

Sayers, Margery

From: Pamela Palmer <pamsavonbiz@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 12:41 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; 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.]

Hello,

This email is to show my support for the creation of more equity in the Howard County School System. Please be sure to consider ALL students in your funding decisions and ensure that the students who most need the resources receive what they need.

Thank you.

Pamela Palmer

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy Grutzik <agrutzik@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2019 10:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Thank you!

[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 would like to thank you for voting to add \$400,000 to the HCPSS FY20 operating budget for the purchase of a new bus routing system and for recognizing the importance of using updated technology to help achieve the goals of the County Council, the BOE, and the Community.

Last week during the HCPSS BOE operating budget meeting, they voted to use this money for the bus routing system for FY20.

Thank you again for your support for this much needed system.

Amy Grutzik

Sayers, Margery

From: Kpetty79 <kpetty79@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 1:17 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org
Cc: Derek Petty
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:

I am truly concerned about the decisions made on how to spend the money allotted to HCPSS. I understand that you are left to deal with a mess by your predecessors (especially the short sighted decisions to allow over development of the county without collecting adequate fees from the developers) but I urge you to reconsider how you spend the money for the schools.

I am incredibly concerned and disappointed that the BOE decided to prioritize extra music over technology and para support. I have nothing against extra music and I know there are benefits; however, ALL kids will still receive music as a related art regardless of your budget decision. Delaying orchestra to third graders for one year is a far better option than cutting para support to our kids and giving our kids less technology instruction in a world where technology is a necessary skill in every profession.

I am relieved you aren't increasing class sizes but let's not forget the classes are already at capacity (if not over). The paras are necessary to instruction. I don't know how you can expect our teachers to teach the curriculum to 25-30 kids of varying developmental levels without being able to send kids who struggle to the paras for more intensive instruction. Allowing our kids to slip academically because of lack of appropriate teacher support will lead to our county slipping from being one of the best in the country.

With respect to technology, I'm dumbfounded. I'm sure you know our world is constantly advancing technologically. Technology skills are necessary for every profession and people who fail to have these skills are often not hired or fired. If you are truly interested in the future of our kids (and the reputation of the schools), you should find a different way to allocate the funds than cutting technology to 30 minutes. Thirty minutes gives the teachers very little time, if any depending on the grade, to teach anything of substance. Our kids will suffer from this decision, especially those whose access to technology is limited. Even those kids in wealthy households may not have true computers and certainly not the necessary software to prepare adequately for their future.

Therefore, I encourage the BOE to reconsider how it is allocating the money. Please do not cut paras, increase class size, or cut technology. All of this is necessary to maintain our impressive school system and reputation.

Finally, the County Council needs to reconsider allocating more money to the school. This county has allowed massive development without stopping to think how this will impact our schools or other services (hospital, police, etc.).

Thank you for your consideration.
Katy and Derek Petty

Sent from Katy's iPhone

On May 21, 2019, at 10:34 PM, kpetty79@aol.com wrote:

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: Link, Lisa J. (GSFC-443.0)[X3M Systems, LLC] <lisa.j.link@nasa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 6:54 AM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: HoCo School Budget Citizen Inquiry

[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 all you do. My name is Lisa Link. I have been a resident of Howard County for 13 years. I moved here, like many others, to start my family in a wonderful community, with great schools. I am saddened to hear of the budget issues that have led to many educators being let go for the 2019/2020 school year.

My question is, how can we continue to build in this area, and not ask developers to put more money toward the schools people come here for? The area is already heavily populated, yet building continues. Why eliminate positions that help the children learn, when the number of students is increasing? It seems much more could be asked of developers. Please increase developer fees to aid in resolving budget shortfalls for HoCo schools. We want our schools to remain the best!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Link
JWST Configuration Management Specialist
301-286-5573

Sayers, Margery

From: Carly Aderton <carly.aderton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 10:53 PM
To: superintendent@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Chao_Wu@hcpss.org;
michael_martirano@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: School budget cuts including elementary technology

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

Hi,

First of all, thank you for all of your hard work and long hours and for your service to the county. I can only imagine how exhausting it must be. I appreciate that you're trying to do the best you can within the constraints that exist.

I'm writing about the school budget. I live in this county solely for the schools as I think most parents do.

I don't understand how a county known for its schools could be letting them decline, especially in this good economy.

I haven't scrutinized the budget but wish that options for increasing revenue could be explored, if they haven't already. Are increased property taxes an option? Not sure of the political ramifications, but if it is the right thing for the students, I beg you to consider it or other ways.

The HCPSS curriculum has far exceeded my expectations. It's amazing. I do not understand the decision to cut elementary technology. In this century it seems only to be increasing in importance. I don't want anything cut but certainly not the must-haves, of which I believe technology is a part. Also the bang for the technology buck seems huge. Halving the curriculum and cutting positions for fewer than \$2M in total savings doesn't make any sense to me. Elementary school is laying very important foundations for how to responsibly use technology and deal with our increasingly digital and virtual world. It's a chance to use the 20/20 hindsight of having lived with fast technological advancements with no front end training or regulation and dial back the negative ramifications.

I beg you to please not let the quality of any student's education suffer. They are the future, and they deserve it, and it benefits all of society. Please do not sacrifice the schools. There has got to be a way to solve this budget problem without harming those whom we have the greatest opportunity to positively affect, our children.

Thank you,
Carly

Sayers, Margery

From: heather.urner@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 7:12 PM
To: Jung, Deb; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B
Subject: RE: Education 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 would hope that a review of the email would be an opening to wear hay constituents are watching constituents are paying attention constituent are aware of the budget cycle the steps of the budget. We know that council are decides before the board of education, who then takes the money that we've approved and uses it for education. Our county is watching , our county is paying attention. Let's make sure we give our education system all the money they need so they don't have to do the cuts.I would hope that that would be the mindset to take away from all the emails from all the contacts from all the conversations. Lets stop with resting on MOE and give Education the funds to where BOE doesn't have to make the tough cuts.

Thank you
Heather Urner

On Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 3:56 PM, Jung, Deb
<djung@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

I appreciate you sharing your concerns.

I agree with you that the school system needs more funding. Unfortunately there is nothing more that the County Council can do regarding the funding of the school system.

Our budget vote occurred on May 29. Councilmember Walsh and I sponsored several amendments -- totaling \$8 million -- to close HCPSS's budget shortfall, but we were unsuccessful in persuading our other Council colleagues to support our amendments. We did manage to get support for an extra \$2 million: \$1.3 million for instruction, \$300,000 for substitute teacher pay raise, and \$400,000 for transportation costs associated with enrollment growth. But it isn't enough.

The Board of Education and the Superintendent met Monday night and made decisions about how to trim its budget in light of the funding it received from the County and State. It is my understanding that there will be no cuts to the music department. It appears, based on that meeting, that the BOE will make cuts to middle school paraeducators and elementary technology teachers.

I wish I could share happier news with you, but I can't. Next year, the schools will have the same funding issue. As a county, we are not preparing for the future nor are we preparing our children for the future.

You can find more information about the BOE budget decisions from the recorded meeting at: <https://hcpsstv.new.swagit.com/videos/28807>. The final budget will be adopted on Thursday.

Thanks, Deb

Deb Jung

Councilmember, District 4

Howard County Council

3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043

410-313-2001

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

Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 3:00 PM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>

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

Subject: Re: Education Budget

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

Good Afternoon Councilman Rigby,

I hear the increased funding you say. It still leaves school with shortfall.

If you have questions with BOE having to cut paras due to shortfall, give them more money so they don't have to find cuts. Listen to BOE when the Board is asking for money and give beyond MOE so they don't need to look to using reserves. You control the amount of budget they have to work with.

Thank you

Heather Urner

On Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 2:50 PM, Rigby, Christiana

[<crigby@howardcountymd.gov>](mailto:crigby@howardcountymd.gov) wrote:

Good afternoon Heather,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the FY20 Education Operating Budget with me this year. Through this long budget process, I am glad that the County Council was able to come together on May 29th and pass a budget with over \$48 million in *increased* funding for our school system.

The [mission of the Howard County Public School System](#) is to ensure “academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps.” It is my hope that the school system works to guarantee this academic environment with the additional \$48 million in funding they are receiving in FY20, with a strong focus on instruction and maintaining a beneficial classroom experience for students and teachers. Any decision to disrupt our children’s education by increasing class sizes and targeting programs *when funds are available* would be concerning and shortsighted.

The additional \$48 million in funding accounts for a 5.6% increase in overall funding for the school system over last year, the highest revenue growth for HCPSS in a decade. With such a substantial increase to their budget, it is extremely unusual that the school system is suggesting staff reductions and increased class sizes as savings options. Furthermore, the school system is exploring savings options that would cut equity funding, such as reductions in elementary paraeducators that serve some of our neediest children.

The Council is taking these funding issues very seriously, and I recognize that new revenues will need to be raised to provide the education system that Howard County residents are accustomed to. In addition to raising the school facilities surcharge on developers, I will be exploring other new revenue sources for FY21 to address budget shortfalls facing the school system.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to reach out to my office during this budget season. Parents and taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability from a system that we entrust our children to every day, and I will continue to advocate for that accountability on behalf of every child in the school system. I am confident that the County and the school system will commit to working together to ensure that our schools have the future funding they need.

Yours in service,

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: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 4:22 PM
To: ruthwalker3@me.com
Subject: email for Dr. Calvin Ball

First Name: Ruth
Last Name: Walker
Email: ruthwalker3@me.com
Street Address: 2847 Hunt Valley Dr
City: Glenwood
Subject: email for Dr. Calvin Ball

Message:

June 5, 2019 To Each of Our Elected County Council Representatives, I tried to resist writing this message. Each morning I awaken at 3am and wonder how our current financial crisis for our school system budget got to this point. I think about how the fourth graders at our (Title I) school want to collect change to contribute to the deficit. I think about why the foundation of this school system is being shredded. Mostly, I lay awake and wonder if there are any possible solutions. The funds you have provided for the upcoming year were sufficient. Then you voted to approve "additional" funding of \$1.7 something million. What was enough was no longer enough? Some how we came to a showdown on June 3, 2019. Suddenly, at the last minute, the programming at elementary schools is under attack. The foundation of the school system and its reputation seem to be pawns in a kind of brinksmanship. To sink a ship, you bomb the hull. To implode a building, you start with the foundation. To render an institution impotent, you start with the most vulnerable. I am not writing this to "save my job. I am writing with tears in my eyes as a plea to find the courage to refocus the rhetoric back to the real reason we are all here. The deficit will continue to haunt us until there is a vision and a plan to resolve it with minimal impact any of our instructional programs at any level, but especially our youngest students. We will continue to search for those visionaries but right here, right now, we are facing the most devastating "reductions" to "programming" at any instructional level ever witnessed in Howard County. We have weathered other storms. Dr. Ball and other members of the county council were instrumental in orchestrating the recent change in leadership of the school system and most influential in helping to resolve the miscommunication and misunderstanding associated with a replacement school for the Talbott Springs neighborhood. There have been other funding shortfalls. Our community and elected officials have navigated through those challenges without a severe impact on the the foundation of HCPSS – our children. You do not need more rhetoric. You may have grown weary of our pleas for more money. I know I have. I did not want to be one more request for more money. Right now, we need a hero or a group of heroes to stop the insanity of the very real threat to our elementary schools and for those who cannot speak for themselves. We have heard the promises from Central office to "fix it" next year for the last several years and it never seems to come to fruition. Again this year, you have provided historic levels of funding for HCPSS. Is it possible to be the heroes we desperately need to Save Our Elementary Schools for this budget cycle? Is it possible to consider deferring some county level project costs for a year while the citizens mobilize to bring this recurring budget issue to the floor long before the last minute to midnight? I am asking for those fourth grade students who sincerely believe they can help solve our problem by collecting and donating their change. Sincerely as a taxpayer and teacher, Ruth Walker 2847 Hunt Valley Drive Glenwood, MD 21738

Sayers, Margery

From: Meg Ricks <capizziricks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 2:09 PM
To: superintendent@hcpss.org; boe@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.]

Like many other residents, I've been watching with great interest the long and difficult budget process unfold. I'm deeply saddened that the amendment proposed by council members Walsh and Jung did not get passed. It is heart breaking to see cuts to what our school system can provide being debated year after year. I understand, as the council emphasized, that it's not a budget cut as the total amount is going up over previous years, but it is a cut in what our school system is able to provide. As our county continues to grow, so do the expenses and 'maintenance' funding will not cover it.

I am very worried about the cuts to technology instruction and to para educators at the elementary level that were recently voted on. These cuts will be deeply felt at our large elementary school and at every other elementary school in the county. Our Paras are already filling in so many other gaps in our school every day. Who will fill the even larger gaps next year? Thirty minutes of technology time in a week won't even be enough time to get all of the kids logged into computers, let alone to help the kids most in need of technology skills they can't get at home to catch up to their peers. These particular cuts seem penny wise and pound foolish. We should not have to choose between a music program that makes instrumental music available to so many kids who wouldn't otherwise get that opportunity, the people who help keep things running at every school for little pay and acclaim, and effective technology instruction for those most in need of it.

I ask the board of education and superintendent to find another way to cut expenses that won't put additional burden on our elementary schools.

I ask the county council to do what you need to do to raise the revenue necessary to fully fund our school system. I'm willing to pay more taxes if it will go to help our schools, but first make the developers pay comparable fees to our neighboring jurisdictions. We cannot afford to continue subsidizing their profits.

Thank you for your time.

Sayers, Margery

From: Chandra Sekaran Venkataraman <vchandrasn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 9:44 PM
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: HCPSS Elementary school - Technology instruction

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

Dear HCPSS Executive and Board Members,

I'm writing this letter to help save technology instruction for HCPSS elementary schools. We learnt the committee is considering reducing the instruction time from 60 to 30 minutes in the upcoming academic year.

As you know, technology plays a vital role in today's world especially in student's learning and preparation for higher education. Technology is also an integral part of our lives and I feel it is imperative for student to learn the technology and tools in a conditioned environment like HCPSS schools.

Therefore, I request you all to kindly keep the current 60 minutes instruction time for technology in HCPSS elementary schools.

Thanking you,
Chandra Sekaran

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 6:20 PM
To: sandra.m.bathgate@verizon.com; superintendent@hcpss.org; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Subject: RE: [External] Testimony- Please reconsider Para's and Math help

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

Good Evening,

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 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at BOE@hcpss.org.

The remaining Budget Meeting Schedule is as follows:

Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 4 p.m. – Adoption of Budget

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

Kind regards,

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

From: sandra.m.bathgate@verizon.com <sandra.m.bathgate@verizon.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 3:59 PM
To: Superintendent <superintendent@hcpss.org>; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; 'councilmail@howardcountymd.gov' <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: [External] Testimony- Please reconsider Para's and Math help
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

I am reaching out to ask the Board to reconsider the decisions made last night during the BOE work session. I understand that cuts and savings need to come from somewhere if the County Council cannot provide more funding.

The choices made do not reflect a strong foundation for our elementary school students. My initial reaction was to tell my husband that we need to move out of the county. Please understand that I have very strong roots here so that type

of reaction is due to feeling like my child will not get the help he will need. I grew up here. I have stayed here and I am a proud graduate of Hammond High School. I want my son to have a chance at a quality education in Howard County.

The cuts to the Paraeducators, Reading and Math assistance (MST, MIT, RST) and Technology teachers and time allows our elementary school students to be negatively affected. If this support is cut my son along with many others will struggle. There will not be the help of a Para or a Math specialist to work with him. How will our teachers keep up and how will our children learn what is required? This is your problem to solve!

I do not agree with the decisions from the work session and ask that you reconsider other options. Please think about our children and what help they need to get started in life.

Thank you,



Sandra M. Bathgate, PMP, ITILv3

Manager
Strategic PMO
Verizon Business Group

M 301.367.5803
13100 Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904



Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Davis <Laura_Davis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 6:15 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Wee still need your help!

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

Dear Councilmembers,

First, thank you for the extra \$1.9 million dollars that you approved for HCPSS last week in your annual budget vote. I was able to view the Board of Education budget work session last night, and I cannot imagine how many more painful cuts would have been made had it not been for the \$1.9 million you already approved.

However, despite that money, lack of funding is having a direct impact on elementary school classrooms next year. Technology teachers were reduced from 62 to 42, and Para educator positions were cut by 88. These positions are absolutely vital to the health of our elementary schools in HCPSS.

I am currently an Instructional Technology teacher at Thunder Hill Elementary and it will be virtually impossible to be an effective teacher with only 30 minutes of instruction. It takes my Kindergartners 25 – 30 minutes just to log in for the first month. As a tech teacher do so much more than typing and teaching canvas as some people have suggested. We teach them digital skills, protecting their personal information, how to create strong passwords, what is cyber bullying and what to do if you experience it. We also integrate grade level curriculum into teaching our standards. My 5th graders are creating podcasts, my 4th graders are learning to build websites, learning how to make appropriate comments online. My kindergartners are using VR googles to learn and visit each of the American symbols, my 2nd graders are using Wixie to demonstrate their understanding of various life cycles through animation that they create. These are just some of the lessons I teach. My kids are learning programming and get to use various robots in my room. Please reconsider funding our program!

Para educators are the unsung heroes of HCPSS. All of our Para educators are overworked, underpaid, and tasked with an enormous amount of work. You are asking the remaining 132 elementary paras to do the impossible- serve 2+ grade levels of students with a 6.5 hour school day, plus perform duties such as lunch and recess, PLUS substitute teach when substitute coverage is unavailable. Cutting Para educators will have a huge ripple effect in elementary schools.

I am requesting two things:

1. That the County Council immediately and with all deliberate speed send supplemental funding to HCPSS to prevent these devastating cuts from happening in the FY2020 school year.
2. That the County Council take a hard look at revenue streams and work to ensure that we don't continue to have structural shortfalls year after year.

Many of you campaigned on fully funding HCPSS. I implore you to reconsider your vote from last week and send supplemental funding to HCPSS to prevent catastrophic cuts to elementary schools before it is too late to fix them.

Respectfully,

Laura Davis

Laura Davis
Technology Teacher/RA Team Leader
Thunder Hill Elementary

Achiever * Includer * Discipline * Woo * Communication

Sayers, Margery

From: tellhoco@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 4:49 PM
To: Feldmark, Jessica; Sayers, Margery; Singleton, Julia; Respass, Charity
Subject: Case: CS0002269 – opened and unassigned

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



SUPPORT CASE

Case Number: CS0002269

Case Opened: 06-04-2019

Short Description: HCPSS Budget

Constituent: Tania Lamba

Priority: 3 - Moderate

[VIEW CASE](#)

Details:

06-04-2019 04:48:51 PM EDT - Matt Lupo Work notes

From: tania lamba <tanialamba@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, June 2, 2019 8:03 PM

To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; 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 <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Aman Bawa <asbawa_2000@yahoo.com>
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



www.howardcountymd.gov



Ref:MSG0708519

Sayers, Margery

From: sandra.m.bathgate@verizon.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 3:59 PM
To: superintendent@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony- Please reconsider Para's and Math help

Importance: High

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

Good Afternoon,

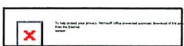
I am reaching out to ask the Board to reconsider the decisions made last night during the BOE work session. I understand that cuts and savings need to come from somewhere if the County Council cannot provide more funding.

The choices made do not reflect a strong foundation for our elementary school students. My initial reaction was to tell my husband that we need to move out of the county. Please understand that I have very strong roots here so that type of reaction is due to feeling like my child will not get the help he will need. I grew up here. I have stayed here and I am a proud graduate of Hammond High School. I want my son to have a chance at a quality education in Howard County.

