaghan Liwosz <Meaghan_Liwosz@HCPSS.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:36 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: We need your support!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I have been a teacher for 12 years in Howard County and each year another hurdle is put in place for us to serve and create an environment that facilitates a safe, creative learning space. We need smaller class sizes and adequate resources for the changing, diverse needs of the communities that we work with. Your decisions to cut funding directly impacts the students, the ones that we all have dedicated our lives to serving. We as teachers go to work day in and day out because we want to do what is best for our children, but the decisions being made are making us do our jobs-NEAR IMPOSSIBLE!

Meaghan Liwosz
Meaghan_Liwosz@HCPSS.org
6501 Ducketts Lane
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fully fund staffing for schools 2019-2020

From: Stacie Marvin <stacie_marvin@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:23 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fully fund staffing for schools 2019-2020

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

As a former HCPSS student, and current parent and teacher in HCPSS, I greatly value the quality and commitment of the staff and teachers of HCPSS. Not only do I work hard every day for students in my own classroom, but I trust my own children to other HCPSS faculty and staff. For the 45 years I've been involved with HCPSS, the stellar teachers and committed staff members are what make HCPSS excellent and the envy of other systems throughout the country.

I'm begging you to fully fund our teachers and support staff so that we can continue to do what's best for the children of Howard County every day.

Stacie Marvin
stacie_marvin@hcpss.org
11725 Stonegate Ln
Columbia, Maryland 21044-4364

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Room Size

From: Debbie Mead <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:01 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class Room Size

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

To Whom It May Concern,

The kindergarten class should not be enlarged. Children need to learn and if there are too many students it will cause disruption to their learning. Children should be able to have individual attention when needed if there are over 26 children in a class the teacher would not be able to assist a student due to how many children are in the class.

Thank you,

Debbie Mead

Debbie Mead

dmead98@yahoo.com

4811 Shady Path Place Apt E

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:34 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Jen Johannes <jennifer_johannes@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:01 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class size

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

As a HoCo parent and HoCo teacher I beg you, please don't increase class size. I don't want my daughter in even bigger classes and working at Oakland Mills Middle, the rooms are so small I can't even walk around with the kids I have crammed in my tiny room. I worked for 15 years in AACPS and seen that underfunding education makes a school system slowly slide into mediocrity as was the case on Anne Arundel County. Please don't increase our class size.

Jen Johannes
jennifer_johannes@hcpss.org
8213 Tyson Rd
Ellicott Coty, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Size

From: Jill Lieberman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 2:59 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class Size

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

As an HCPSS teacher, I'm very concerned about the increase in class sizes. I teach kindergarten and currently have 24 students. I can't imagine adding 2-3 more per class. At the beginning of the year, our newest students need lots of individual love and attention as they make a huge adjustment in their little lives. Larger class sizes will make it harder for teachers to provide this support to their students.

Jill Lieberman
jlieberman25@gmail.com
Quarry Bridge
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS 2019-2020 Budget

From: Jessica Cummings <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:20 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS 2019-2020 Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I am music teacher currently out on leave as well as a parent to an incoming kindergartener to HCPSS. I was extremely disappointed to hear about the new budget cuts for the 2019-2020 school year. I recognize that you are given a difficult task when given a finite amount of money that you need to budget and allocate. I also recognize that there are many worthwhile things in which to allocate those funds. However, increasing class size is not the way to fix a budget shortfall. A kindergarten teacher takes a group of students with an extremely wide range of abilities and needs to individually assess each of those students. Increasing the class size increases that teacher's work load and ability to differentiate and independently work with each child. One of whom will be my child. Increasing class sizes in high school eliminates certain elective classes that provide for a well rounded education. It eliminates additional top level classes that could affect a student's college and career trajectory. In cutting staff members, you remove the teachers who could teach these additional classes and you limit the HCPSS's student's educational experience. Increasing class sizes puts additional stress and responsibilities upon teachers without additional planning time or classroom time to compensate for the additional students. Imagine a scenario with twenty-six five year olds in one classroom, six of whom know their letters and numbers but can't sound out words, six can add and subtract but can't write clearly, another six can read books, and the other eight are just identifying how to count and sight words. Then

add in bathroom breaks, typical five year old energy and a classroom that can't really accommodate the number of kids moving around very comfortably. While I know you have difficult decisions to make, one of the reasons people move to Howard County and pay higher taxes is because of the schools. If you do not fund schools in a way that shows your value of education, these same people may look elsewhere.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I value what you are doing and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cummings

Jessica Cummings
jlcummings11@gmail.com
10682 Hillingdon Rd.
Woodstock, Maryland 21163

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:25 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Cutting Teachers

From: Amanda Eriksen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:17 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Cutting Teachers

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Cutting teachers and adding to overall classroom sizes is not what brought us to Howard County 10 years ago. We have dedicated teachers who enrich our children everyday.
FIND ANOTHER WAY.