The cuts to the Paraeducators, Reading and Math assistance (MST, MIT, RST) and Technology teachers and time allows our elementary school students to be negatively affected. If this support is cut my son along with many others will struggle. There will not be the help of a Para or a Math specialist to work with him. How will our teachers keep up and how will our children learn what is required? This is your problem to solve!

I do not agree with the decisions from the work session and ask that you reconsider other options. Please think about our children and what help they need to get started in life.

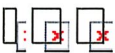
Thank you,



Sandra M. Bathgate, PMP, ITILv3

Manager
Strategic PMO
Verizon Business Group

M 301.367.5803
13100 Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904



Sayers, Margery

From: heather.urner@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 3:00 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Cc: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Re: Education Budget

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

Good Afternoon Councilman Rigby,

I hear the increased funding you say. It still leaves school with shortfall.

If you have questions with BOE having to cut paras due to shortfall, give them more money so they don't have to find cuts. Listen to BOE when the Board is asking for money and give beyond MOE so they don't need to look to using reserves. You control the amount of budget they have to work with.

Thank you

Heather Urner

On Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 2:50 PM, Rigby, Christiana
<crigby@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Heather,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the FY20 Education Operating Budget with me this year. Through this long budget process, I am glad that the County Council was able to come together on May 29th and pass a budget with over \$48 million in *increased* funding for our school system.

The [mission of the Howard County Public School System](#) is to ensure “academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps.” It is my hope that the school system works to guarantee this academic environment with the additional \$48 million in funding they are receiving in FY20, with a strong focus on instruction and maintaining a beneficial classroom experience for students and teachers. Any decision to disrupt our children’s education by increasing class sizes and targeting programs *when funds are available* would be concerning and shortsighted.

The additional \$48 million in funding accounts for a 5.6% increase in overall funding for the school system over last year, the highest revenue growth for HCPSS in a decade. With such a substantial increase to their budget, it is extremely unusual that the school system is suggesting staff reductions and increased class sizes as savings options. Furthermore, the school system is exploring savings options that would cut equity funding, such as reductions in elementary paraeducators that serve some of our neediest children.

The Council is taking these funding issues very seriously, and I recognize that new revenues will need to be raised to provide the education system that Howard County residents are accustomed to. In addition to raising the school facilities surcharge on developers, I will be exploring other new revenue sources for FY21 to address budget shortfalls facing the school system.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to reach out to my office during this budget season. Parents and taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability from a system that we entrust our children to every day, and I will continue to advocate for that accountability on behalf of every child in the school system. I am confident that the County and the school system will commit to working together to ensure that our schools have the future funding they need.

Yours in service,

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



[Sign up for our newsletter!](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Karissa Strawley <karissastrawley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please help us with funding for our Paraprofessionals, Technology Teachers and other Student Support Staff

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

Dear Councilmembers,

First, thank you for the extra \$1.9 million dollars that you approved for HCPSS last week in your annual budget vote. I attended the Board of Education budget work session last night, and I cannot imagine how many more painful cuts would have been made had it not been for the \$1.9 million you already approved.

However, despite that money, lack of funding is having a direct impact on elementary school classrooms next year. Technology teachers were reduced from 62 to 42, and paraeducator positions were cut by 88. These positions are absolutely vital to the health of our elementary schools in HCPSS.

Technology teachers are helping our little ones learn to be safe in a world where we exist increasingly online. They are preparing our children for careers where being technologically literate is fundamental to being able to compete in a job market. Technology is also where students learn the skills needed to complete the mandatory federal standardized testing, which is entirely online. I have proctored standardized testing where students do not know how to use the computers, and I can tell you firsthand that it does affect their scores and their ability to demonstrate their knowledge in a meaningful and complete way.

Paraeducators are the unsung heroes of HCPSS. I have worked in schools with 1 para for the ENTIRE BUILDING and I can tell you right now, it does not work. That one para did her best, but there were so many students with needs and not enough minutes in the school day. She was overworked, underpaid, and tasked with an impossible job. You are asking the remaining 132 elementary paras to do the impossible- serve 2+ grade levels of students with a 6.5 hour school day, plus perform duties such as lunch and recess, PLUS substitute teach when substitute coverage is unavailable. Cutting paraeducators will have a huge ripple effect in elementary schools.

I am requesting two things:

1. That the County Council immediately and with all deliberate speed send supplemental funding to HCPSS to prevent these devastating cuts from happening in the FY2020 school year.
2. That the County Council take a hard look at revenue streams and work to ensure that we don't continue to have structural shortfalls year after year.

Many of you campaigned on fully funding HCPSS. I implore you to reconsider your vote from last week and send supplemental funding to HCPSS to prevent catastrophic cuts to elementary schools before it is too late to fix them.

Respectfully,

--

Karissa Strawley Bryant

Sayers, Margery

From: Jackie Bryant <jebryant7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please send supplemental funding to HCPSS

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

Dear Councilmembers,

First, thank you for the extra \$1.9 million dollars that you approved for HCPSS last week in your annual budget vote. I attended the Board of Education budget work session last night, and I cannot imagine how many more painful cuts would have been made had it not been for the \$1.9 million you already approved.

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Many of you campaigned on fully funding HCPSS. I implore you to reconsider your vote from last week and send supplemental funding to HCPSS to prevent catastrophic cuts to elementary schools before it is too late to fix them.

Respectfully,
Jackie Bryant

Sayers, Margery

From: Amanda Wadsworth <awadsworth71@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 9:42 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org
Subject: The Gutting of HCPSS

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

Dear Council Members,

As an elementary principal, I wanted to share my great disappointment in your lack of financial support during this budgeting process. Without your financial support, the impact on our elementary schools is horrendous.

With a reduction in paraeducators, we will lack the support for interventions of our most needy students. We will have teachers spending their planning time doing clerical duties versus planning for effective instruction. We will have a limited ability to cover teacher classes when no substitutes pick up. There will be less support in and out of classrooms because the limited number of paraeducators will have to cover multiple lunch and recess shifts.

With the reduction of technology, we will no longer have the time for technology teachers to implement high quality 21st century projects and collaborate on content effectively with our grade level teachers. If you could see the work generated by our students in technology class, you would fully understand the terrible loss this reduction creates.

In losing our RST and MST positions, we are losing the biggest "game changer" I have observed in my administrative career in terms of teacher professional development. This hands on support has improved teacher instruction across the board. These individuals are a tremendous support to new teachers, struggling teachers and teachers simply wanting to grow. They model lessons, lead the planning and implementation of PD and support students. This is one of the programs that makes HCPSS unique and a premier school system.

As we move ahead in the next few days, I strongly urge you to consider an amendment to save these programs. Certainly in a County as ours, we can find money to support the future, our children.

Sincerely,
Amanda Wadsworth
Principal Centennial Lane Elementary

Sayers, Margery

From: Jackie <jacquelyndebella@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Additional funding 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 Members ,

I was at the Board of Education Meeting from 4:30 to 8:30 PM and then watched on television until the meeting ended. It is absolutely absurd that this is happening .

It is clear that the county council underfunded the budget and now staffing cuts are the only option. The Board of Education has no other options . I watched these amazing people struggle for hours to balance the budget . They want to support the children and continue to provide the best education possible . The school system is the main reason people live here and you are asking them to cut the very programs that make our school system number one in Maryland - GT, instrumental music , and technology. We also need the paraeducators to legally support student IEPs and 504's. Without this curriculum and staffing , our students will fall behind and teachers will leave and take all their knowledge and training with them.

I know the vote on the budget already took place but I am hoping you can amend the current 1.3 million dollars and add at least an addition million to make it at least 2.3 million. That still gives us a deficit but will help lessen the gap.

I hope you will watch the board meeting and reflect on the needs of our children, the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration this request .

Jacquelyn DeBella
Mom of Nico , 2nd grader
Mom of Francesca , kindergartener
HOCO Laurel resident of 22 years

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Ameer Patel <ameeapatel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 10:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Proposed budget changes

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

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

I am writing in regards to the proposed changes to the Howard County school system in 2020 due to the budget short fall. I have been deeply troubled by some of the changes being considered and would like to have my concerns noted. About 5 years ago, my husband and I moved to Howard County with our two young children in large part due to the wonderful school system. We strongly believe that a solid education is the backbone to a healthy functioning community and were thrilled to become part of a community that we thought upheld the same beliefs.

Here are some of my concerns regarding the proposed changes as I understand them:

1. I am **extremely disappointed** that there is consideration to decrease the number of Gifted and Talented teachers at the elementary and even middle school level. My understanding is that it is the board's objective to ensure "equitable learning opportunities", but that would mean providing the resources necessary to help students reach their maximum potential. Just as the county provides full time math and reading resource specialists to help those students who are struggling to meet standards, the county should also provide the appropriate resources to those students that meet GT standards so that they may continue to excel academically. Cutting GT programs would be especially damaging to those schools that tend to have a greater number of students that meet those higher levels. It is my understanding that there are already students who are unable to get into GT classes because there are not enough spots even though they may be qualified. This is an absolute shame and making GT cuts would only ensure that more students are refused the academic resources they should receive....especially in a county that claims to want to push its students to the furthest academic levels possible.
2. I also understand that the board is considering decreased the number of music teachers which would only delay the start of string instruction / orchestra until later years. There are numerous studies showing the importance of music and arts in the development of young minds and to be cutting this vital part of education is a travesty. It also penalizes our county's students when it comes to competitions if students from other counties are getting earlier and more frequent instruction.
3. Decreasing the number of elementary technology positions is an absolute move in the wrong direction. The world is only becoming more technology driven and our children need to keep up with the changing times. This means immersing them in technology as soon as possible so that they become comfortable with it and can later excel in technology driven field.

4. Increasing class sizes by 1 or even 2 students would only decrease the amount of attention that teachers can spend with each student. Our class sizes have slowly crept up and increasing class sizes only impedes a teacher's ability to effectively teach students. This is a known fact.

PLEASE reconsider making some of the proposed changes listed above. IF it is your goal to further the educational opportunities for our children, the above proposed changes would only deeply contradict that cause. As howard county residents we have invested in our community with the understanding that the county will in turn support our needs. That means thinking about the future and investing in our children's education.

I appreciate your time and consideration regarding these matters.

Sincerely,
Amea Patel

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Julie Kastner <Julie_Kastner@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 5:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Early Intervention

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

Council Members ,

June 3, 2019

Dear Board Members,

When looking at the budget cuts, almost all of your recommendations impact elementary schools!

I have been a teacher in the HCPSS for 8 years. All of my years of teaching service have been at the elementary level from kindergarten to 1st grade. Elementary teachers have many so balls to juggle that it won't take much for before the balls start to hit the floor.

Our youngest students need an enriching environment and exposure to many different experiences. During this critical time, our students need music, enrichment, and assistance. Eliminating or cutting down our paraeducators because someone believes that they can be "shared" is not plausible. We really need MORE staff to meet the diverse needs of our growing population in elementary school. The fact is, this position needs more employees not fewer!

Also, class size is at a critical point in elementary school. The youngest learners will suffer the most. We speak of early intervention and best practices, but huge classes with little or no support are not best practice for 5 and 6 year olds. Kindergarten kids need the most attention. This is the age when they form their opinions about school. This is the age when they begin to form good or bad habits, and this is the age where we can make the biggest difference.

More and more students continue to be mainstreamed into general education classrooms with EXTREME needs. Our Special Education and support staff is completely overwhelmed with the changing needs of our students. Many students begin school without being identified

as special education students. It takes almost the whole year to go through the process of identification. Who suffers? The other kids in the class. We are not equipped to service the amount or severity of students we are receiving who need these extra accommodations. With the numbers of 23 plus students currently in our kindergarten classroom it is ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE to meet the needs of the students. Adding more students to an already oversized group will make a bad situation even worse!

I know the money has to come from somewhere. I will happily give up some of my salary, but don't make it impossible for us to do the job we love.

On June 3rd please start your decision making with cuts that DO NOT impact class size or services to our elementary students.

Do not erode the reason many people move to our county. What kind of reputation do you want Howard County Schools to have in the future? I want a school system that puts our youngest students first, not last, as well as, values the people whom make our school system great.

Sincerely,
Julie Kastner
Manor Woods Elementary School

Julie Kastner
Julie_Kastner@hcpss.org
6129 Downs Ridge Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Patrick Harrington <prharrin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 12:25 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin B; CouncilMail
Subject: This is Crazy...Fully Fund HCPSS Schools Now!

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

Dear BOE Members, Dr. Martirano, County Council Members, and Dr. Ball:

I am writing as a resident of Columbia and as a concerned parent of two children in the Howard County Public School system.

I am shocked and frustrated that our County, which is the 3rd wealthiest in the country based on median income (<https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/slideshows/richest-counties-in-america?slide=9>), continues to struggle to adequately fund its educational system, year after year.

This is particularly concerning for schools that have high concentrations of children in poverty or with special needs. The county, like much of the country, continues to experience a pervasive achievement gap between rich and poor populations, and between different racial groups. Yet we've seen several targeted budget cuts for high poverty schools in recent years. Any further across-the-board cuts like the ones currently proposed will be felt most by the schools with the greatest need.

The #1 reason why people choose Howard County over other areas in the Baltimore-Washington area is the public schools. If we keep chipping away at school resources, people are just going to leave for lower cost areas with better schools. Those who don't leave will remember this at the next election.

Fix this problem. Raise taxes if you have to. There is no reason why Howard County cannot sustain a top notch public education system. We have the means in this county. We just need some leadership and bold action.

Respectfully,
Pat Harrington

Good Afternoon County Council,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.



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

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

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

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

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

Printed Name: Kristen Piggott

Signature: Kristen Piggott

Date: 5/13/19

Organization: SJLES PTA

Organization Address: 2960 St Johns Lane

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 400

Name of Chair/President: Pam Paramahamsan

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



Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 26 April 2019

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

Dear County Executive Ball,

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

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

Fiscal Year 2018 Utilization Statistics

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President



Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 13 May 2019

Subject: To Reinstate the Promised Budget Funding to the Hospital

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

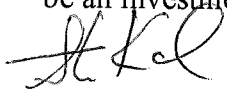
* The community population health and wellness programs to address health equity issues to prevent readmissions.

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

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

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

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



Stu Kohn
HCCA President



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

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

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

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

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

Printed Name: Stu Kohn

Signature: Stu Kohn

Date: 13 MAY 2019

Organization: HCCA

Organization Address: ELLICOTT CITY

Number of Members: 500

Name of Chair/President: Stu Kohn

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

Kevin Costello against music ed cuts

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

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

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

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

Good Afternoon,

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

Lisa Soto, HCPSS Chair 2018-2019



Howard County Public Schools Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019

Report: STU606

As Of Date: 4/30/2019

Elementary School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Atholton Elementary School	0	0	0	18	19	73	80	82	78	67	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	483
Bellows Spring Elementary School	0	0	0	54	43	128	130	120	116	112	126	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	829
Bollman Bridge Elementary School	0	0	0	31	69	113	101	126	118	115	113	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	786
Bryant Woods Elementary School	0	0	0	0	37	69	79	74	62	64	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	446
Bushy Park Elementary School	0	0	0	14	27	86	97	82	118	96	121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	641
Centennial Lane Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	102	116	112	138	139	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	737
Clarksville Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	64	70	61	63	88	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	433
Clemens Crossing Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	86	87	103	69	69	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	491
Cradlerock Elementary School	0	0	0	20	39	83	77	85	69	80	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	547
Dayton Oaks Elementary School	0	0	0	40	39	84	102	114	105	119	131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	734
Deep Run Elementary School	0	0	0	24	54	122	113	106	93	126	126	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	764
Ducketts Lane Elementary School	0	0	2	23	29	94	84	87	89	97	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	613
Elkridge Elementary School	0	0	0	0	38	131	152	156	148	146	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	921
Forest Ridge Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	107	106	113	108	121	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	679
Fulton Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	151	167	167	161	157	149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	952
Gorman Crossing Elementary School	0	0	0	36	46	124	153	128	116	150	142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	895
Guilford Elementary School	0	0	0	0	34	71	63	69	67	76	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	452
Hammond Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	98	96	106	96	120	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	626
Hanover Hills Elementary School	0	0	0	24	31	97	113	97	131	111	111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	715
Hollifield Station Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	139	140	153	162	133	154	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	881
Ilchester Elementary School	0	0	1	25	24	111	90	98	107	105	104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	665
Jeffers Hill Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	67	54	85	61	77	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	415
Laurel Woods Elementary School	0	0	0	0	39	81	106	94	88	94	119	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	621
Lisbon Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	70	70	72	65	83	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	453
Longfellow Elementary School	0	0	0	16	33	77	72	60	64	71	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	466
Manor Woods Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	114	66	118	111	124	138	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	671
Northfield Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	113	107	128	132	132	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	749
Phelps Luck Elementary School	0	0	0	0	49	111	95	88	87	82	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	592



Howard County Public Schools Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019
Report: STU606

As Of Date: 4/30/2019

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



Howard County Public Schools Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019
Report: STU606

As Of Date: 4/30/2019

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



Special Services Only Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019
Report: STU606

As Of Date: 3/29/2019

Elementary School	PK0	PK1	PK2	PK3	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
Atholton Elementary School	0	0	0	17	20	73	79	82	78	67	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	482
Bellows Spring Elementary School	0	0	0	51	44	129	129	120	117	112	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	827
Bollman Bridge Elementary School	0	0	0	27	68	112	99	124	115	116	113	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	774
Bryant Woods Elementary School	0	0	0	0	37	69	82	74	65	64	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	453
Bushy Park Elementary School	0	0	0	14	27	87	97	82	118	96	121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	642
Centennial Lane Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	103	116	112	136	139	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	736
Clarksville Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	64	70	61	63	87	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	432
Clemens Crossing Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	86	87	103	69	69	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	491
Cradlerock Elementary School	0	0	0	20	37	84	77	85	70	82	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	551
Dayton Oaks Elementary School	0	0	0	39	41	84	102	114	105	119	131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	735
Deep Run Elementary School	0	0	0	22	52	121	113	105	93	125	126	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	757
Ducketts Lane Elementary School	0	0	2	22	31	94	86	87	92	99	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	621
Elkridge Elementary School	0	0	0	0	38	132	152	156	146	145	149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	918
Forest Ridge Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	108	107	113	109	122	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	682
Fulton Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	151	167	167	160	157	149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	951
Gorman Crossing Elementary School	0	0	0	36	46	124	155	129	116	150	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	900
Guilford Elementary School	0	0	0	0	34	69	62	70	65	74	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	446
Hammond Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	98	96	105	96	119	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	622
Hanover Hills Elementary School	0	0	0	22	32	98	116	97	131	110	111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	717
Hollifield Station Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	139	143	154	161	132	154	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	883
Ilchester Elementary School	0	0	1	26	25	110	88	97	107	104	104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	662
Jeffers Hill Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	67	54	86	61	77	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	416
Laurel Woods Elementary School	0	0	0	0	39	80	107	95	88	95	118	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	622
Lisbon Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	70	70	72	65	83	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	452
Longfellow Elementary School	0	0	0	15	33	77	71	60	64	70	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	463
Manor Woods Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	114	65	115	111	124	135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	664
Northfield Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	113	106	128	132	132	136	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	747
Phelps Luck Elementary School	0	0	0	0	45	109	93	87	87	82	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	583



Special Services Only Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019
Report: STU606

As Of Date: 3/29/2019

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



Special Services Only Student Membership Summary

Year: 2018-2019

Report: STU606

As Of Date: 3/29/2019

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



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

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

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

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

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

Printed Name: LISA SOTO

Signature: Lisa Soto

Date: MAY 13, 2019

Organization: HCPSS

Organization Address: HCPSS CENTRAL OFFICE

Number of Members: 50-100

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Robert W. Miller

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Printed Name: Deanna Griffith Kucler

Signature: Dea Le Klee

Date: 5/13/2019

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

Organization Address: 3825 Centennial Lane

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 400 +

Name of Chair/President: Deanna G Kucler

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Testimony of Carter Matties

Howard County Council

May 13, 2019

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

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

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

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

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

Testimony of Josh Oberly

Howard County Council

May 13th, 2019

9945 Springfield Dr.

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

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

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

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



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

I, Jeremy Rossbach, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)
Centennial High School Friends of Music Boosters to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)
County Council regarding FY2020 HCPSS budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Jeremy Rossbach

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 5/13/19

Organization: Centennial High School Friends of Music Boosters

Organization Address: 4300 Centennial Lane
Elliot City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 600

Name of Chair/President: Jeremy Rossbach

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

My name is Michael Kilberg and I am a technology teacher for the Howard County School System. I recently earned Teacher of the Year in Use of Technology for the State of Maryland through the Maryland Society for Educational Technology (MSET). It has come to my attention that one of the proposals due to lack of full funding is to eliminate some of the technology teacher positions and drop us to 30 minute instruction times. I just want to share some of what I believe are the important aspects of what we do as technology teachers and why I feel it is important that HCPSS receive the necessary funds that would allow the continuation of our program as it is currently constituted.

We not only teach internet safety and digital citizenship, which is extremely important in today's world, but we also teach all of the skills future employers are looking for in their employees such as collaboration, computational thinking, and problem solving. We teach kids how to fail and learn from that failure. We teach kids how to use their creativity to show off their knowledge. The 30 minute proposed timeframe would amount to roughly 5 minutes of actual work time for a student as we are also teaching typing skills for 15 minutes a class period. After 15 minutes of typing and 5 minutes of instruction on the project we would be working on, that would leave roughly 5 minutes of work time for my students. All of the amazing projects my students do would go by the wayside. It is unfortunate that it is even considered to reduce one of the classes that devotes all of the energy into teaching students the skills they will need for the future. I have not even mentioned the important fact that we give access to technology for those who socioeconomically would never afford the technological devices we provide. Additionally, we teach these students how to use the learning management system they will need for middle school, high school and even college.

We bring real-world application to the curriculum. My students have used GIS mapping to study our school campus and figure out the best location for solar and wind energy in order to light a city. They have also used GIS mapping to examine the biodiversity of our school grounds and propose ways to improve the school grounds. We have developed magnetic coding systems in order to save one robot from being stuck in a location. We have developed websites in which actual businesses have been created and students have sold things during the summer. We

have had students teaching other students how to code using python. Students have developed animations and complete class websites that show off American Revolution knowledge. None of these things mentioned will take place if we are reduced to 1 tech teacher and 30 minutes and that would be a true shame. Students who do not always thrive in other areas always seem to shine in this environment of student driven projects that allow time for creativity.

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

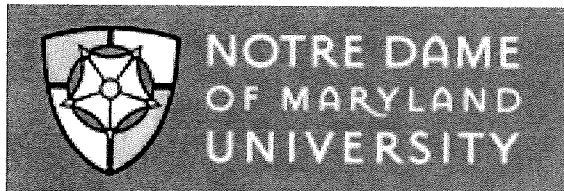
5/13/2019

Greetings Howard County Leadership,

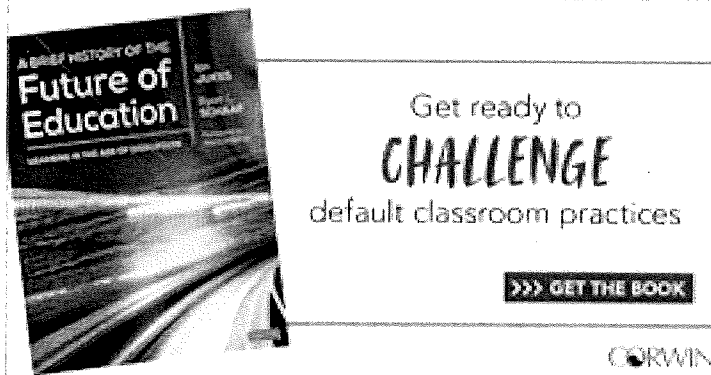
My name is Ryan Schaaf, Associate Professor of Educational Technology at Notre Dame of Maryland University and faculty at Johns Hopkins University. I am also a former teacher of Howard County Public Schools and a proud citizen of this fine county for almost four decades. I now act as a vice-chair for the Office of Instructional Technology's advisory board. As you deliberate an elaborate budget, I must advocate for the teachers and programs for Howard County Schools -specifically the technology and digital learning program.

Our students, the ones that will inherit the globalized world will require essential, next-generation skills to flourish and be successful. Drastically decreasing the budget to the schools will have an adverse effect on the technology tools and teaching talent Howard county can deploy in its classrooms. New technology tools and replacement plans are now delayed or canceled – technology and computer science teachers are worried their jobs or placements are in jeopardy. Send the right message to the citizens of Howard County. Communicate that skills such as coding, programming, project-based learning, robotics, online learning, and other digital applications are valued by this council and its leadership.

Please fully fund HCPSS and its Office of Instructional Technology and Digital Education.



Ryan Schaaf
Associate Professor of Educational Technology
School of Education
rschaaf@ndm.edu
410-274-7814



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

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:16 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Unrealistic Class Sizes

From: Kristin Vucina <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:32 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Unrealistic 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,

Hello,

It is disappointing to hear that 250 teachers will be let go, increasing class sizes in Howard County significantly. I don't know how a kindergarten class can effectively run with over 26 students. More thought needs to be put into this, especially considering the large tax dollars we pay in this county to go towards quality education. Quality education is not getting rid of teachers and increasing class sizes to unrealistic numbers.

Sincerely,
Kristin Vucina

Kristin Vucina
krisbelledc@gmail.com
3323 Governor Howard Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:16 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding

From: Ann Haas <ann_haas@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:31 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding

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

Opal Jones,

To All it Concerns,

Your probably flooded with emails from educators right now but I hope my email finds you well. We all have a tough job to do. We're the fact of larger class sizes and less teachers is a way of life not a math problem gone wrong.

I've only been a Para educator for a year and received a surplus letter. It makes me question should I continue this line of work. As a parent, employee and tax payer it is imperative that we fix the funding gap.

Thank you,

Ann Haas

Ann Haas

ann_haas@hcpss.org

Forest

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:12 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Needs

From: Katharine Dobrusin <katharine_dobrusin@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:31 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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,

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,
Katharine Dobrusin

Katharine Dobrusin
katharine_dobrusin@hcpss.org
6641 Cambria Ter
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for HCPSS

From: Erin Schultz <erin_schultz@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:31 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for 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 writing with the hopes of encouraging you to provide more funding for Howard County Public schools. As a first grade teacher I cannot imagine having 27 six and seven-year-olds in my classroom and being able to give them the individualized attention that they need. It would also take away from overall instructional time as we would now be trying to fit in even more reading groups then we already have in the same amount of instructional time provided. Please, please, please work hard and find the funding for us...we, the teachers need it... but more importantly, the kids need it ...Thank you

Erin Schultz
erin_schultz@hcpss.org
7708 lake circle
Pasadena , Maryland 21122

Sayers, Margery

From: Elizabeth Dodson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please allocate more for education

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

Council Members ,

Hello,

I have reviewed the budget numbers posted by a member of the BOE and am concerned about the impact on increased class sizes at my child's school next year. I understand that this is because of large financial commitments coming due, however, this cost was foreseeable and should not be born by students and already underpaid/overworked teachers. Keeping Howard County schools to the same excellent standards protects property values and makes it an attractive place for employers seeking top talent. It is worth a small increase in taxes to resist a slide that would reduce the quality of education in our schools.

I appreciate your consideration and will closely monitor related developments.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Dodson

Elizabeth Dodson
ekdodson@gmail.com
13168 Holly Loch Ln
Highland, Maryland 20777

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 4:22 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Public School Cut Backs

From: Brandi Nadler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Public School Cut Backs

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

Opal Jones,

My family moved a couple years ago so our kids could go to a better public school. My kindergartener has an IEP for speech articulation, expressive language and has also been diagnosed with mild apraxia. It has made learning to read very difficult for him. There are many kids who have learning disorders that this will greatly impact but this even impacts kids greatly without learning disorders. It is unfair for children and teachers at public schools to be put in such unjust learning environments. I am appalled that any public schools in this country would allow such absurd ratios as those being proposed by budget cuts. Please help our children and our teachers get the learning environment they deserve. In the end we will suffer the quality of teachers and quality of education for our children.

Brandi Nadler
brandi.nadler@hotmail.com
14215 Clarksville pike
Highland , Maryland 20777

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding

From: jyoti bijpuria <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:26 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding

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

Opal Jones,

My son has an ASD diagnosis and is doing well in the current size classroom at Worthington ES. If class sizes increase to a significant amount, it will be difficult for him and his peers to learn. Ultimately, more kids will be at risk for failing to achieve their goals. Please increase funding for HCPSS. It is the sole reason most people move here. If we don't get the funding we need, we will have a county no one can feel comfortable living in. Please imagine what this may look like in 5 or 10 years.

jyoti bijpuria
jyotibijpuria@hotmail.com
3914 OLD LEAF CT, ADDRESS 2 (OPTIONAL)
ELLCOTT CITY, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase funding

From: Elizabeth Gluck <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:25 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase funding

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

Opal Jones,

Class size is crucial to learning. When there are too many students in one class it is so hard to get one on one attention and for the teacher to have good classroom management. Please increase funding to either keep classes the same or to make them smaller!

Elizabeth Gluck
bethgluck1@gmail.com
4199 flower blossom drive
Ellicott city, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increasing class size for the school year 2029-2020

From: Nancy Barker <irshgal2@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:22 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increasing class size for the school year 2029-2020

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Members of the County Council,

As a retired HCPSS teacher of 37 years in Howard County, I have seen a great deal of different ways to balance the budget and serve the students of this county. You CAN NOT, in good conscience, balance this budget on the backs of the teachers, support staff and children of this county. The numbers proposed for the classrooms this coming year are NOT MANAGEABLE even by the best of our teachers. Do you want the students to have a quality education or just "get by"? Please look for other ways to trim the budget. EVERY CHILD and teacher/support staff will be ADVERSELY affected by this staffing error.

It is a GRIEVOUS ERROR, on your part, to think the teachers will let this go without a fight. Stand up for your staff & the kids. They MATTER THE MOST! Show them you have their backs & value their hard work & dedication to the students. Nancy Barker

Nancy Barker
irshgal2@comcast.net

Brookeville , Maryland 20833

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Size and my child's safety, education

From: Shannon Franks <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:21 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class Size and my child's safety, education

[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,

Today I learned that next year, class sizes will be 35 students for 8th grade due to a funding shortfall. This is not acceptable. My child attends a school where there are a high number of incidents and fights. They are not able to fully staff right now and this results in many substitutes. On one day that I spoke with the Principal she noted that there were 15 substitutes in the building and "keeping control" of the students was difficult. This was a discussion that came after many months of my daughter not having a Spanish teacher and the class constantly being out of control with the substitute of the day doing nothing. So much so, that one day a student entered the class and started flipping metal desks over, including my child's. Had my child not seen it happening, gotten up and backed into a corner, she would most likely have been injured. Why should my child have to run from her desk? How horrible is that? I am so sick and tired of everyone touting Howard County and HCPSS as a great place to live because I can tell you, and I've been here 19 years, that it is not all you would like people to believe it to be. I've watched it all fall apart over 19 years. Rubber stamping approvals for the rampant development at the expense of our schools and now you want to grill the BOE on why they need so much money? You cannot create a mess and then blame the organization that has to deal with the fallout from the Council's actions. I watch every BOE and Council meeting. The last meeting with the BOE it appeared as if some Council members were just looking for ammunition to use against the BOE instead of acknowledging the Council (past or not, the Council is the Council) had a large part in creating this problem and doing everything you can

to help fix it. So, reading that class sizes will now be increased to 35 next year, and knowing that there is such a struggle to keep the peace in my daughter's school, much less get any teaching done, I worry for her safety. If she is injured, the Council will have part of that responsibility to bear. That's not even discussing the hit that curriculum delivery will take along with the toll it will take on our teachers. Add to that I know teachers who will not teach in Howard County because the pay is too low, although they live here. I cannot express enough how frustrating it is watching all of this unfold. I would like to move, but we are unable to, financially, at this moment. Howard County is great as long as no one looks behind the curtain. I would like to think that we can course correct but watching the Council I don't think that is going to happen. It's upsetting to see.

Regards,

Shannon Franks

Shannon Franks

shannonkayfranks@gmail.com

7273 Calm Sunset

Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Schools

From: Erin Alberts <albertserin@gamil.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:20 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County Schools

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

Opal Jones,

Please tell me why I pay these taxes? The mismanagement in a county as affluent and wealthy as we are is absurd. No doubt PG and Montgomery counties are laughing at us and rightly so.

Erin Alberts
albertserin@gamil.com
10604 Graeloch Cr
Laurel, Maryland 20723

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Shortfall

From: Kerri Ukstins <kukstins@ymail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:19 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,

Please address this shortfall. Please. My children's class sizes are already at an all time high. Kids don't have places to sit in some classes. The amount of time the staff spends to quiet down such large groups takes away from time for content. To allow a kindergarten class to have 26 students is just unacceptable. This must be fixed. It's unconscionable that, in Howard County, Maryland, our government can allow this to happen. Unconscionable.

Kerri Ukstins
kukstins@ymail.com
7916 Helmart Drive
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:20 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Concerns

From: Courtney Shoemaker <courtney_shoemaker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:14 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,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm writing to you today as a graduate of Howard County Public Schools, as a homeowner, taxpayer, and voter in Howard County, as a mother of two very soon to be HCPSS students, and most importantly—as a proud HCPSS teacher. When I left high school and entered college I felt immensely prepared for the academic demands and challenges because of the preparation I had received at Centennial High School. In fact, I often thought that the life of being a student in Howard County was more demanding than my time in college and graduate school. When I decided to become a teacher, this was the county I knew I wanted to work in. When my husband and I decided to buy a home and start our family, we wanted to do it here. Why? I believe we have one of the best school systems in the county. I'm proud to be a part of this system and I want my children to have the outstanding education that I did.

However, over the last few years continually having to deal with cuts and limited resources has put a damper on my feelings about our county and our schools. Now we are facing class sizes going up and the children are going to be the ones that pay. I'm not a complainer. I knew what I was signing on for when I became a teacher. Hard work, not a ton of money, a lot of stress—but, I love what I do. So I show up and so do the dedicated educators I work with.

We are tasked to teach children from diverse backgrounds with a wide variety of challenges. It is already a struggle to meet the needs of every child and to make sure no one falls through

the cracks. If class sizes are raised...children will fall through the cracks. And it won't be the child with explosive behaviors. It will be the quiet kid, who does what they are supposed to do. The kid we all would want in our class. We won't have a chance to get to know that kid and somewhere along the line, maybe not in first grade where I teach, maybe not even in elementary school...that child will suffer.

Furthermore, think about the impact of these large classes on teachers who are already dealing with limited resources. Yes, many of us will show up. Maybe we will be more tired, maybe we will snap at our families more, maybe we will be more stressed. But we will show up and many of us will show up to second or third jobs as well. And continue to grade papers until late at night, plan lessons on the weekend while our own children nap, and shop for supplies for our classrooms with our own money. But some of us won't show up, we will lose good people over this and we are not in a field where we can lose good people.

Please ask yourself if you would want your child in a kindergarten class of 26? Or a high school class of 35? Ask yourself why you chose to live here. Ask yourself why many of the people who voted for you chose to live here. How can we call ourselves the best, if children are not the priority?

Please provide the additional funding needed. Thank you.

Courtney Shoemaker

Courtney Shoemaker
courtney_shoemaker@hcpss.org
6428 Frothingham Ct.
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:13 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Larger classroom sizes

From: Jerri Frick <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:18 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Larger classroom sizes

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

Opal Jones,

Today, I was notified that HCPSS has plans to downsize the number of teachers and increase class sizes due to budget issues. This is completely unacceptable. Larger class sizes may lead to lower student performance. Our students (and teachers) should not suffer because housing growth in this county is out of control. Too many schools are already over capacity and more are planned to be over capacity once planned housing construction is completed.

Please remember that our children deserve the best education possible, and this is not possible with over crowded schools and classrooms.

Jerri Frick
jerrifrick@gmail.com
7951 Gavin Way
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: NO INCREASE IN CLASS SIZE

From: Michelle Markow <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:15 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: NO INCREASE IN 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 am writing to implore you to not increase class size! I realize you were only given so much to work with but this is the last place you want to cut. A teacher can not safely manage this number of children. There are safety issues at hand. Also Smaller class sizes result in better performing schools. High performing schools is the hallmark of Howard County. It is what draws people to this community. Increasing class size would no longer make us a world class school system. Take the money from somewhere else!!!

Michelle Markow
slp32903@yahoo.com
7124 Morning Light Trail
Columbia , Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: teacher cuts / class size increases

From: Mark Wu <marknwu@jhmi.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:13 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: teacher 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.]

Dear Mr. Jones,

As a homeowner and parent in Howard County, I am writing to express my deep concern about the possibility of proposed budget cuts to the educational system. Given the importance of education, it is very disturbing to hear that cuts to reduce the number of teachers and increase class sizes are being considered.

As you know, our public school teachers are already underpaid, and overworked and play a critical role in the development of future generations of Americans. Nothing is more important than ensuring quality education for our children. Indeed, my family moved specifically to Howard County, because of its reputation for outstanding schools. Please don't destroy the quality of education in Howard county, to save some money.

Please consider budget cuts elsewhere, or if necessary raise taxes.

Respectfully,
Mark Wu

Mark Wu, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor in Neurology, Medicine, Genetic Medicine, and Neuroscience
Johns Hopkins University
Rangos Bldg, Room 294
855 N. Wolfe Street
Baltimore, MD 21205

Lab: 410-502-2162
Office: 410-502-7511

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:11 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Concerns

From: Sabrina Dailey <sabrina_dailey@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:13 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,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask you to fully fund the Howard County Public School System. It is important for several reasons:

1. Students need qualified and dedicated teachers and staff in order to thrive academically, mentally, socially and emotionally.
2. Many schools are already over crowded and/or in need of renovations.
3. Many schools are not equipped with adequate technology and other materials.
4. HCPSS has always been known as a stellar school system where people come from all over the world to get quality education for their children.
5. In order to attract and retain quality teachers and support staff, salaries must be competitive.

These are just a few reasons why the budget must be fully funded. Our future depends on it! Thank you for reading this letter and for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
SMD

Sabrina Dailey
sabrina_dailey@hcpss.org
5900 Big Tree CT
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Vote to fund HCPSS

From: Avery McClelland <avery_mcclelland@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:33 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Vote to 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,

Dear County Council Members,

I will be sending this letter every day until you vote to provide HCPSS the funding they need.

I am writing as an educator of twelve years in HCPSS who is also a product of the system. The current budget needs for our school system impact every student, staff member, and parent in our county. I am dual certified in art and special ed and no amount of professional development or training aid large class sizes.

The number one quality I pride myself on as a teacher is my relationships with my students. As class sizes go up, it makes it that much harder to connect with students and truly get to know them. I've been a grade level paraeducator, special ed paraeducator, special education teacher, and now art teacher. These positions have all given me the opportunity to form and grow these relationships over not just one but many years of a student's time in elementary school.

Special education desperately needs the funding to add teachers and support staff. These students need additional support or their educational gap widens and they feel like failures. I teach at Bellows Spring Elementary where we are lucky to house many regional programs in which students with and without disabilities have the opportunity to be included in classes with each other. These students develop skills that become instilled and not taught like empathy,

compassion, and patience. Nobody wins if you combine all these students into classes as large as 33 students. You will have increased anxiety, behaviors, and students feeling left out. Students and staff are all stressed and feeling like they can't do their best.