Amanda Eriksen
Aderiksen8@gmail.com
7772 Mayfair Circle
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Hcpss Budget

From: Brett Moore <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:14 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Hcpss Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Good Evening,

I support fully funding Howard county public schools.

Sincerely,

Brett Moore

Brett Moore

brett.p.moore@gmail.com

7302 Shady Glen Dr

Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:59 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: No one's best interest

From: Lauren Konick <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:30 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: No one's best interest

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I am a 1st grade teacher and a parent in HCPSS. When we were informed of the decision for the staffing cuts and the larger classroom numbers I was worried and angered. Getting to know our students is the county push, but how can we truly know each of our student and their changing needs if we keep adding to the numbers?! When they say 27 is the max in 1st, that isn't really the max. Each of the 4 teachers would have to have over that number in order to finally add another teacher. If you start the year out at 26-27, then as new students roll in, we would all be over that 27 as the year goes on (this happened several years ago when we were departmentalized). 2 more bodies doesn't sound like a lot, but when you are expected to teach no more than 6 kids in a reading group and only have time for 4 reading groups a day, it doesn't add up! That makes for less time to conference with children during writing, more bodies in the 2 group math model that is preferred by the MSTs, and more paperwork and report cards for the teachers.

I am fearful for the impact this will have on my students, my children, and my own stress and health. Please reconsider this decision. It will have a HUGE ripple effect felt by all!

Thank you,
Lauren Konick

Lauren Konick
llovell04@gmail.com

7925 Brightlight Place
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Margaret Martin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:27 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class size

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I donut support the increase in class size.

Margaret Martin
maggieandbrettmartin@yahoo.com
4388 Doncaster drive
Ellicott city , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Shylce Nelson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:23 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class sizes

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Please increase funding to keep class sizes down. All home development needs to stop until the schools can be made to accommodate without over crowding a classroom.

Shylce Nelson
nelsonfamily4742@gmail.com
4742 Widdup Court
Ellicott city, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Our Children Deserve Better!

From: Kelli Livay <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:21 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Our Children Deserve Better!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I am writing this letter as a parent of two children in the HoCo public school system. We need you to fight for our children and our future generation! Increasing the classroom size is not fair to our children nor our teachers. Budget cuts in our county should NOT impact our children's education. Please help hold accountable those contributing to the county's budget issue, like the developers! This is truly devastating news and HoCo is better than this!

Thank you,
Kelli Livay

Kelli Livay
kelbrickman@yahoo.com
3013 Carlee Run Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:45 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fully Fund HCPSS

From: Lauren Hughes <lauren_hughes@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:20 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fully Fund HCPSS

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I am incredibly proud to work in Howard County as a middle school English teacher. I see every single day the caliber of staff who are committed to providing quality, rigorous, engaging education to a diverse student body. I love working in a school system that is making diversity, equity, and inclusion a fundamental priority.

However, I still have to buy my own supplies for my classroom. I purchase novels with diverse characters for my classroom because MOI and textbook funding has been cut. I've spent hundreds of dollars on books for my students to read.

This winter, my classroom was consistently 90 degrees (in winter) because something was wrong with the heating and cooling system. I went home exhausted and dehydrated after being told for weeks they couldn't fix the issue.

And this year, my first period class was so large that I had students volunteering to sit on the floor because there were not enough chairs in my classroom.

I work hard to ensure my students have the best possible education I can provide, but it is utterly demoralizing to hear that Howard County and the State of Maryland will not fully fund HCPSS schools. I can't think of any better use of our state's funds than ensuring a quality education for MD students. Why is this not a top priority? Why are we allowing school

conditions to deteriorate when Maryland public schools have consistently been among the nation's best and attract top talent to our region?

I ask that you reconsider the budget, and show that education is still a priority in the state of Maryland.

Regards,
Lauren Hughes

Lauren Hughes
lauren_hughes@hcpss.org
800 Crosby Rd
Baltimore, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Concerns over school budget and funding

From: Monique Shapiro <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:03 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Concerns over school budget and funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Good evening,

My husband and I moved to Howard County over ten years ago for many reasons, but one was the knowledge this is a wonderful part of Maryland to live and raise a child. We now have a small family, and while we are not yet at the age of enrolling our child in school, we consider the state of Howard County Public School system a top priority. I believe in paying a mortgage and taxes rather than private school tuition for elementary - high school education. I am concerned that there is discussion of the budget falling short, increasing class sizes, and losing valuable teachers. I am grateful and proud to live in Howard County and I hope the status of the school system does not falter. Please take action to brainstorm and advocate for adjustments needed so our schools remain academically high quality, safe, and nurturing for our collective children's well-being.

Thank you,

Monique Shapiro

Monique Shapiro
moniquecouteau@hotmail.com
8957 Twelve Sons Ct.
Jessup, Maryland 20794

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Education and safety concerns in the schools.

From: Roberta DeLong <Rdelong@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:59 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Education and safety concerns in the schools.

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I am a paraeducator at the middle school level in Howard County. I have 19 years with the county, have had 3 children graduate from Howard County Schools and currently live in the county. Speaking from experience in working within the schools, class sizes have continually been increasing, and behaviors of the students have increasingly become more challenging. Cutting teacher staff and increasing class sizes are not good solutions to budget deficits. The increase in high paid "specialists" and board-office positions need to be trimmed. These positions do very little to improve education and are very costly. Look at the actual waste of money in the system not the bread and butter of the system. We are already at a breaking point where education is already suffering. Recruiting highly skilled and desirable staff will soon become very difficult. Thank you , Roberta DeLong

Roberta DeLong
Rdelong@hcpss.org
8212 Rippling Branch Rd
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HoCo Schools

From: Korin Sharp <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:50 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HoCo Schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Dear County Council members,

I was alarmed to learn about the drastic budget shortfall and proposal to surplus teachers and increase class size yet again. Howard County's reputation for excellence cannot be sustained if this is the path we are following. Already we are falling behind neighboring counties in areas like elementary foreign language and special education support. How can general student needs be met with these proposed limitations? Reductions in staffing and maintenance will further stress the success of our school system and desirability of our county. Please demonstrate to our students, teachers, and staff that they are valued by ensuring adequate funding to maintain excellence in HCPSS.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Korin Sharp

Korin Sharp

iamkorin@gmail.com

9600 Chaton Rd.

Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please fund our schools adequately!

From: Tracy Lynge <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:48 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please fund our schools adequately!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I have witnessed the class sizes at Centennial Lane Elementary School growing since my oldest started kindergarten in 2012. My youngest is now in 1st grade. I am very concerned about the idea that we would be able to fund fewer teachers at CLES next year, because our student population only continues to grow. We added a fifth portable classroom this year and there is no end in sight to the greed of developers who would continue add dozens of students to our schools with no plan for accommodating all of them. My two sons have ADHD and I have clearly seen the difference between their performance in larger vs. smaller classes. When they are in classes with fewer students, the teacher can pay more attention to them and support them better than when they are in larger classes. Please do the right thing and keep our class sizes the same - or decrease them to prior year's levels!

Tracy Lynge
biuslynge@gmail.com
4036 Arjay Cir
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:34 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Colleen Kraft <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:45 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

As a lifelong Howard County resident, HCPSS graduate, parent of HCPSS students and a proud HCPSS ESP, I am writing to you to encourage you to strongly consider funding the budget appropriately to fully staff our schools and keep our class sizes at their lowest possibly number. Howard County is a desirable location for many families, who come to the area for the high quality instruction for their children. Large class sizes and short staffed schools do not contribute to this. With the lack of support and resources, the ones to suffer most will be our students. Staff will struggle to provide the high quality, creative, individualized instruction that we've come to value and expect from our amazingly talented and dedicated HCPSS staff. Please put our children, and our teachers at the forefront when you vote on this budget.

Colleen Kraft
cshannonkraft@gmail.com
5263 Harvey Lane
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:30 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: THINK ABOUT OUR CHILDREN

From: Meredith Carter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:41 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: THINK ABOUT OUR CHILDREN

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

They are the future for all of us. Stop expecting teachers to make miracles from dwindling funding. If you want successful, productive members to our society (our children) then make their well being and futures bright by giving them and those that teach them the resources they need to be successful.