Art is a favorite subject of a majority of students. It may not be a tested course, but in a time when addressing mental health is so important, I feel lucky that I am in a position to help students shine regardless of their educational abilities. Just today I had a student say to me, "I only came to school today because I couldn't wait for art." That was the only conversation I had the chance to have with her during class because sadly with class sizes of 30, when you take out time for directions and clean-up, I can give each student 1.33 mins of attention a week. Realistically, some students take up far more than that, meaning there are some weeks I can't even check in with some students. That's not fair to these kids who look forward to this all week, the kids who feel art is the only place they fit in. I was that kid.

I feel it's important to share the teaching moment I am most proud of from when I was a special educator. Several years ago I had the privilege of having twins with down syndrome on my caseload. One of them, Christopher, loved the band Maroon 5. Because of having a small caseload of students that year (small being 7), I was able to truly individualize their instruction. To this day I can still tell you their favorite foods, books, holidays, songs. I helped Christopher that year make a video about how he did all his school projects about Maroon 5. I connected his IEP objectives to this project so that he was working on them in an authentic way and not just a task for the sake of data. He internalized everything and made so much progress that year because I gave him my time. I also had enough support staff to make this possible. The rest of the story is that he got to meet the band because of this video and it ended up going viral around the world. But that is not the important part of this story. I am sharing this with you because it shows what can be accomplished with appropriate staffing.

People all over the country move to our county just for the amazing school system. I hope you will think about this as you vote at the end of the month on the budget. You are more than welcome to visit my classroom any time to be reminded of who these amazing people are that we need to invest in. Be prepared to be asked your age, be complimented on your shoes, or asked for help unclogging their glue bottle.

Thank you for your consideration,

Avery McClelland
Art Teacher

Bellows Spring Elementary (T, W, F)

Fulton Elementary/Cedar Lane School art inclusion program (M, Th)

avery_mcclelland@hcpss.org

Avery McClelland

avery_mcclelland@hcpss.org

8125 Old Stockbridge Dr.

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: class sizes

From: Lisa Cramer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:37 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,

May 3, 2019

Dr. Ball and County Council members,

I am writing to express concern over the FY 2019-20 class size increase and teacher surplus proposed by HCPSS this week. As an educator in Howard County, I know first hand the value that both my colleagues and smaller class sizes bring to the social-emotional and learning environments of our schools.

I cannot stress enough the importance of the student-to-teacher ratio. As our schools already grapple with overcrowding, to stress the children's learning spaces even more is detrimental to their overall success. It has been proven time and again that having lower ratios increases the quality of relationships as well as improvement in academic areas.

During the most recent campaign, Dr. Ball and others ran on these very issues so important to teachers and families in this community. "Education, education funding, school overcrowding, class-size increases" are priority issues that resonate with voters.

Our county prides itself not only on the standards set forth by qualified educators but also the diversity and the high success of our students, both traditionally academic and alternative in nature. Can you justify adding more bodies and less trained staff as best practices?

Recommendations per the National Education Policy Center reinforce what teachers in HCPSS already know:

Class size is an important determinant of student outcomes, and one that can be directly determined by policy. All else being equal, lowering class sizes will improve student outcomes. The payoff from class-size reduction is greater for low-income and minority children.

Conversely, increases in class size are likely to be especially harmful to these populations -- who are already more likely to be subjected to large classes.

While lowering class size has a demonstrable cost, it may prove the more cost-effective policy overall particularly for disadvantaged students. Money saved today by increasing class sizes will likely result in additional substantial social and educational costs in the future.

Generally, class sizes of between 15 and 18 are recommended but variations are indicated. For example, band and physical education may require large classes while special education and some laboratory classes may require less.

We teachers are on the front lines of this budget crisis. We are tasked with providing the services of an educator, a parent, a counselor and a police officer to an increasing number of children. We are asked to nurture, instruct and potentially shield our students from danger. We love what we do and truly believe our profession is a calling. Please help us perform these many jobs to the best of our ability and honor our many roles in the classroom.

To respect the children we teach and to give them the attention they deserve, our class numbers need to remain smaller in number and our teachers need to stay!

Sincerely,

Lisa Cramer

Kindergarten teacher

Centennial Lane. E.S.

Lisa Cramer

ru02Leese@yahoo.com

8705 Cardinal Forest Circle

Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:45 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Counseling Supports & Learning

From: Tricia Adkinson <tricia_adkinson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:18 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: School Counseling Supports & Learning

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

Opal Jones,

I think it is safe to say that we, as a nation, are navigating a mental health crisis. In order for students to attend to learning and work toward our school system vision of positively influencing the larger community, it is imperative that we stop increasing ratios! Access to adequate supports and consistent relationships are foundational in students being able to succeed.

This is only ONE piece to the mental health support puzzle, but already, elementary schools are operating with one school counselor for up to 750 students! The national recommended ration is set for 1:250. The demands from teachers, parents, and students are too much for me, and many other counselors, to meet with full integrity, despite our diligent efforts. Adding to classroom ratios will only have teachers stretched thinner than they already are, less likely to consistently feed relationships in a way that sets students up for success. Teachers, in turn, will be looking for more support to make this happen, which will not be there.

It feels as if we are a factory, being forced to push more and more kids through in the name of cost effectiveness. Please consider the social, emotional, and academic needs of all of the students that will be impacted (more than we know) by these cuts and proposed classroom numbers! If anything, we should be investing MORE individuals, staff, and resources; not less.

Thank you for your time.

Tricia Adkinson

tricia_adkinson@hcpss.org

8657 Town & Country Blvd. Apt. B

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Karen Jakubek <karen_jakubek@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 6:03 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,

Howard County Council Members I ask that you please reconsider the budget for HCPSS. Families from around the world seek out Howard County as a place to live because of the school system! I have to wonder if they would still come if they knew how we struggle with an incredible lack of student supports. Many of these families have children that require services that we cannot meet. The Special Education team at my school is always short in support staff to help with the children that need it the most. While I realize that HCPSS has to look within it's own operations to cut it should not be the people who directly make a difference in a child's life.

Thanks for your consideration.

Karen Jakubek

Karen Jakubek
karen_jakubek@hcpss.org
5106 Crystal Park Lane
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget 2019/2020

From: Stefanie Moellmann <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:35 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget 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,

Dear Council Member,

I am a new teacher here in Howard County, with this being my second year. When I graduated I had only applied to Howard County because of how prestigious the school system is, and I wanted nothing more than to teach in this great community. But as I am now seeing, the council does not see our school system as being as important as I think it is.

I teach in a title 1 school, where children come from a diverse background, many moving to Howard County from Baltimore, in order to have a great education. Many of these children have been affected by trauma and therefore need emotional support as well as instruction. I have 18, 6-7 year olds in my classroom. Many of them needing extra support, both instructionally and emotionally. As of now with 18 children in my class I can adequately give them the support they need and deserve. If my class size was to increase to 27-28, as the budget states, these children will not be getting the same individual attention and guidance that they need to flourish.

If class sizes were to increase I would need to have at least 5 to 6 reading groups in my classroom, as opposed to the 4 that I have now. Each group is required to have 20 minutes a day of small group guided reading instruction. With 60 minutes allotted a day I am able to see 3 groups a day and see my fourth only 3 times a week. If I had 5 to 6 reading groups in my class, they would not have the daily instruction that they require.

If I had 27-28 children in my classroom, I would not be able to rotate my math groups, which I am required to have only two groups, and make sure each individual child gets explicit

instruction. As of now I have 1 math group having 9 children and the other having 8, and it is difficult to give one on one attention to them now, especially with many needing emotional support as well. Each group would have 12 to 13 students, and there would be absolutely no real learning taking place at that time.

My job as an educator in a title 1 school is not just instructing students in math, language arts, and content all day long. It is so much more than that. I am there to listen to their fears, and worries. I am there to help them with their social interactions with others. I am there to calm them down when everything just gets too much to handle. And I can do that now with 18. But I will not be able to with 28. There just would not be enough time in the day for instruction, and to build relationships with them.

All the data shows, from many studies, that smaller class sizes are better for learning. It creates a better learning environment and it allows for a better classroom community to flourish. Please, increase the budget for our children. Give them the education they deserve by giving us the time to instruct them and guide them by having smaller class sizes. And please, feel free to come and visit any of our title 1 schools in the county. We would love to have you.

Sincerely,
Stefanie Moellmann

Stefanie Moellmann
sdonnelly_721@yahoo.com
100 south Prospect ave
Catonsville , Maryland 21228

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget cuts

From: Beatrice Withee <beatrice_withee@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:48 PM
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,

I am writing this letter as a Howard County parent and as an employee of the county. It saddens me that the proposed budget cuts will have such a negative impact on schools, students, teachers, and the community. Not only will the larger class sizes physically affect classrooms, but most importantly will negatively impact the social emotional connection that our superintendent has worked so hard to promote over this last school year. For the well-being of our children, teachers, and the future, please do not allow these budget cuts to occur.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Withee

Beatrice Withee
beatrice_withee@hcpss.org
5248 Open Window
Columbia , Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:34 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Size

From: Susan Cochran <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 6:02 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,

Please do whatever it takes to reduce class size. It's nearly impossible to meet all the needs of my 28 third graders (past three years) and the idea that the Board is considering up to 33 is ridiculous. I would suggest that we cut some of the fat in the budget by dissolving technology teacher positions. While the work of this program and teachers is well intended, the tech standards can be met by classroom teacher in much more seamless ways that are relevant to our students day to day learning. This of course would mean access to devices, which my school struggles with even with the new chromebooks added in April. I know where 60 devices could come from without the tech teachers positions. The budget shortfall could probably be met over a few years.

I teach third grade. We don't need 1:1, but one device to 3-4 students would go a long way. Given the need to differentiate and work with small learning groups, greater tech access would allow me to leverage tools like Canvas to optimize learning directly and indirectly. Many teachers in our county and other school districts district are doing just that with great success. Thanks for your considerations.

Susan Cochran
susancochran5@gmail.com
17308 Old Frederick Road
Mount Airy , Maryland 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Concerns about class size change

From: Kimberly Hendrickson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:19 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Concerns about class size change

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Ms. Jones, Ms. Rigby, Ms. Walsh, Ms. Jung, & Mr. Yungman,

It has been a pleasure and honor to work for the Howard County Public School System for the past 10 years. Howard County has continuously surpassed all other public school systems in Maryland, as HCPSS prioritizes it's students and teachers, always making decisions that are in the best interest of both. Although, HCPSS is in a budget deficit, increasing class sizes and cutting staffing is not an effective solution. This will be detrimental to student learning and teacher success/ satisfaction. A few more students may not sound like much; however, it makes best practices for reading and math instruction nearly impossible and adds countless hours of planning and grading every week for educators. We care so deeply for our students and their education and put countless time into planning for every child individually to ensure their success. Increasing class sizes will hurt our students and teachers. Please reconsider and continue to be the best public school system by doing what is right for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Hendrickson
HCPSS Elementary Teacher

Kimberly Hendrickson
kimberly.tavener@gmail.com

17412 Kirstin Ct
Olney, Maryland 20832

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Concerns

From: Karen Tavenner <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:27 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Concerns

[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 greatly concerned about the impacts of the proposed changes to the budget for the 2019-2020 school year. Howard County Public Schools are why we moved to Howard County in 1991. HCPSS rises above other school systems, providing high quality instruction and education to all their students. It is my concern that the budget cuts to staffing and increased class sizes will no longer allow for superior high quality instruction to be provided for all. I understand the budget concerns and needs; however, this is not a healthy solution.

Sincerely,

Karen Tavenner

Karen Tavenner

krtavenner@gmail.com

Michael Elizabeth Way

Hanover, Maryland 21076

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Terry Tavenner <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:38 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 County Council Members,

In 1991, my family to Howard County to ensure my children would have the best opportunities and education available. In 2005, my daughter graduated from HCPSS and went on to a 4-year university to study education. Immediately after graduating from college, she was hired as an elementary teacher with HCPSS and began her Master's degree with Johns Hopkins University. She has been a dedicated and passionate educator for the past 10 years. She loves her job, her students, her school. But, being a teacher is more than just a job for her. She pours countless hours into planning for her students, grading assignments and praying for their well-being and success. She no longer lives in Howard County but believe no other school system is equivalent to Howard County. Teaching is a hard profession. I do not want to see my daughter's passion lost because of increased class sizes leading her to feel that she cannot serve every child or burning out because of all the additional time and money put into preparing for her students. She chose to be a teacher to make a difference. Please provide her an environment where she can make the difference she is willing to work so hard for.

Thank you,
Terry Tavenner

Terry Tavenner
terry.tavenner@gmail.com

Michael Elizabeth Way
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Sayers, Margery

From: Harris, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 11:48 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

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

From: Jean Silver-Isenstadt <jeansi@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:50 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
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.]

Having received my own K-12 education in HCPSS and having raised 3 kids who have done the same, I am sad to have to write a plea for greater equity among our schools, but there it is. Our county has thrived on the reputation of our schools—which were made uniquely strong in the first place through a robust commitment to equity of opportunity and an inclusive, anti-bias ethos. Howard County is losing its way if this foundational vision must be pleaded for. A community is only as strong as its faith in itself.

-Jean Silver-Isenstadt
WLHS '86

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 11:47 AM
To: Fran Donaldson; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: [External] 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 Ms. Donaldson:

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 work session this Wednesday, May 8 at 4 p.m., 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

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

From: Fran Donaldson <frandonaldson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:55 AM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

As a former Howard County Elementary Principal, I am supporting more funding for equity in our school system. Every student deserves to have their needs met no matter which school they attend!

Sincerely your in Education,
Fran Donaldson

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 11:47 AM
To: Jean Silver-Isenstadt; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: [External] 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 Ms. Silver-Isenstadt:

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,

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

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

From: Jean Silver-Isenstadt <jeansi@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:50 AM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

Having received my own K-12 education in HCPSS and having raised 3 kids who have done the same, I am sad to have to write a plea for greater equity among our schools, but there it is. Our county has thrived on the reputation of our schools—which were made uniquely strong in the first place through a robust commitment to equity of opportunity and an inclusive, anti-bias ethos. Howard County is losing its way if this foundational vision must be pleaded for. A community is only as strong as its faith in itself.

-Jean Silver-Isenstadt
WLHS '86

Sayers, Margery

From: Fran Donaldson <frandonaldson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:55 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; 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.]

As a former Howard County Elementary Principal, I am supporting more funding for equity in our school system. Every student deserves to have their needs met no matter which school they attend!

Sincerely your in Education,
Fran Donaldson

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jean Silver-Isenstadt <jeansi@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:50 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; 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.]

Having received my own K-12 education in HCPSS and having raised 3 kids who have done the same, I am sad to have to write a plea for greater equity among our schools, but there it is. Our county has thrived on the reputation of our schools—which were made uniquely strong in the first place through a robust commitment to equity of opportunity and an inclusive, anti-bias ethos. Howard County is losing its way if this foundational vision must be pleaded for. A community is only as strong as its faith in itself.

-Jean Silver-Isenstadt
WLHS '86

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:18 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Crowding of school

From: Navneet Otal <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:11 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Crowding of school

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

Opal Jones,

HCPSS is the best school system Because of the teachers and standards of teaching but if there are more kids , less teachers, the standards will decline so we request for adequate budget for teachers and supplies.

Navneet Otal
nsotal6@gmail.com
10109 Bell Inn Ln
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:15 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: The best interest of our children

From: Wenona Galotta <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:07 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: The best interest of 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,

Howard County prides itself on providing high quality public education. If you increase class sizes and cut staffing, you are sending the message that you do not care about our children's educations and futures. As one of the wealthiest counties in the country, it is a complete travesty that we overcrowd classrooms and overtax our educators. These children are the future of our country, so we should be focusing on providing an education to prepare them to handle it. 21st century educations require students to be moving, collaborating and engaging in hands on activities. How will they do that in a room that's bursting at the seams with a frazzled teacher? There is no job more important than that of a teacher. Respect them enough and respect our children enough to pass a budget that will make high quality education a reality and not a memory.

Wenona Galotta
nonipony@aol.com
9336 Old Scaggsville Rd
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Nina Shearer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:05 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,

Please do not increase class size. This will decrease our teacher's ability to teach, and our children's ability to learn. It is heartbreaking that Howard county, one of the best school districts around, is contemplating laying off so many teachers and hurting so many children. This makes me very angry too. Our children deserve better.

Thank you
Nina Shearer

Nina Shearer
theshearerclan@gmail.com
10809 Graeloch Road
Laurel, Maryland 20723

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase class size propose

From: Idaines Anderson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:04 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase class size propose

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

Opal Jones,

Council members,

One of the many reasons my family decided to purchase a home in Howard County was the reputation of the schools. Living in this county is at a great sacrifice to me since it causes me to have a daily 2-hour commute. However, I am starting to see a downward trend. The school rankings have down, schools are surrounded by trailers and most resources are private.

I have a 3-year-old who currently attends a Private Preschool. We have seen a great improvement in his language, cognitive and social skills and we credit the small class size. 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant for 6 kids. We were not expecting such a small setting in kindergarten or elementary school but we're hoping it would be a small ratio. It already proved to be such a great success.

The proposal to increase class size due to budget cannot move forward. How can a teacher properly teach with such high numbers? Public education has already suffered due to the test-driven curriculum but increasing class size will be what will drive away families from Howard County. There is enough funding, but education needs to be valued. I do not work hard and commute far for my child to have a subpar education. Teacher retention, particularly excellent teachers require good income, resources, and reasonable class sizes.

As a community, we all benefit from an excellent school system. It increases property value that allows higher property taxes. Overall it is a win-win. Please be mindful of the effects this would have on everyone.

Sincerely,
Idaines Anderson

Idaines Anderson
idaines@hotmail.com
7937 Red Barn Way
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:57 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Larger class sizes

From: Catherine Thornton <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:58 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Larger 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,

Hello,

I am a parent and former employee of Centennial Lane Elementary. I honestly don't know how you will fit more students per classroom when the rooms are already packed. The cubbies where they keep their belongings are overflowing, teachers hardly have room for reading groups and the playground gets so packed on days the grass is wet that they can't run. Children can't run. They are forced to sit most of the day in these tight rooms and then don't have an outlet for energy. This is just the tip of the overcrowding iceberg. More kids per room will lead to an environment that is not conducive to learning. Please, for the sake of our children, stop this proposal for more children per teacher.

Catherine Thornton
betsy_48503@yahoo.com
9929 Carrigan Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Keep Howard County #1

From: winnifred overton <bpo111@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:58 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Keep Howard County #1

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

Opal Jones,

We have the best school system in the state! But funds are used up quickly, teachers have to spend so much of their own money to provide for their students, salaries are not keeping up with the financial necessities of families, and our students are needier than ever due to our complex society. Help us by providing more than just the basics to our schools! We are so proud of our teachers and our students! They deserve the best! Better to invest in our schools now than pay for the results of an inadequate education later.

winnifred overton
bpo111@verizon.net
6229 Sutton Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:51 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Patty Smith <patty_smith@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:55 PM
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,

It is proposed that class sizes could increase to 35 students in a class. Some of our classrooms could not even accommodate that many students. I find it outrageous that anyone would suggest putting that many students in a classroom while at the same time spouting the importance of building relationships and mental health. If this is the best they can do to balance the budget, they don't really understand education at all.

Patty Smith
patty_smith@hcpss.org
5348 Sunny Field Court
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Majbritt Jensen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:52 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,

We moved to Howard County for the school system and student teacher ratio. If this changes we will move and go to another county and send our children to private school in that county if needed.

Majbritt Jensen
jensenfamilymail@gmail.com
8951 Tawes St
Fulton , Maryland 20759

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Classroom overcrowding

From: Victoria Bokhari <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:51 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Classroom overcrowding

[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 concerned about the recent budget plans that will result in a reduction of school resources and overcrowded schools.

So many families relocate to our great county because of our school system. This is certainly a path that will lead to failure, and our children will suffer, especially those that may require a little more attention or have special needs.

We have one of the wealthiest counties in the nation. That is, in part, because of the education we provide. Couldn't there be a way to use that wealth towards the educational system to make sure it remains great?

Victoria Bokhari
vixevee@hotmail.com
9010 Moving Water Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21046

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Overcrowded Schools

From: Lauren Palguta <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:50 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Overcrowded Schools

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

Opal Jones,

We saved everything we had so we could move to Howard County for the highly ranked schools. With little oversight to development and a focus on profit, our fantastic County has become severely overcrowded. We were always accepting of the outrageously high cost to own a home and pay taxes for the benefit of our children's education. You are now threatening our children's future, growth, and development by proposing additional increases to classroom ratios and budget cuts. I would like to remind you that this is important to a lot of people - people who you represent and who voted you into office.

In addition, Howard County has always attracted superlative teachers. What is the benefit for them coming to our school system? Too many kids in the class? Working more than one job to make ends meet? Using what little funds they have to purchase supplies?

I ask that you reconsider and ensure our schools are properly funded with appropriate ratios to facilitate learning.

Lauren Palguta
lsackl1@hotmail.com
8714 Chapel Hill Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Do not increase class sizes

From: Karla Whittaker <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:47 PM
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,

I am strongly against increasing class sizes in Howard county schools. Our teachers are already overtaxed and our students suffer the consequences. There is just no way that students can receive adequate attention in these increasingly large classes. I expect better from a school system which continually touts itself as being "world class." I sincerely hope that education is not put on the back burner once again In this county.

Karla Whittaker
karlamjones@yahoo.com
4930 Worthington Way
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:25 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: We could do better

From: Lizabeth Smull <lizabethsmull@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:47 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: We could do better

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

Opal Jones,

To those who care about the quality of teaching versus student ratio this is for you and education. Please think about a classroom that already has 27 chairs in it with one teacher trying to reach all of the students different learning needs. And then try and picture 3 more chairs, you just can't see it !

Sincerely,

Liz Smull
Para Educator at OMMS

Lizabeth Smull
lizabethsmull@hcpss.org
9465 catfeet court
Columbia , Maryland 21045

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:21 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Concerns

From: Bridie Condon <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:44 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,

As a special educator in the HCPSS school system, the current proposed budget is alarming. With a lack of funding and resources, staff caseloads continue to increase and support staff continues to decrease. This makes my job incredibly challenging and has come close to burning me out with this job. I stay up almost nightly until 11 pm completing work that there simply isn't time for during the school day. I'm split between two grade levels and rarely get a moment alone. Please consider the state of our school system. Consider our most vulnerable populations that require more support than what is currently allocated. This job cannot happen with less funding. Thank you.

Bridie Condon
bmcondon@hotmail.com
7820 Paragon Circle Apt. 311
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:20 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Donna Cruz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:41 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,

The HCPSS is increasing class sizes and surplussing teachers to make up for a budget shortfall. This is an unacceptable practice to use children as pawns in a failed political system. Your actions today are destroying the future. As someone who has benefited from living abroad and witnessing other countries educational system, it is mismanagement such as this that proves why American children are not competitive in global educational standards. More children in a classroom creates more distractions, less educational and individualized time from teachers because additional students are dividing up what little individualized attention

Donna Cruz
donnaheen@gmail.com
11140 Marta Way
Fulton, Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 5:08 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Sizes

From: Nicole Mazzei-Williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:39 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,

Hi- as a HoCo taxpayer I am increasingly frustrated by the lack of support for quality public education... the class sizes continue to increase, and less resources are being used for our public education. There are safety issues to be considered as well as educational issues, whereas one teacher cannot adequately meet the educational and safety issues for 30+children, nor should they have to! It's a shame when tax paying county residents have to resort to private education to meet the needs of their students that should be able to be served by a world-class educational system that HoCo is supposed to be.

Sincerely,
A concerned parent

Nicole Mazzei-Williams
nmazzeiwilliams@gmail.com
10004 Running Sand Knoll
Laurel, Maryland 20723

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard county schools budget

From: Kira Elbeyli <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:39 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard county schools budget

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

Opal Jones,

The proposed class sizes due to the Howard County Public School System budget shortfall is unacceptable. As a parent of an autistic child, I am worried for his safety and ability to effectively learn with that teacher to student ratio.

Kira Elbeyli
kraelbeyli@hotmail.com
6729 Pyramid Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Huge safety concern

From: Joseph Quirk <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:39 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Huge safety concern

[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,

As a Howard county employee for the past seven years and a Maryland educator for 11 years, I have seen the school system change, some for good, and some for the bad.

I urge you to fully fund the gap's that are made in this years budget. The county is thinking about increasing the class-size from 31 to 33 students for in grades 3-5.

We are going the wrong direction. We need to be dropping these numbers. As a PE teacher, we teach a lot of double classes in a very small gym. That is 66 5th graders in a small gym trying to learn. This is unacceptable and I have huge safety concerns that will lead to not only students not being in an optimal learning environment but being at a higher risk of injury.

Please consider funding the extra money needed to maintain the already over crowded schools. My son will be starting school in 2 years, and this is not the environment I would want him to learn in. I do want the best for all of my students, and we need to be going the other way in class sizes, supplying instructional material and dwindling value of salary due to inflation. We are supposed to be the best county in Maryland, we need to start acting like it

Thank you for your consideration.

Your constituent,

Joe Quirk

Joseph Quirk
joequirkjr@gmail.com

10228 Scaggsville Rd
Laurel, Maryland 20723

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 5:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Letter

From: Patricia K. Reese <Patricia_Reese@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:58 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>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget Letter

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

Members of the Howard County Council,

I want to share the letter that I wrote to Dr. Martirano and the Howard County Board of Education about the budget for HCPSS; it is included below.

Kindly,

P. Kayleen Reese

Social Studies Teacher and Instructional Team Leader

Centennial High School

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

I am writing in regards to your response to the County Council's denial of the Howard County Public School System's requested budget. You have directed the schools to prepare to increase class sizes to 35 and thereby

cut teachers. It seems you would like the community to contact the County Council and County Executive and blame them for not adequately funding the school system, especially because Mr. Calvin Ball ran on a platform of supporting education. I realize this might be an effective way to get the money you want. However, as a teacher, I resent being used as a pawn in this battle. In addition, I believe there are other parts of the budget that can and should be cut.

In communications with various members of the County Council, I have been informed that the budget the school system received is an increase of \$30M over FY19, representing a budget that is 3.5% larger than last year.

In Dr. Martirano's tenure as Superintendent, there has been a significant increase in high level management positions on the organizational chart. These positions have very little, if any, direct impact on students or the quality of instruction in our classrooms and yet cost the school system a lot of money. There are several new positions like Community Superintendents, Directors of various programs, and entire new offices. This increase in Central Office can be seen in the budget. Since 2016 there has been a 24% increase in salaries for "Administration" (from \$12,342,223 to \$15,356,125). According to the budget document, "Administration" funds the salaries for the Board of Education, the Superintendent's office, central support services like financial assessment, legal, planning and payroll. Since 2016 there has been a 15% increase in salaries for "Midlevel Administration" (from \$58,487,662 to \$67,074,229) which includes Instructional Support Services such as central office instructional personnel, professional development, school based office staff, school administration, media processing, cable TV/video production and temporary employee services. The number of administrators in my building has not increased at all since 2016, and therefore, most of this growth must be at Central Office. Reallocating Central Office staff in these 2 categories alone could cut the budget deficit by over \$11M.

I also want to take the time to point out that secondary curricular offices have not grown since 2016. The staff in these offices are responsible for creating curriculum for teachers to use in our classrooms and therefore have a direct impact on students and the quality of instruction in every classroom in the county. As a social studies teacher, I can speak most definitively about the Office of Social Studies, which has a total of 3 members (1 of which is currently vacant) and 1 administrative position. There are 6 required courses in Social Studies from grades 6-11 and 28 elective courses for which this very small office creates curricular resources. The number of staff in this area is wholly inadequate. Yet, the curricular offices are not where the money for salaries in the budget is allocated. In addition, resource teachers in curricular areas are not as expensive to employ as high level management although they do have a direct impact on the quality of instruction in Howard County.

You say there is a mental health crisis among students, and you are correct. This is why you have increased school counselors and other support staff. What do you think the impact of having 35 students in a class will be on students' mental health? Already, teachers have too many students in a class and adding even a few more makes getting to know our students that much more difficult, not to mention the time it would take to

provide relevant, timely feedback so that all students may grow. Dr. Martirano says he puts students at the center of every decision he makes. This cannot be true given the state of our students' mental health. Why would increasing class size be in students' best interest? This is another reason I believe you are just using teachers as pawns to get the funding you want. Will you increase class size just to keep all the extra middle level management you have added? I hope not.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kayleen Reese". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

P. Kayleen Reese

Social Studies Teacher and Instructional Team Leader

Centennial High School

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 5:00 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fund Our Teachers

From: Jennifer Wilson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:38 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fund 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,

Please fund the HCPSS budget so that we can provide the education that our citizens expect and our students deserve. As a high school reading specialist I see first hand the needs of our lowest achieving students in a daily basis. These students need classes which are small enough so that their instructional needs can be met. The teacher will not be able to provide the direct instruction that our neediest students need. Not only will this hurt the academic progress of the student, but it also will have a negative impact on the students ability to progress through school and graduate. Please know these positions are not a luxury, but are a necessity. I invite you to spend a day at school with me, this will enable you to see the close instruction that our neediest students need, deserve, and expect.

Jennifer Wilson
jenanwil@gmail.com
10813 Henley Court
Columbia , Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:56 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fiscal Responsibility

From: Erin Ankeny <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:37 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fiscal Responsibility

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

Opal Jones,

Lawmakers of Howard County,

It has come to my attention that increasing class sizes have been proposed as a solution to budget shortfalls. I urge you to reconsider. This means that our county is faced with losing hundreds of qualified teachers and increasing the likelihood that children in 504 programs could go without specialized assistance. I am speaking up on behalf of my family and other county parents who value and appreciate the schools in Howard County and expect our children to be in the best position to learn and thrive in school.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate all you do for our community.

Erin Ankeny

Erin Ankeny
erinankeny@gmail.com
8406 Bluestone Ct
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fully fund education in Howard County

From: Therese Garroway <tbgarroway@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:37 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fully fund education in Howard County

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am requesting you fully fund the education budget to ensure the safety and well-being of our children. Class size directly relates to student achievement and teacher retention. Our county educators have endured significant cut backs in the past years which have greatly impacted the experience our students have had in the classroom. Teachers are leaving because of the lack of resources. Students mental health and academic need are increasing and that demands more staff and smaller class sizes. Protect our schools, our children and our teachers from the mediocrity that comes with underfunding.

Sincerely, Therese Garroway, Howard County resident and educator

Therese Garroway
tbgarroway@verizon.net
Ashley Court
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please support the full budget proposed by HCPSS

From: Melinda Campbell <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:36 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please support the full budget proposed by HCPSS

[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 educator and parent it is important to me that the full proposed budget set forth by HCPSS is funded. Smaller class sizes means teachers are able to build stronger relationships with students. Stronger relationships mean more social-emotional support which potentially reduces suicide rates, bullying, and acts of violence in the school. I know two additional students in a class does not sound like a large increase but think about the time you have to invest with each of your relatives to build strong relationships. For the wellness and emotional well-being of our students and staff I ask you to support the full budget.

Thanks,

Melinda Campbell

Teacher and parent of 3 HCPSS kiddos

Melinda Campbell

dillcamp@gmail.com

7631 midtown rd

Fulton, Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Staffing HCPSS

From: Heidi Shorter <hshorter@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:35 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Staffing HCPSS

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

Opal Jones,

Thank you for all you do for Howard County. As a teacher in our amazing school system I am concerned with the possibility of increasing class sizes. Currently, our school is bursting at the seams, I have no classroom to teach in, classes are sprinkled and when a computer does not work (which is OFTEN) I run out of equipment for the students because there are too many in one class. This is not conducive at all in giving kids the appropriate foundation in our schools. Please reconsider class sizes so that teachers can reach our students emotionally and uphold our superintendent's call to action. Thank you!

Heidi Shorter

hshorter@hcpss.org

Crossbow RD

Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fund the budget gal

From: Diane Cohen <DIANE_COHEN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:30 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fund the budget gal

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

Opal Jones,

Please fund the full budget request. The new initiatives to strengthen our mental health and social services are vital in this era of school shootings and teen suicides. In addition, keeping our class sizes low, helps our teachers spend more time connecting with students and building strong relationships.

Diane Cohen
DIANE_COHEN@hcpss.org
10671 Quarterstaff Road
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Michelle Weill <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:27 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,

Tonight I attended Kindergarten orientations at Longfellow ES for my oldest daughter. She will be starting there this fall and is my first child to attend public school in Howard County. I am a product of Howard County schools and fought hard to stay in this county so my children could have that same opportunity despite it being a hardship on us to afford housing here. My husband and I both have good, stable jobs, but we pay a good amount for our house which to us was worth it for the excellent public schools. Tonight I also heard that there would be a surplus of 300 teachers due to budget cuts and that all class sizes would be increasing. That was incredibly disheartening coming home from orientation and seeing how excited my daughter was for school. I feel frustrated for the teachers who will need to further split their time and attention and sad for the students who deserve more individualized attention. I understand budgets and needing to make changes based on needs and finances, but for a school system that attracts many people to this area, has a stellar reputation and will ultimately provide this county with educated adults who give back, it seems counterintuitive to take money where it is most needed. Please reconsider your budget options and continue to fund our most fundamental resources in this county, our schools and our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Michelle Weill

Michelle Weill
shelly395@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Wendy Williams-Abrams <wmrlz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 5:17 PM
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.]

Dear County Council,

I am writing to you as a Howard County taxpayer, mother of four children in HCPSS, the president of the Manor Woods Elementary PTA, and as a former elementary teacher. I am very disturbed by the council's inability to fully-fund the budgetary needs of our school system. As the third wealthiest county in the country, I am perplexed by our county's fiscal shortfall. How is it that the fastest-growing county in the state is unable to fund the educational needs of its students? What are we doing wrong, on the county level, that our BOE is being forced to increase class sizes to unreasonable levels in order to stay within budget?

I have been talking to my children about how they feel when they hear that they will have more kids in their classes, and I think my 8th grader said it best. He said, "I sometimes don't understand what the teacher is teaching, and when there are lots of kids in the class, I feel like I can't ask as many questions because the teachers seem overwhelmed. For kids like me, it's really hard to be in huge classes. I can't imagine if they were any bigger." My sophomore said, "We already have 34 kids in my English class, and there's barely room to move in the classroom. We were told that we are going to lose two English teachers next year, which means that our classrooms will be even more crowded. We can't have any more kids in our classes!" My elementary kids are more distraught by what the increase in class sizes means for their related arts classes, and the need for more and more "sprinkling" of students.

As an educator, a parent, and a taxpayer in this county, I believe that it is your responsibility to ensure that our children's educations remain the top priority. People move to Howard County for our schools. If our school system begins to decline, and how can it not if class sizes increase, our county will no longer be as desirable. Our property values will decrease as people choose to move to neighboring counties where the school systems are adequately funded. Our county has ridden on the school system's reputation for a long time, but the reality of deferred maintenance, outdated technology, large class sizes, and insufficient facilities will eventually bring us to our knees. We voted for council members who would fight for education, fight for increased impact fees from developers, and who would make the tough decisions needed to bring our budgetary priorities into focus.

If development continues at its current rate, and we continue to gain approximately 1,000 new students each year, we will find ourselves in an even more dire situation. It is up to the county council to figure out how to increase revenue (not simply by increasing our taxes, but by recovering more impact fees from developers and businesses), get rid of any budgetary "fat", and renew its commitment to our school system. We must fully-fund the superintendent's budget.

Sayers, Margery

From: Buffy Hartung <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 8:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
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.]

Council Members ,

Please do not increase class sizes in Howard county schools. Howard county is renowned for its quality of education for our children. Increasing class sizes will greatly diminish the ability for students to learn. When class sizes increase, the teacher's ability to help individual students throughout the day decreases. It's a difficult situation to need to balance the budget however nothing is more valuable than a good teacher having time to work with each of the students. Please do not shortchange our students on their education by increasing class sizes.

Sincerely,
Buffy Hartung

Buffy Hartung
frogblue@gmail.com
6454 Woodburn Ave
Elkridge, MD 21075

County Executive Dr. Ball, County Council Members, and Dr. Martirano,

A year ago, then Council-member Ball and then Council-member Terrasa introduced a bill to keep class sizes in Howard County at the same size and eliminate the threat of removing some of our talented and dedicated teachers.

Last week, several of our children came home crying with news that many of our teachers were put on notice that they may be transferred or terminated. Please determine a way to fully fund the budgetary line item "instruction" so that *all* of our teachers remain with Howard County, and at the schools where they have developed a relationship with their students. Even my third graders are keenly aware that the teachers who inspire them cannot be replaced with technology, and they asked me pointedly, "why would adults suggest that and larger class sizes, don't they know the importance of quality instruction, and that we (students) can't achieve that high-level education without individualized attention?" How are our teachers to effectively teach all of our students, including our precious ones with special needs, with increased class sizes?

We cannot expect to remain among the top school districts in our nation when each year we entertain the notion of not fully funding our schools. Many of us, myself included, moved to Howard County specifically for the school system. We must ensure that developers who advertise our school districts pay their share of the costs associated with the infrastructure their communities create, similar to our neighboring counties.

Sincerely,
Wesley Clarke
12142 Hayland Farm Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:54 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Proposed School Funding Cuts and Increased Class Sizes
Attachments: Save our teachers-2.pdf

From: Wesley Clarke <wlclark@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 10:11 PM
To: Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; superintendent@hcpss.org
Cc: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposed School Funding Cuts and Increased Class Sizes

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support the Budget

From: Joanne Addy <joanne_addy@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 11:41 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support the Budget

[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,

I understand the budget next year might be cut causing class sizes to be increased. I cannot stress enough how detrimental that would be to the students learning. We have classrooms with many needs beyond IEP and physical disabilities. Students need both academic and social support which is hard to do when class sizes are large. I chose to work in Howard County because the county puts students and their needs first. I realize it is difficult to decide where to cut the budget so we are financially secure but doing it at the expense of students is just not the right choice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Joanne Addy
joanne_addy@hcpss.org
6037 Maple Hill Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Margaret E. Danaher, MS

Margaret Danaher

margaret_danaher@hcpss.org

3429 Plum Tree Drive

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Special Education Students deserve instruction

From: Margaret Danaher <margaret_danaher@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:06 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Special Education Students deserve instruction

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

Opal Jones,

Hello Council Members,

This will be a short letter because my time is very limited.

I am a special educator in a HCPSS elementary school. 5 years ago, I had caseloads between 6-8 students. I co-taught with teachers, modified materials for my students as needed and enjoyed teaching them and watching them progress and grow.

This year, I have "processed" at least 24 students. I still do some teaching but most of my time is spent on casework which means paperwork including of a clerical nature. I am unhappy. This is not why I changed my career path 15 years ago to be a glorified clerk who tries to squeeze in teaching as I can. More importantly, this is not what my students deserve. They have a right to adequate and appropriate staffing and use of school personnel.

I encourage you to do whatever you are able to restore an appropriate instructional environment for the special education students in Howard County.

Thank-you.

Sincerely Yours,

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:57 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please fund our operating budget!