Meredith Carter
meredithparish99@hotmail.com
7684-2 Maple Lawn Blvd
Fulton , Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:30 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fully fund our schools

From: Christinia Armstrong <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:41 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fully fund our schools

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I am writing to beseech you to fully fund schools so that class sizes do not increase & excellent staff members are not forcibly surplussed. It is imperative that schools receive funding to ensure that students have adequate & timely opportunities to access instruction, receive sufficient assistance from their teachers, and not be forced to endure subpar attention because the class size prohibits the teacher's ability to meet the student's needs and/or offer timely assistance. Our students deserve better, our teachers deserve better!! Not funding schools sufficiently would be a complete injustice!

Thank you for your consideration.

Christinia Armstrong
carmstrong8721@gmail.com
8721 Hummingbird Ct.
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CLASs size increase

From: Julia Zick <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:41 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: CLASs size increase

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I am appalled at the BOE plans to increase class sizes. HCPSS has a great reputation and is a key reason for many families to live in this area. Don't turn our well respected school system into a joke. 26 kids in a kindergarten class is ridiculous and not sustainable. This will have significant long term negative effects and hurt hcpss, the county, and especially the students. If overcrowding is an issue then the county needs to ensure it doesn't zone more land for construction until sufficient infrastructure is available to support it and new construction should pay for that. Not the students in the school system!!!!

Julia Zick
juliakzick@gmail.com
Kindler rd
Columbia , Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:26 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Schools budget crisis

From: Kathleen Costello <kayte.costello@gmail.clm>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:40 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County Schools budget crisis

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

I am writing in behalf of my children and my friends children and all of the children living in Howard County who stand to be impacted by the state of the County schools. It seems that overdevelopment of the county, building more homes than we can keep up with, is beginning to have a lasting impact on the education of our children. People move to Howard County and choose to pay more taxes and more for their rent or mortgage in order to send their children to some of the best schools in the country. I have seen change, and not for the better, in this county in the 14 years I have lived here. Houses and townhouses and apartment complexes are popping up like mad. Right in my own backyard. And the school system just can't keep up. We must demand more from the developers and builders. Our schools must not be forgotten about when these deals are made. The impact that large scale development and building has on a school system is huge and we are not doing enough to make a difference. Larger class sizes and fewer staff IS NOT THE ANSWER. I propose that the developers and builders must pay more for sites that have more homes. If they are paying the same tax for a development that has 5 homes as one that has 400 homes, something isn't right. We must do right by our kids. THEY are the future of this county and this country and we must not let them be forgotten or overlooked in order to line the pockets of builders, developers, and politicians.

Kathleen Costello
kayte.costello@gmail.clm

7994 Brightmeadow Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Do Not Increase HCPSS Class Sizes

From: T Williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:38 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Do Not Increase HCPSS Class Sizes

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

HCPSS classes are already large and should not be increased any more. One teacher cannot pay adequate attention to more than 30 kids, let alone meet all of their needs and keep them all interested and safe. We pay enough taxes that there should be a better solution.

T Williams
tfwinc@yahoo.com
Silent Dell Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS budget needs

From: Chris Burleigh <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:37 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS budget needs

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Opal Jones,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Chris Burleigh. I am the mom of a 3rd grade student enrolled at a HoCo elementary school. I also work as a contract employee (TE) with children with special needs. I'm telling you, begging you not to raise class sizes. Everyone in the school is already feeling the stress/pressure of not being able to keep up with the kids needs. I fear what adding more children to teacher ratio will happen to our children. Our teachers.

If you want, I invite you to shadow me just one day in our classroom. Work with me, watch our amazing teachers. But see for yourself that our class sizes cannot and should not increase.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Chris Burleigh

Chris Burleigh
celizabeth34@yahoo.com
2829 Foxhound Rd
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

Dear County Council and County Executive Ball, 5/10/19

Hi Mr. I am a 4th Grade Student from Manor Woods Elementary
Please don't let the developers keep building houses. If you let
them build, the class sizes will be way to big and I
won't be able to learn the best I could. ALSO the teachers
won't be able to be themselves because they are stressed
cause they are responsible for all of the students. ALSO
all the streets will be way too crowded and the road
will be all ready to crowded just like the schools.
S You can see all of Howard County will be way
to crowded and people don't want to live here.
The developers are just doing it for \$ they
don't care about the kids.

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
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2019 MAY 13 PM 1:58
AJF mjs

From the most angry
Kid, BOAT
S, 3144 Saint Charles Place
Ellicott City MD.
Williams, AK