From: Katherine Pagani <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please fund our operating budget!

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

Opal Jones,

I'm sending out a brief plea on a personal level to ask for desperately needed funding for my department. Special Ed is dangerously understaffed. I believe that every child should be able to attend their neighborhood school and not be "shipped out" because of their special needs. I was tending to the needs of a student last week by myself and I couldn't control him. He ended up biting me and causing significant nerve damage to my arm and hand. I am in a "wait and see" situation now, as the doctor said it could take months for the nerve to heal. Please please give us the funds to get the staffing we need to tend to our children safely!

Thank you,

Katherine Pagani

Special Education Paraeducator

Katherine Pagani

chattykathy0516@gmail.com

7006 Bristol Place

Sykesville , Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:57 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Special Education PLEASE

From: Allison Meade <Allison_Meade@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:35 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Special Education PLEASE

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

Opal Jones,

This year, we had a student who was not able to get the required services that they needed - one of the teachers who could have served him was split between two different schools and they other had 15 other kids on her caseload. This student was not able to get the services that they required for their speech, occupational therapy, or behavioral needs. Because of his needs not being met, his general education classroom teacher was acting as his special educator and so she was not able to teach her classroom properly. It caused a chain reaction of students not getting the education that they are legally entitled to. At the end of the day, it's about students getting the education that they deserve and they are required to get. Special education needs more funding so that all students, regardless of their disability or lack thereof, are getting the services that they require.

Allison Meade
Allison_Meade@hcpss.org
25 Queen Anne Road
Columbia, Maryland 21060

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:57 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Kelly McKim <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:19 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,

Today, in our staff meeting our principal mentioned the possibility of increased class size. This shocked me! As a county, we have been a leader in the educational field. We pride ourselves on the level of quality education we provide EVERY student. As a teacher, I get to know my students and families very well. In order to teach effectively, I need to know them. Recently, I taught a 2nd grade math class of 29 children. I was barely able to get to every student each day. I can't imagine how we can continue to effectively educate all of our students with increased class sizes. I am a product of this county and the school system. As a teacher, I can not afford to live here because of the high real estate costs. These costs are in large part due to the excellent school system. Please consider this when making your budgeting choices.

Kelly McKim
kellylynnemckim@gmail.com
6715 White Rock Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

CR 68-2019

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:31 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please do not increase class sizes to fill budget gaps

From: Leslie Toussaint <l2saint@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:45 PM
To: superintendent@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; 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>
Subject: Please do not increase class sizes to fill budget gaps

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

County Executive Dr. Ball, County Council Members, and Dr. Martirano:

Last May I voiced my support for Amendment 6 to CB25-2018 introduced by Council members Ball and Terrasa in order to maintain current HCPSS class sizes under the FY19 Operating Budget put forward by executive Kittleman.

Fast forward one year later and I'm upset to learn we are having the same discussion under the executive leadership of Dr. Ball. Please find a solution to fund our school system that doesn't result in overcrowded classrooms. How can we possibly hope to be the top school system in the nation when every year we are scrambling to fully fund our schools?

Sincerely,

Leslie Toussaint
12540 Folly Quarter Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Last year I was able to work just in the two PreK classrooms and provide services throughout the morning for both classes and my students are flourishing in Kindergarten. One will be dismissed this year from his IEP and the others are leaps and bounds more successful and able to keep up with grade level work with some support. My students this year, in contrast, are not where they need to be for Kindergarten and it is clearly lack of time and resources.

My story is a small example of the special education department at Laurel Woods on a whole. I have seen a Kindergarten student not receive sensory support he desperately needed due to an overworked OT (she works in 4 different schools!) and lack of resources from the county. Instead of flourishing in Kindergarten, this student destroyed his classroom multiple times and his cries for help were not met, which created an unsafe environment for our students up until right before Spring Break. The list of the effects of removing one special educator from our midst due to budget cuts could go on and on. Next year, due to further budget cuts, we will lose another special educator to a sorely needed ALS program at our school and we will also lose a paraeducator. Next year our students will lose even more than they already are.

I could go on to explain how many hours outside of the school day I need to work and neglect my own children due to filling out paperwork and not taking my planning time, but I hope you come away from this letter with an understanding of how budget cuts for Special Education has been detrimental to the county as a whole and it is tragic to see our resources dwindling even more next year.

Sincerely,
Melissa Scobell

Melissa Scobell
Melissa_Scobell@hcpss.org
9701 Early Spring Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:42 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please Fund Special Education

From: Melissa Scobell <Melissa_Scobell@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 9:20 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please Fund Special Education

[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 have seen the effects of limited budget clearly this year at Laurel Woods Elementary School in the department of Special Education. I work as a PreK special educator as a half day employee and also as an employee in the afternoon at BBES. At the beginning of this year we, as a team, spent countless hours before school on Wednesdays problem solving how we can support our special ed students with a limited staff and an always growing need. I started this year with 3 students on my caseload and took on 3 Kindergarten students to help the rest of the special educators in the building since we lost a staff member this year due to budget cuts. I am ending the school year with 11 students on my caseload for just my morning place of work (16 students total including my afternoon placement). This may not seem like a lot of students, but I am servicing 3 different classrooms in the morning (2 prek classes and a Kindergarten class) and it is impossible for me to do this as a half-day employee. I have 1.5 hours of instruction time I can provide during my half day schedule daily and student hours that total more than 10 hours daily of needs. I was lucky to gain the help of an excellent para-educator this year, but she is also split between three classrooms and our combined total hours of service we can provide fall short of what our students need on an average day. When we add in all of the meetings, paperwork, and emails/phone calls to parents on top of an already too heavy schedule... the students suffer. That is the bottom line.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:42 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: High needs in HCPSS.

From: Deborah Vo <deborah_vo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 12:50 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: High needs in HCPSS.

[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,

Please know how important it is that in HCPSS we receive the recommended additional staffing in special & general education, behavioral supports, and equity initiatives. There is no way we can continue to provide the education our students need without this necessary funding.

Deborah Vo
deborah_vo@hcpss.org
2800 Stansway Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:42 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Need funding for additional counselors at our school

From: Beth Goodman <BETH_GOODMAN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 12:44 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Need funding for additional counselors at our school

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

Opal Jones,

Hello All!

I am a teacher at Oakland Mills High School, and I love my job and my students. As you may know, from being in Howard County, we have many students at our school who experience trauma before they ever arrive at our doorstep. In order to teach our students, they need to be ready to receive instruction. Students who are experiencing trauma need more than teachers are able to provide in a classroom of 20-32 students. Even with additional training in how to help students who are experiencing trauma, we would not be able to meet these student's needs. Our school really needs specialized counselors available specifically to work with students whose personal lives require more than we are able to provide in a 55 minute class period.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth Goodman

Beth Goodman
BETH_GOODMAN@hcpss.org
8706 Yellow Bird Ct
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Mary Ann McCue <mary_ann_mccue@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:49 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,

I am a kindergarten teacher and am very concerned with the increase in class sizes and the cutting of mental health support. I am noticing an increase in the need for social emotional learning to be focused upon in kindergarten. We need to be able to provide the support to students starting when they enter school. Early education lays the foundation for all learning in future years. It is crucial and necessary to have the support and resources needed in order for our students to be successful learners and well rounded social emotional needs met.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann McCue

Mary Ann McCue
mary_ann_mccue@hcpss.org
6331 Ema Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:45 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Marisa Kavka <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:51 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,

As a staff member and as a parent in hcps I feel increasing class size would be detrimental to the success of our school system. Please keep in mind the health and well being of our children and staff.

Marisa Kavka
marisakavka@yahoo.com
10340 Maypole way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:56 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS budget

From: Suzanne Ludicke <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:51 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,

As a current HCPSS educator for the past 16 years, I urge you to reconsider the current budget. Reducing the amount of staffing and increasing the amount of students in each classroom would be extremely detrimental to our schools. Cutting the mental health needs is very upsetting. HCPSS prides themselves on providing for our students academically and emotionally. How could we continue to provide for our students without the proper resources? This is unacceptable. I am a kindergarten teacher at CCES, and I am very concerned about the possibility of having up to 26 students in my classroom. Kindergarten is a place to build foundations and relationships. It is the beginning of the learning career. Class sizes should not surpass 20 in kindergarten so we are able to meet the needs of each child especially when the students enter the school and teachers are also learning what they need on a day to day basis. We have a lot of behavioral needs and if class sizes are too large, how we will effectively manage? Thank you for your consideration. Suzanne Ludicke, parent and educator in HCPSS

Suzanne Ludicke
suzanneludicke@gmail.com
11445 Iager Blvd
Fulton, Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:58 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS budget

From: Megan Hodgins <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:02 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. I am writing as a HCPSS educator and parent of HCPSS students. I'm concerned about the projected cuts in staffing for our schools and cuts in budget of mental health programs in our schools. Our exceptional education system is a major reason why my family is moving from Carroll County to Howard County for our daughters to begin their educational career. I also struggle to understand how we as teachers can continue to meet the ever changing needs of our students if class sizes increase and support staff decreases. Our children are our future and these projected "solutions" cause more harm than good.

-A hardworking educator and parent

Megan Hodgins
megchory@gmail.com
10510 Hunters Way
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Mandy Crawley
Special Educator, M.Ed
Kindergarten/Second Grade
Gorman Crossing Elementary
Howard County Public School System

Mandy Crawley
mlw3157@yahoo.com
7824 Otterbein Way
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:59 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fully Fund the HCPSS Budget

From: Mandy Crawley <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:14 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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.]

Opal Jones,

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to fully fund the HCPSS budget. I am a special educator at Gorman Crossing Elementary. It is a fantastic place to work and a caring environment for children to learn. We are at almost max capacity in our school building at 900+ students. Upon hearing about the possibility of larger class sizes due to an unfulfilled budget there was a lot of anxiety among teachers. A class with 26 kindergartners or 33 students in grades 3,4,5 would create undue safety hazards, an inability to individualize instruction and not to mention a problem with physical space to educate children comfortably. As a special educator who was told we are losing a special educator before all these budget talks, I am worried. I am worried that my ability to effectively provide supports and services will be hampered by a lack of staffing and a fully funded budget. I am worried that some of the neediest children in the building may be in an overcrowded classroom or in a gym class with 66 children. Not fully funding our budget means less teachers, but the catch is the number of students stays the same! It makes no sense when we are already at max capacity. We, in fact, need more staffing but do the best we can to educate all students and keep them safe. Please do what you can to make our jobs easier and the education of our kids matter.

Sincerely,

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: High Needs

From: Nastasha Knight <nastasha_knight@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:15 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: High Needs

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

Opal Jones,

I was just informed of the budget constraints and as a special education teacher I am in shock that this is even a possibility. I am fortunate to work with an incredible group of people who are determined to meet the needs of all of their students. However, if the staffing were to decrease and the class sizes were to increase I do not see how that will be possible. We currently need more staff to accommodate not only the academic needs of our students but the behaviors. It would be unsafe to have large classroom sizes and less staff in a building with students who have behavioral concerns. If I am dealing with the behaviors in the building I am now forced to work extended hours to complete my work in a timely manner. As we move forward with the discussion of budget, can we please keep the students in mind. They are the ones who suffer!

Nastasha Knight
nastasha_knight@hcpss.org
999 Winter Sun Rd
Laurel, Maryland 20723

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding

From: Jennifer Smith <jennifer_a_smith@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:07 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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 morning,

I hate that educators have to continue to grovel and beg for funding in this county in order to meet the growing demands. Howard County Public Schools are known for the quality of education. As the population increases, the staffing needs to increase too.

I would assume that County Council would support funding for the additional personnel, programs, and materials in order for Howard County Public Schools to remain the leader in education.

Sincerely,

JA. Smith

Jennifer Smith
jennifer_a_smith@hcpss.org
1158 Elm Road
Halethorpe, Maryland 21227

Eileen Volker
EILEEN_VOLKER@hcpss.org
15 Silktree Ct
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:02 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Eileen Volker <EILEEN_VOLKER@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:48 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,

I am a Technology Teacher at Clarksville Elementary in Howard County and am writing to you in regards to the HCPSS budget. I am very concerned about the current budget proposal, because while it does fund the teacher's negotiated agreement and health care, it leaves significant gaps in several high needs areas, such as staffing. If funds are not increased, class sizes will have to go up. This would negatively & directly impact the education of students in Howard County. For example, in every Instructional Technology classroom across the county, there are only 30 computers to instruct students and currently the proposed class sizes for intermediate grades are up to 33 students! Without more funding, the increased class sizes mean that 3 students each class would not have a computer to learn on! The same is true for all Library Media classes across the county which utilize carts of laptops for instruction. A cart has between 28 - 30 laptops. This doesn't even account for the fact that many laptops are out of date & often in disrepair. HCPSS does not have enough funds to purchase more up-to-date computers. I am pleading with you to please increase the funds to the HCPSS budget.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Eileen Volker

8813 cardinal forest circle
laurel, Maryland 20723

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:04 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size and budget deficits

From: kristin bogus <kbogus@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class size and budget deficits

[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 employee of the HCPSS, I am very concerned with the possibility that our class size could be increasing, and staff may be decreasing, making it necessary for 33 students per class in the 5th grade where I work. Not only is this a crime for such a "wealthy" county, but it places pressure on teachers to deliver a quality education and for students to get the attention and guidance they need.

I find it ironic that we are having perspective teachers tour our school today, only to find out this morning that our principal will be losing 6.1 positions next year, thus contributing to the overcrowding in the classrooms. With all the development scheduled for this area, I don't know how we will continue to grow and offer the high quality education Howard County is used to. I know as an employee, I and my co-workers will continue to offer the best instruction, guidance and support, but I feel that this will make our jobs more stressful in the future.

Please consider reworking the budget so that the loss of qualified teachers and student class sizes are not affected. Thank you for your consideration

Kristin B. Bogus

kristin bogus
kbogus@hcpss.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:05 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budgeting for Students and Staff

From: Gabriela DiMarco <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:05 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budgeting for Students and Staff

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

Opal Jones,

The number of students in our school is not diminishing, but rapidly expanding. There is barely enough space within the building walls to house our 900+ student elementary school. We need more funding, not less, to operate and meet the needs of all of our students. As a teacher, my paraeducator is constantly getting pulled to other grade levels because of inadequate staffing and coverage as it is. It is inconceivable that students will be forced to learn in larger class sizes when the research shows that small ones are more beneficial. I have spent hundreds - if not thousands - of dollars of my own personal money to get materials for my classroom because there just isn't enough funding within our current budget to acquire engaging, meaningful learning materials for my students. If HCPSS is going to be a leader in education as it is viewed in the state of Maryland and across the country, we need to start acting like it. We absolutely need to negotiate a better budget agreement to adequately staff and serve our students.

Gabriela DiMarco
gabrielaedimarco@gmail.com
9999 Winter Sun Rd
Laurel, Maryland 20723

■

6715 White Rock Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:06 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Kelly McKim <kelly_mckim@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:08 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,

Good Morning-

Yesterday, I wrote a letter concerning class size. This morning at our staff meeting more information was shared concerning possible changes for next year, so I wanted to reach out again. I can't begin to image how hard it must be to create a budget. I know that you have many stakeholders that you must consider when servicing the community. As a teacher though, I MUST advocate for smaller class sizes. My principal shared that without the extra funding requested, we could lay off 230 teaching positions in our county. Class size ratios could be as large as 26 students to one teacher in Kindergarten, 25-27 in first and second grade, and upwards of 35 students per class in intermediate. That is unacceptable for a county that pride itself on providing a quality education. We MUST do better for our students, staff, and community that benefit so greatly by the amazing, quality education provided by quality educators and funded by a supportive County Council. I implore you to find the money. It must be a priority. You can not build your community on the backs of overworked and overloaded teachers. I can not afford to live in the community that benefits directly by my daily efforts. I can not afford to live here because of the superior education afforded to ALL Howard County students.

Kelly McKim
kelly_mckim@hcpss.org

5818 Bellanca Dr.
elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:07 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please help fund education as promised

From: Melanie kelly <melanie_kelly@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:40 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please help fund education as promised

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

Opal Jones,

Dear members of the county council,

It has come to my attention that MANY teachers could lose their positions due to the raising of class sizes! I am so disheartened to hear this as long time HCPSS teacher. Everyone always promises more money for education but once elected that money seems to disappear... So so sad... Are our children not more important than the other "things" this money is going toward. Let's be 100% real... People move to howard county for the schools above everything else! The schools are the pride and joy on HC. When I began teaching class sizes were manageable 18-21 students in a room. We have classes with THIRTY children in them!!!!!! Absolutely ridiculous!!! This is not an environment that is conducive to learning in any way shape or form. People WILL begin moving elsewhere if the class sizes don't get smaller. As I said the schools are the reason people move here and in order to keep people moving to HC the schools need to live up to the great reputation that HC has. I truly hope you will increase the budget so that hard working teachers are not losing their positions. So many of our young and new teachers are the best the HC has and we will lose them to other counties such as MOCO which pays a LOT more and is right up the road... I hope to hear good news about this in the coming weeks. Do the right thing please!

Melanie kelly
melanie_kelly@hcpss.org

Stacy L. Rubin
ESOL Teacher and mother

Stacy Rubin
stacy_rubin@hcpss.org
8609 Watkins Run Ct.
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:07 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Stacy Rubin <stacy_rubin@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:42 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,

Good morning. My name is Stacy Rubin, and I am an ESOL teacher at Gorman Crossing Elementary School in Howard County. I am writing to you on behalf of the many hard working teachers and incredible students attending the HCPSS. I am proud to have taught in this county for almost 18 years; however, I am extremely disappointed with the direction I have seen us take in the last few years. Appropriate funding for our schools should be a TOP priority. Due to the lack of funding, we have made major cuts in staffing, which has had a negative impact on class size. The key to great teaching is to differentiate material according to our students' needs; however, with our class sizes increasing, it is nearly impossible to know each student on a personal level and establish rapport on a deeper level. Less staffing also means that our students with special needs are not having goals/objectives specifically met on a consistent basis. I have spoken to different special educators (at various schools across the county) who are physically ILL because they know they are out of compliance due to lack of staffing, and they are worried about their students' needs being met (and legal ramifications as well). This is unacceptable! We should not be put in this position. I implore you to not only put our students FIRST, but to also consider the emotional and physical well-being of your educators. Not only am I a teacher, but I am also a mother of two children who attend a school in Howard County. PLEASE reconsider the budget and understand that your priorities are misplaced. I apologize if I am coming across in a disrespectful tone. I honestly appreciate you reading this letter, and I do hope that our voices encourage you to reflect on this situation. Sincerely,

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:08 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Jessica Westendorf <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:58 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,

Hello,

I am writing about the current budget needs of the Howard County Public School System. The biggest problem I face everyday is not having enough time to give my students the personal attention they need to thrive. With 30 students in my homeroom, and 25 students in my math class, there is not enough time to form personal connections and check-in daily with every student I 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 our classes. The only way to make this possible is to increase funding to hire more teachers. We would also benefit from having more than one school guidance counselor and school psychologist to help impact out 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,
Jessica Westendorf

Jessica Westendorf
jebwestendorf@gmail.com
8504 Wild Wing Way
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:12 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: We Need Additional Funds

From: Karen Lightfield <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 11:59 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: We Need Additional Funds

[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 request additional funds to support our students in HCPSS. The lack of overall funds leaves gaps in several high need areas and I am concerned with losing additional staffing in special & general education. I am a kindergarten teacher with 30 years experience educating five year olds. I am very concerned that raising our class sizes to 27 will be detrimental to the individual attention that is needed to teach these young learners.

Karen Lightfield
karenlightfield@gmail.com
6231 Sutton Court
ELKRIDGE, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:16 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Troy Westendorf <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:01 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,

Hello,

I am writing about the current budget needs of the Howard County Public School System. The biggest problem my wife faces everyday is not having enough time to give her students the personal attention they need to thrive. With 30 students in her homeroom, and 25 students in her math class, there is not enough time to form personal connections and check-in daily with every student she teaches. 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,
Troy Westendorf

Troy Westendorf
troy.westendorf@gmail.com
8504 wild wing way
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:16 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget needs

From: Kara Scott <Kara_scott@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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,

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,
Kara Scott

Kara Scott
Kara_scott@hcpss.org
20600 Darnestown RD
DICKERSON, Maryland 20842

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:17 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Needs/Concerns

From: Rhoda MacCormack <rhoda_maccormack@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:19 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget Needs/Concerns

[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,
Rhoda MacCormack

Rhoda MacCormack
rhoda_maccormack@hcpss.org
8125 Old Stockbridge Dr.
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: We Need Additional Funds

From: Karen Lightfield <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:25 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: We Need Additional Funds

[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,
Karen Lightfield

Karen Lightfield
karenlightfield@gmail.com
6231 Sutton Court
ELKRIDGE, Maryland 21075

Teachers are encouraged to use technology in their classroom as much as possible. It is a valuable and wonderful resource that can allow students to access other parts of the world that were previously unimaginable. Unfortunately for students in Howard County, that resource is hardly available enough. Most schools do not even have one laptop cart per grade, making it difficult to find time to use them. Making matters worse is that many of the laptops have already eclipsed their life expectancy and are prone to issues that require fixing. This would be fine if class sizes were manageable, but that is hardly the case. When a class of 30 students gets an older cart with 25 working computers, it is not fair or equitable to have some students share while others do not have to. It puts a burden on the teacher to accommodate and turns many teachers off to using technology.

As I watch the rampant growth and expansion of the county, I can't help but feel for our students and teachers. High stakes and expensive testing on old and decrepit computers. Swelling numbers in the classroom and dwindling resources. When will we prioritize the needs of our students and teachers? When will the county government stop prioritizing new development and buildings and start to invest in our future by providing a world class learning environment? When will we stop kicking the can down the road and start taking the education of our future leaders, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and police officers seriously?

John Skrynecki
jskrynecki@gmail.com
7939 Brightwind Ct
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: John Skrynecki <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:25 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,

Good Morning,

To drive in Howard County and see the countless new developments. Luxury condos on this road, luxury apartments in this neighborhood. It really is an impressive sight. With all of this unbridled building and expansion is, as you could imagine, a population increase. Beautiful new homes with good schools certainly makes people want to move and that is good.

Unfortunately, there is a negative side to that. Classroom sizes have swelled, making it more difficult for teachers to effectively reach all learners. Teachers regularly have to manage and teach classrooms of 30 or more students without much support. With the growing emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning, it is challenging for the teacher to connect with that many students on a personal level, which does not provide the students with the consistent social-emotional support. Couple this with seemingly less and less money available adds to the strain. Many teachers have to and do buy their own supplies, materials, and books. They do this because they care about their students and want them to be successful and that is noble. As you know, our teachers always have the children's best interest at heart and will do anything to help them succeed, including spending their own money. But this does not mean that it is right for them to have to do that. In a county as affluent as Howard County, it is incomprehensible that there is not enough money for education. How the county has managed to misuse the existing revenue is also mind boggling, but that is for another day.

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Colleen Skrynecki <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:27 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,

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,
Colleen Skrynecki

Colleen Skrynecki
Colleen92278@aol.com
7939 Brightwind Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:21 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Additional Funding

From: Marie Acluche <marie_acluche@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:43 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Additional Funding

[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,

Marie Acluche
marie_acluche@hcpss.org
1673 Forest Hill Ct
Crofton, Maryland 21114

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:22 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Board of Education Budget Concerns

From: Elizabeth Schultz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:53 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Board of Education 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,

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,
Elizabeth Schultz

Elizabeth Schultz
betsy.blom@gmail.com
3784 College Avenue
Ellicott city, Maryland 21043

I plead that you take into consideration what a 1st grade class of 26 students and 1 teacher would like like; what a 5th grade class of 33 students might look like. I plead that you take into consideration the future of America when making this budget decision.

Megan O'Neill

megan_oneill@hcpss.org

8430 Jopenda Dr

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:56 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Help me (and about 126 OTHER teachers) be able to stay at the school we love!

From: Megan O'Neill <megan_oneill@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:08 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Help me (and about 126 OTHER teachers) be able to stay at the school we love!

[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 am a first year teacher at Hammond Elementary school. I fell in love with the environment, climate, and community the minute I stepped into this school to interview. I felt so lucky to be hired at this amazing school. I have become so involved in the schools community and been able to work with such wonderful colleagues.

I will be devastated by the pending HCPSS budget cut. Not only will teachers be forced to leave schools they love, the students they love, and the community they love, but class sizes will increase. Right now I teach a 1st grade class of 20 students. If the maximum class size increases to 26 students in 1st grade, instruction WILL suffer. It is already a lot to handle with only ONE teacher and TWENTY 6-year olds. These students require and deserve time and attention.

Honestly, teachers are changing the world and we can't do that if we are overloaded. We will get burnt out.

Education shouldn't be about the money. Education is about doing all that we can to ensure our youth is given the best opportunities to succeed in the future. Increasing class sizes and surplus great teachers will NOT benefit our students.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:57 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size and Staffing Budget

From: Jeanine Hintz <jeanine_hintz@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:11 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class size and Staffing Budget

[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 first grade teacher in Howard County. I can not stress the importance of smaller class sizes. It is not beneficial for the students or the teachers to have over 27 first graders in a class. It is so hard to meet the individual needs of all your students. The classroom space is limited, which limits the creative and student led activities that we can do. If staffing is reduced and class sizes increased, then we can't give the one on one attention to those who need it, or provide small group instruction. Smaller class sizes and adequate staffing should be a priority in our county. Our children deserve it!!

Jeanine Hintz
jeanine_hintz@hcpss.org
14073 Monticello Dr
Cooksville , Maryland 21723

teaching cooperation, with their mentors, by teaching how to respect authority, and with the community. When a teacher is responsible for facilitating these relationships along with teaching the rigorous curriculum that has produced highly skilled adults in our community, we strip away the opportunity for these students to make those meaningful social connections. AS such, the potential success of our community for the future is now diminished.

As you make your decisions for various program funds, please ask yourself, "How will this benefit our community's children?" and consider the future consequences we will have to face years down the road be it higher crime or reduced economic success.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jamie Schardt

JAMIE SCHARDT
JAMIE.SCHARDT@GMAIL.COM
8687 HAYSHED LANE
COLUMBIA, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:58 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Educational Budget Cuts

From: JAMIE SCHARDT <JAMIE.SCHARDT@GMAIL.COM>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:18 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Educational 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,

Hello,

Please allow me a moment to address my concerns with the prospected budget for Howard County Public Schools for the 2019-2020 school year. It is my understanding that numerous positions are being eliminated resulting in significant class size increases. This shift is of great concern to me as a parent and as an educator.

To begin, I want to emphasize the important role our children and youth play in the long term success of our community. Howard County is currently one of the top counties in the country in large part to our school system. Additionally, crime rates are lower than that of our neighboring counties. While correlation is not causation, we need to consider this link between education and crime. While it may save money in the short term to cut back on education, it very likely could lead to higher costs to the county in the long term. Please consider researching the scientific links between the cost of education compared to the cost of crime.

In order to avoid higher costs due to crime and delinquency in the long term, we need to consider what is best for our students right NOW!

Humans, by nature, learn by watching others and they need to know that they are important. Many need to know that there is someone who believes in their success, even when they may not. Our school system provides this. It does not simply teach academics. It helps students build healthy relationships with themselves, by teaching self regulation, with their peers, by

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:00 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please fund our schools

From: Greg Walsh <gwalsh1@umbc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:27 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please 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,

One of the reasons I voted for many of the county council members was because they were educator supported. The news that Howard County might have to increase the class sizes is just unthinkable. My elementary school would lose 4 teachers. On top of one that was already slated to be surplusd which means a total of 5 teachers. Please, please, please find the money so that class sizes do not have to be increased. Our first concern is always our children. They cannot learn in class sizes of 33. That is what our school is slated to have in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades and that is 33 to START with. It would end up being even more as the year went on. Kindergarten would be 27! It's unimaginable. Please support our schools, children, community, and educators by finding the funds to fully support our schools, especially class size. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I appreciate all you do in service for our wonderful county.

Greg Walsh
gwalsh1@umbc.edu
9684 Horsham Drive
Laurel, Maryland 20723

■

schools continue to be rated so highly with such large numbers? Our schools are behind in technology, we have book closets that haven't been updated in 30 years. We can't continue down this path if we want to be considered one of the best school systems .

Thank you.

Samantha Rowe

SAMANTHA_ROW@hcpss.org

4137 Brittany Drive

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Budget

From: Samantha Rowe <SAMANTHA_ROW@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:40 PM
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.]

Opal Jones,

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you as a parent and as a HC teacher. News was delivered to us teachers today about how the budget deficit will directly impact the schools. I am sure you understand that this impacts our students directly. The increase in class size would be devastating to our students. I currently teach 3rd grade with a classroom of 28 students. I cannot imagine having up to 33 students in my classroom. At the moment, I feel that with all of the administrative duties required of teachers, I barely have enough time to meet each individual student's needs. It takes a long time to grade all of these papers, and as a parent it is difficult to spend hours each night planning, grading, and being the "Mom" I need to be for my own children. This results in the fact that it is difficult to give constructive feedback, which is critical to improving a student's and parent's ability to know what is expected in that grade. As a teacher this increase will also directly impact my own family. With more students, more time is needed to plan, grade, and communicate with families. The quality of feedback that I will be able to give a parent will suffer. With possibly 33 students, there won't be enough time to foster a relationship with each child, that our county prides itself on. As a teacher I give my all to my students, but with a class size this large I will not be able to give my students the individual attention that is so needed at this age.

It also concerns me as a parent. The county has allowed so much building in this county, that we have built schools that are the size of high schools, our high schools are bursting at the seams. When will this all come back to haunt us? Have we forgotten our priorities? Will our

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for Special Education

From: Mary Arsenault <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:43 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for Special Education

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

Opal Jones,

I'm a Student Assistant in the Special Education department of an elementary school. I've been working in Special Ed in Howard County for over 15 years, the last 8 as an HCPSS employee.

Due to the shortage of staff caused by underfunding this has been by far the worse year for me as well as the students I try to help. To say I am overwhelmed and frustrated is an understatement; and I don't shoulder the responsibility that the certified teachers have to shoulder. We've all been overwhelmed this year. We're a very professional group, so I don't think our students have suffered too much, but I can't help but believe that more progress could have been made had we had more hands. I guess that's what I'm writing about. We need more people to help and a living wage for those people.

Special Education is where I see it most, but general education is in the same boat. We all need more people and the funds to pay them!

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Arsenault
mimi.arsenault@gmail.com
8535 Old Frederick Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: The impact of increasing class sizes

From: Abigail Braswell <ABIGAIL_BRASWELL@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:54 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: The impact of increasing 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,

To whom it may concern,

I am a teacher and a parent of students in HCPSS. After hearing about the potential for increasing class sizes I was so upset. The impact on students will be significant because we already have a heavy workload and the ever-changing curriculum to keep up with. Increasing class sizes will limit the amount of individualized and differentiated instruction we can provide students. With class sizes as they are, I hear teachers complaining about the size of reading groups- mind you our language arts office asks us not to have more than 6 in a group. Most teachers have 8-10 in their groups already. Having an increase in sizes will only make them larger and it'll be so difficult to find materials for larger groups (most books only come in sets of 6 or 8) and effectively teach those groups. I can see the impact of large class sizes on my own child in kindergarten since his class is at the maximum number allowed currently. He is a good kid and often is overlooked because the students with the most significant needs or deficits are services first. Please do no increase our class sizes. This is the LAST place that the money should come from.

Abigail Braswell
ABIGAIL_BRASWELL@hcpss.org
431 Woodbine Rd
Woodbine, Maryland 21797

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase school funding

From: Rachael Wood <twinmommy13@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 5:57 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase 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 was saddened to hear that our budget is in such a deficit that we are going to need to cut positions here in Howard County schools. There is no reason why a county as rich as Howard county should have so many students being pushed into their classes. Have you ever tried to teach 26 kindergarten students at one time?! Why should elementary teachers have up to 33 students in a class. How are we supposed to help students make progress and grow? How are we supposed to close the equity gap with students? How are you supposed to get to know the students and build positive relationships? When and how are teachers going to get all of their grading done? It's sad to see that so many positions will get cut. In my school alone we are losing 6.2 teaching positions. Our school is still growing! This makes no sense. We need the funding for our students and for the future of Howard County! Lastly, our goal as a school system has been to increase the number of minority teachers to help them mirror the students we are servicing. Since we are cutting so many positions, we will no longer be able to make these new hires possible. That is sad news.

Rachael Wood
twinmommy13@msn.com
1706 Reynolds St
Crofton, Maryland 21114

or go to the bathroom and the truth is 90% of the time I don't, and the work is done on my time at night and on the weekends. Such as tonight, I am still at school at 5:50 and will be going home to work on an IEP that needs to be sent home with a student on Friday. If other teachers and I were to bill the county for the work we have to do on our time your budget would need to be at least doubled. My priority is the students, and as a Council Member, yours should be your constituents, which are the parents of the students I serve. I know the County is against limiting development in Howard County, but if we continue to grow and are currently not able to meet the needs of our current residence through schools, fire, and police then how can we help the further development and the future residence. Getting rid of Teachers and supports by increasing classroom sizes and changing Special Education staffing ratios is not the answer. The answer is that the people we elect need to figure out a way to support the current residence and the future residence that you were elected to serve in the first place. As one of my professors in college told me and has stuck with me throughout my career, "watch what you say and do because little eyes are watching you." I believe that you can also take this into account with your profession as a politician. Thank you for Hearing my concerns, and I hope that you can all decide that Teachers are never in this line of work for the money (but being able to live on a sustainable salary is a necessity) but for the students that we serve.

Justin Riley

Justin_riley@hcpss.org

8001 Cocan Way

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for education is important.

From: Justin Riley <Justin_riley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:02 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for education is important.

[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 to strongly encourage you to fund Howard County's proposed budget for the 2019-2020 school year. As a current teacher, a Howard County Resident, and an Alumni from our school system, I live, work, and relax in our community. Howard County School System made me who I am today and set me on a path to touch children's lives with special needs to help them live a healthy and productive life after they leave the school system. Teachers are what inspire all other professions when we expose our students to different content areas. As a Special Educator currently, I am split between two grade levels with 16 students on my caseload and all of the teaching and paperwork that comes along with those students. But my job does not stop there; I am a member of our Academic Intervention team in which we monitor and assess interventions being used for our below grade level students. I am also a member of our Instructional Intervention Team in which we help specific students who are referred by their teachers that need targeted instruction in a specific area (Math, Reading, Writing, Behavior, Social) and is sometimes a precursor to special education. I am also a member of our internal crisis team in which Safety Care trained members within the building are called to respond to students that are an immediate threat to themselves, others, or property. Through this, I might have to restrain or seclude students for their safety and mine. In which many times I have put my safety aside for the safety of the student. You may be wondering with all these things going on when I have time to eat lunch, complete paperwork,

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Kimberly Williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:10 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,

To whom it may concern,

The idea that one teacher can continue to meet the differentiated needs of more and more students in their classes is insane.

Teachers work extremely hard and one more, two more children in a class does make a huge difference. Teachers are continuously asked to do more with less. Human resources are always cut and yet we want teachers to be a teacher, counselor, psychologist, care giver, mediator, social worker and the list continues. We are losing great educators because we always need them to do more to meet the learning goals for every student by being equitable in their learning practices and yet we keep taking away the supports they need to make this happen. Social, emotional and academic needs are important for all students so please do not put more and more students in a classroom and expect one teacher to be a superhero every single day. They love their jobs they love their kids but for middle school teacher this could average of 175 students a day, is this truly realistic? How many of you have face-to-face contact and need to meet the needs of a 175 people A-day? Please reconsider the stress and workload of our teachers. If we spread them too thin the children are the ones who lose!

Kimberly Williams
khaydenwilliams@gmail.com
9873 Softwater
Columbia, Maryland 21046

6717 Summer Rambo Ct, Apartment, suite, unit, building, floor
Columbia, Maryland 21045-5405

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Public Schools buget

From: Stephany Bart <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:17 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County Public Schools buget

[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. With increasing the number of students in the classrooms this also will hinder those student with 504's and IEP's. We don't want these children to fall through the cracks. With larger class sizes all of these children will not be prepared of the future.

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. THINK OF THE KIDS!!! They are our future

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephany Bart
sbartz2786@hotmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:25 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase in class size is unacceptable

From: Ellena McCarthy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:17 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase in class size is unacceptable

[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 because I am concerned about the proposed increase in class size. Our teacher are amazing but stretched as it is. In addition, increased class size really hurts children with 504 plans because more children makes it more difficult for teachers to implement accommodations. Please consider other options for balancing the budget.

Thank you for all you do,
Ellena McCarthy

Ellena McCarthy
ellena.v.mccarthy@gmail.com
3845 Ross Road
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Danielle Adam <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:19 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,

Hello,

I am writing with the goal to persuade an increase in funding to directly influence class sizes. HCPSS is known for effective instruction. This is not possible when class sizes are too big. Having 27 students in a primary class makes reading groups nearly impossible, regardless of behaviors in the room. If a room does have even one student with behavior in the room, the other 26 students are likely to lose even more of the very little teacher-time they will be given as one of 27 students. It is cruel to both students and teachers to increase class sizes and disregard the needs of our young students.

Danielle Adam
Danielle.spurlock@gmail.com
10383 Waverly Woods Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:30 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for schools

From: Led Tanis <mletanis@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:24 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for 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 was appalled to learn today that HCPSS would consider raising class size which would result in losing staffing. We are already spread too thin and this will have a detrimental impact on the students we claim come first. It is in your control to reallocate funds and protect class sizes.

Led Tanis
mletanis@comcast.net
904 Longbow Road
Mount Airy , Maryland 21771

856 Margo Court
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Our Kids

From: Dallas Wiles <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:29 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Our Kids

[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 meet their student's needs due to class sizes. 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. Including smaller caseloads for special educators. The only way to make this possible is to increase funding to hire more teachers and avoid surplussing support professionals. With the the current U.S. mental health crisis, there's an increasing number of children committing suicide, and making life threatening remarks regularly. It's essential to also have 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. There are other places to cut from without surplussing staff positions in a rapidly growing county. Teachers deserve better, our students deserve better, and our community deserves better.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dallas Wiles
wiles.dallas@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:32 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Kathryn Painter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:32 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,

The proposed class sizes based on budget cuts are absolutely crazy. Please think of the students in your county here and the taxes that we pay. There must be another way. Each student should be receiving individualized education.

Kathryn Painter
kathrynpainter@gmail.com
5436 Harris farm lane
Clarksville , Maryland 21029

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Sizes

From: Noreen Ramienski <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:37 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,

It is imperative that you reduce class sizes if Howard County is to be a highly ranked school district. There is no way teachers can get to know the needs of students if there are over 25 students in an elementary school classroom. Teachers are already overworked and underpaid. If class sizes go up, it will make more teachers consider leaving the profession. It is a safety concern as well. Please consider reducing class sizes.

Noreen Ramienski
noreenp79@gmail.com
10710 Cleos Ct
Columbia , Maryland 21044

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget concerns

From: JESSICA RITZAU <Jessica_Ritzau@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:47 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,

Hello,

My name is Jessica Ritzau and I am a school psychologist here in Howard County. I help support the mental health, social-emotional, and academic needs of all of our students. I am very concerned about the proposed changes to the budget because I have seen firsthand the impacts of larger class sizes on our students with significant emotional and behavioral challenges. I have also seen firsthand that additional support and smaller class sizes can make a world of difference in giving these students the extra attention, love, and behavior supports they need to thrive. As a wife to an art teacher, I also see the stress that large class sizes places on teachers, and in turn, can impact their ability to best serve their students. I appreciate your consideration of these factors. If student's needs aren't being met emotionally and if they don't receive the love and attention they need, they simply are unavailable to learn. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

JESSICA RITZAU
Jessica_Ritzau@hcpss.org
Talisman Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Do not increase class size!

From: Maria Rocco <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:49 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Do not increase 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 parent of 4 children in the Howard county school system I'm deeply saddened at the notion of increasing class sizes next year. Howard county is know for its school system, and this will greatly impact the quality of education for our children. There has a to be another way to prevent this from happening.

Maria Rocco
mrocco61@icloud.com
10620 Graeloch Rad
Laurel, Maryland 20723

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Sizes

From: Sandy d'Aquino <sandra_r_daquino@mcpsmd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:52 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,

I teach in Montgomery county, but continue to live in Howard county and send my 3 children to Howard County schools because I know Howard County is the best. I am impressed by the amazing teachers and by the school system. But one thing that bothers me is the class sizes. I teach in a title one school, and most of our classes have 16-17 children. Our classes are "big" at 18-19. The thought of 31-33 kids in a class is nauseating. It is too many children to give kids the differentiation and individual attention they need. Building relationships with your students is essential, and 33 in a room is just not acceptable.

Sandy d'Aquino
sandra_r_daquino@mcpsmd.org
4338 Riviera Sun Dr
Ellicott City, Maryland MD

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Sincerely,

Kim

Kim Hartner

kim_hartner@hcpss.org

646 E Watersville Rd

Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please fund the budget

From: Kim Hartner <kim_hartner@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:53 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
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.]

Opal Jones,

Dear Council,

I am writing to beg you to find the money to prevent class sizes from increasing. Take away my step increase, just please don't add more kids to my already large class. I'm a third grade teacher. Increasing the maximum number of students to 33 would create an unsafe working/learning environment. It is IMPOSSIBLE for me to be an effective teacher, differentiating instruction for that many students in ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Health. It is IMPOSSIBLE to teach that many students in small reading groups with the allotted time for ELA. We have Being a Writer(Elementary Writing Program) and SEL(Social Emotional Learning Program) cutting into this precious time and adding more students to our classes will only cause the students who are reading above grade level to receive less direct instruction. This is reality. Not to mention the increase in paperwork, grading, and report card comments. There are not enough hours in a day as it is for teachers to do their job effectively. Adding more students to our classes will only make our jobs miserable and quite frankly more might go elsewhere to seek refuge from the insanity. We are teachers, doing the best we can for each and every student. Increasing class sizes is NOT the answer. Please please please consider the numbers and give us more money to allow our budget to be funded so that those of us behind the scenes working our tails off day AND night so that our future will be full of intelligent, self-sufficient humans can do our job effectively.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Lack of funding to the schools

From: Sarah Rahman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:55 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Lack of funding to 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,

The lack of overall funding for Howard County public schools has left large gaps in several high need areas such as: necessary staffing in special & general education, lack of professional training, behavioral supports, and equity initiatives. The needs of the children must be met so that they can receive the best education possible and teachers and other school need the resources to do it!

Sarah Rahman
sr.rahman64@gmail.com
8507 Horseshoe Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Please consider the adjustment of funding to allow staff to keep their jobs (while still being able to provide for their families) as well as updating old technology/programs in order for us to keep up with planning, supporting students and making school a safe and enjoyable place for us all to be.

Kelly Mcculley

kelly_mcculley@hcpss.org

1427 Ingleside ave

Gwynn oak, Maryland 21207

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funds

From: Kelly Mcculley <kelly_mcculley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:55 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funds

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

Opal Jones,

Being a Howard county employee, words can not express the sinking feeling in my stomach this morning while our principal spoke about the consequential budget cuts Howard County is facing. 27.4 million dollars is more than just money. It's funding to provide support and supplies for students who need it, it's keeping up with the ever changing technology to support staff and student needs, it's providing a meal for children who may not receive dinner or even breakfast before coming to school and holding true to their expectations of sitting in a classroom for 7+ hours a day. Especially now during "testing season".

Many of Our students are already currently drowning in class sizes of 20-30+ Children with more and more enrolling every day. Although adding an additional 2 students per class may not seem like much to you, it makes a huge difference to the student who is already struggling with challenging distractions with one teacher and minimal support in the classroom.

I grew up in Howard county myself, in a single parent household which is more common than one would think in this area. My dad was constantly struggling to keep us in Howard county due to their reputation of a school system.

Now that I behind the scenes with my career possibly on the line because of lack of funding for our public schools... it saddens me to know there is money and funding available to constantly build new developments (which also contributes to higher populations within schools), funding to pay six digit salaries to higher county employees, and of course making sure Howard county upholds its reputation of being "one of the best counties in the country" all while the rest of us struggle to keep up with those expectations.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:45 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget!!

From: Jenn Roberts <jennifer_roberts@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:57 PM
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,

I'm a math teacher at HMS. I'm super confident in what I do & I especially love teaching on grade level. I love co-teaching and I work for those moments when something clicks and math is no longer something everyone dreads. I'm never going to be as nearly successful in this endeavor if I'm now potentially teaching 30+ whatever the number is inside my classroom. Building relationships, asking genuine questions to every single child, creating a positive classroom environment, making enough room for each student..... and learning itself will be hurt from not passing this budget.

If that doesn't help realize how much this would hurt us and the other letters you received .. think about it this way.. would you want to be in a room potentially by yourself with 34 kids? A room barely the size to seat 25 comfortably. I didn't think so.

Jenn Roberts
jennifer_roberts@hcpss.org
5160 ilchester woods way
Ellicott city, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fund our schools

From: Valerie Mcbee <valerie_mcbee@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:59 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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,

To Whom it May Concern,

Howard county schools are consistently ranked in the top of state and national listing. This can not be maintained if class sizes are increased and support staff is cut. The number of students increase every year. We are asked not only to teach our content, but we are also asked to connect with, support, and train our students to be productive citizens. More funding is needed to maintain a high quality school system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Valerie Mcbee

valerie_mcbee@hcpss.org

3230 Old Fence Rd

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

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Please keep the teachers and support staff in mind. If we want to be a world class education system as we claim to be, please do not increase class sizes. Please do not surplus our staff.

Please think of our future. It is imperative.

Thank you for your time,
Heather Green
Library Media Specialist

Heather Green
hgreen112@hotmail.com
2530 Lawndale Road
Finksburg , Maryland 21048

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 1:08 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please Think of Our Future

From: Heather Green <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:59 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please Think of Our Future

[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 County Council Members,

I cannot be in attendance at the meeting tonight. However, I am one of the teachers being potentially surplusd due to the budget shortfall. In a school of over 900 students, we cannot afford to lose teachers. We are already experiencing staff shortages as it is. Class sizes are too large and student needs are not being met as a result. Us educators cannot effectively teach or reach all children in these classes as a result.

I am a media specialist in an elementary school at that, where they sprinkle students into other classes for related arts because there are not enough of the specialists as it is. If class sizes are to increase even further, the related arts classes will exceed the proposed number of children to be in each class. Behavior concerns will increase; learning will decrease; and relationship building will decrease. Students enjoy their specials time because they can focus on different areas of education. Please do not ruin their time spent with us.

Please think of your children or grandchildren or nieces or nephews, whether or not they are in HCPSS. Please imagine what these proposed class sizes would look like, how they would impact them educationally and emotionally and even physically. These classrooms were not built to safely house over 30 children. Please keep the children of Howard County in mind.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:09 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase Funding for Education

From: Sonia D'Urbano <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:00 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase Funding for Education

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please don't allow funding for education to be decreased. How are our children to learn with larger class sizes and fewer educators? As it stands now, our schools here in our County are overburdened and portable classrooms seem to be the norm. This is not acceptable. Increase in home construction, means more children in our school system, how can the Council see it fit to cut on education and increase class sizes? As a parent and Howard County employee this smells fishy. Please reconsider for the future of our County.

Sincerely,
Sonia D'Urbano

Sonia D'Urbano
sdurbano@gmail.com
6721 Iron Ore
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:16 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Lack of Support & Frances!!!!

From: Madge Johnson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:03 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Lack of Support & Frances!!!!

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

Opal Jones,

Most of my years of teaching have been in Howard County, and the other years in Anne Arundel , and Montgomery County. I LOVE teaching.....but I am exhausted at the end of the day due to over-sized classes with students who have so many different needs, and this exhaustion does affect one's health. My frustration comes from NOT being able to meet the needs of ALL students without adequate assistance. I find my evenings and weekends involved with planning lessons, and buying supplies needed for class. Something has to change to meet the needs of ALL students AND teachers alike!!!!
PLEASE HELP US!!!!

Madge Johnson
madgejohnsrhs@yahoo.com
10777 CORDAGE WALK
Columbia, Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:17 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS School funding

From: Karen Spangler <karen_spangler@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:04 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS 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 have been working in Howard County schools for sixteen years. The news of possibly larger classes and staff cuts is very alarming. If we cut staffing and increase class sizes, I don't see how we can still claim to be one of the best school systems. Even non-educators understand that the teacher to student ratio has a huge effect on student achievement. Please don't let this happen to our students.

Karen Spangler
karen_spangler@hcpss.org
10933 Hammond Drive
Laurel , Maryland 20723

Pam Riley
tigger@teachers.org
8001 Cocan Way
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:18 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: [Possible Phish Fraud]Approval of HCPSS Budget

From: Pam Riley <tigger@teachers.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:15 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: [Possible Phish Fraud]Approval of HCPSS Budget

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

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

It may pose as a legitimate company, tricking victims into revealing personal information.

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.

Opal Jones,

I am writing this letter asking you to approve the school board budget. I have been a support staff in elementary school for almost 15 years and a parent of a past student and now a parent of a teacher. Each year things are getting worse. Support staff being cut does not allow us to help the student/teachers. When you have a hundred or more students at recess and only 2 maybe 3 adults to supervise them, it is a safety concern to me. This is were a lot of the bullying takes place and we have no time to support the students. Ten of my years have been working with students with behavior concerns, increasing the class sizes is not a solution, it's only a band-aid. There is no way a teacher can teach 30 or more students with the number of behavioral concerns in their class without the help of support people. Remember we are teaching the next generation of every job out there, we can't do that with things always being cut. I'm asking you to approve the budget.

from their teachers. We also value and work hard in this county to build a feel of community with our classes and students, and an increase in sizes will only negatively impact that aspect of our jobs. Please help us keep our already difficult jobs where they are for the sake of our students and our wellbeing. Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Katie Stanton

kathleenstanton5@hotmail.com

16201 Opd Frederick Rd

Mt Airy, Maryland 21771

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:19 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Katie Stanton <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:09 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,

Hello, I have been an elementary school teacher in Howard County for 12 years. I have taught Grades 1, 2, 3 and 5 as a classroom teacher. I love my job and couldn't see myself doing anything else! I love educating young people and helping them realize their full potential. The idea of class sizes going beyond 30 students is very concerning to me. I taught one year with a class of 30 students as a 3rd grade teacher. That was one of my most challenging years yet! The sheer volume of students made my job extremely difficult. My "small groups" for reading and math were not as small as they should have been for best practice. Students were not able to have my individual attention as much as I would have liked. It is also hard to form a relationship with and get to know your students well when there are so many! All of that was not fair to that class of students, they deserved a better student teacher ratio. Hours every week were added to my weekend workload with grading papers and working on interims and report cards. Parent teacher conferences were challenging as well just due to the amount I had to hold. All of this occurred with just 30 students, I cannot imagine having a class go into the mid 30s!! Teachers in this country are already exhausted and overworked. We already work late after school and on the weekends when it should be family time. We are seeing a drop in people wanting to become teachers and further increasing the difficulty of the job will not help our profession. Our class ratios need to be upheld where they are, lowered if ever possible, but absolutely not raised. I fear the already exhausted and overworked teachers will have an immensely more challenging job if class sizes increase anymore. This will also be a huge detriment to our students as they will not be able to receive as much individual attention

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:23 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Do not increase class sizes

From: Shalini Leon Guerrero <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:09 PM
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,

To whom it may concern, The quality of HoCo public schools is one of the main prides of our community. I'm sure I'm not alone in saying I would support budget shifting from other areas and tax increases specifically allocated to increasing teacher salaries and keeping class sizes small.

Shalini Leon Guerrero
shalinilg671@gmail.com
4840 joyful way
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

■

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Thierer

Mary Thierer

mkthierer@gmail.com

1213 Marriottsville Road

MARRIOTTSVILLE, Maryland 21104

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:42 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: For Our Students

From: Mary Thierer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:14 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: For Our Students

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

Opal Jones,

Hello Members of the County Council,

I am a Second Grade Teacher at Clarksville Elementary in Howard County and am writing to you in regards to the HCPSS budget. I am very concerned about the current budget proposal, because while it does fund the teachers' negotiated agreement and health care, it leaves significant gaps in several high needs areas, such as staffing. If funds are not increased, class sizes will have to go up. This would negatively and directly impact the education of students in Howard County. HCPSS, one of the highest rated school systems in the USA, will become known for its overcrowded classrooms and its shortage on vital resources for our students. Without more funding, the increased class sizes mean that classrooms become overcrowded, resources are limited, and interactive learning becomes limited due to lack of space and resources. This is NOT the direction one of the greatest school systems in the country should be moving in. The technology currently available to our students is extremely limited. If our class sizes were to increase, there is no way we can reverse this trend. We need to think of our students, after all they are our future. We cannot afford to move backwards. We owe it to our children and to our students to empower them with the needed skills to be productive citizens in the 21st century. We can't afford to fall short because there is too much at stake. I am pleading with you to please increase the funds to the HCPSS budget. It's the right thing for our children, for our school system and for our future. Education is way too important to fall short.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Dear County Council,

From: Wendy Cohen-Holbrook <wcholbrook@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:21 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Dear County Council,

[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 teaching in Howard County for 17 years, first as a special educator and now as an ESOL teacher. I have taught at all three levels in this county and am proud that our system is interested in providing the best possible education to our county's students.

We were told today that our school (BBMS) may lose up to three instructional staff due to funding issues. I cannot imagine how we could provide the attention and instruction our students need with fewer staff.

If HCPSS is not fully funded for the coming year, I hope that you will request an accounting from our superintendent as to why Central Office is adding staff when schools need front-line instructional staff.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Cohen-Holbrook
wcholbrook@comcast.net
5941 Cedar Fern Court
Columbia, Maryland 21044

■

8948 Blade Green Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fully fund the Educational requests in the County Budget for 2020

From: Jillian O'Brien <Jillian_O'Brien@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:23 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fully fund the Educational requests in the County Budget for 2020

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

Opal Jones,

Please fully fund the educational budget requests for Howard County Public System as a part of the county's 2019-2020 budget. If not fully funded, our students, staff, and families of Howard County will suffer consequences including less planning due to strain from additional students in every class, less one-on-one involvement with teachers for every student due to being stretched thin across meeting the needs of ever growing classrooms, more teacher turnover losing quality educators to other counties and states who offer sufficiently funded budgets, special education students without enough qualified staff to cover their required "hours" within each school, staff burnout and much much more. I work at the Elementary level in Howard County, so I'm sure that there are so many more challenges that will be endured in other levels- middle and high. More and more students are experiencing mental health needs and social/emotional learning is crucial- but I feel unable to directly connect and meet those needs personally and deeply with a classroom size of approximately 30. This will get even worse if you do not fully fund our request.

Thank you for considering this when you approved the Howard County budget for Fiscal year 2020.

Our students are our futures. Remember that their little minds will be in charge when we are elderly.

Jillian O'Brien
Jillian_O'Brien@hcpss.org

tirelessly to provide the safety and support that our children need to be successful. We have supportive, encouraging administrators. What we need is a realistic student/teacher ratio.

At the same time, our school's technology is aging, and we are limited to four computer carts that are falling into disrepair for almost 500 students. During PARCC testing this week, an entire computer cart issued an error message informing our students that their work might not be saved. How can we meet assessment mandates when our technology does not support it?

HCPSS provides excellent e-tools, such as Canvas and G-Suite, that enhance instruction, but without working, available computers our students cannot access these and other applications at school. And perhaps more importantly, we need to be able to teach our students how to be responsible digital citizens. Being a digital citizen is no longer optional, it's integral in our society. Navigation, communication, personal safety, and interaction with reading, writing, and mathematics applications, science simulations, primary and secondary sources, and associated tools are all woven into our instructional pedagogy. Dare I say, these are all also fundamental to the accountability placed on standardized testing.

Economically, the value of my salary has declined. I am not going to dwell on that issue beyond saying that it is disheartening in the face of increasing class sizes, inadequate technology and dwindling classroom support. The promises of teaching in one of America's most affluent counties within one of the country's most affluent states feels deflating in the face of the current situation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I wish you well as you work to resolve this budget crisis.

Sincerely,

Leah Berglund-Halvorson

CCES 5th grade

Leah Berglund-Halvorson

leah_berglund-halvorson@hcpss.org

654 Shimmering Run Ct

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: budget crisis

From: Leah Berglund-Halvorson <leah_berglund-halvorson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:25 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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,

Dear Howard County Council Representatives,

The purpose statement at the top of my resume states that I will create and maintain a safe, nurturing environment where diversity and learning are valued.

I am a 5th grade teacher at Clemens Crossing Elementary School. This is my 22nd overall year of teaching, my 17th year in Howard County. I am very distressed as I think about the budget cuts that are facing our school system, and the effect that these cuts will have on my ability to fulfill my goals as an educator.

The projected cuts that are floating around as the budget is negotiated this month are to the detriment of our children. This morning, for example, I learned at our staff meeting that Mental Health initiatives scheduled to be implemented in the 2019-20 school year may fall into the proverbial circular file. Increased awareness, safety and action to help children understand and advocate for themselves and their peers will essentially be devalued instead of given the increased attention that mental health issues demand.

We also have learned that class sizes are likely to increase. I currently have 26 children in my 5th grade classroom, and my students have a variety of individual needs, spanning learning and mental health issues. When I hear the number 30, my head starts to spin. Clemens Crossing is not a Title 1 school with all the benefits and support that follow. As a staff, we work

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget and school needs

From: Willow Maldonado <layne199@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:38 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget and school needs

[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,
Willow Maldonado

Willow Maldonado
layne199@verizon.net
Claire dr
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Kim Nguyen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:38 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 Council Members,

Please allows for more budget funding to HCPSS. Having a student-teacher ratio of 33:1 is neither beneficial to the students nor the teachers. Please think of the education of the young minds, and allow for more budget allocation for HCPSS.

Kim Nguyen
knnguyen0001@gmail.com
12118 Darnestown rd suiteB
Gaithersburg , Maryland 20878

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Education funding

From: Susan Lavun <susan_lavin@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:42 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Education funding

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

Opal Jones,

Fully funding education should be a priority! Early intervention is vital in building an educational foundation. Small class sizes, adequate support staff, and competitive salaries for educators, including support staff is important to the well being of our children.

Susan Lavun
susan_lavin@hcpss.org
Graftons View Ct
Elkridge , Maryland 21075

■

Stephanie Dean
stephanie_dean@hcpss.org
44 Ridge Ave
Edgewater, Maryland 21037

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Do not cut our budget!

From: Stephanie Dean <stephanie_dean@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:45 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Do not cut our budget!

[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 the full time counselor in an elementary school of over 900 students. Our school is overflowing due to numbers, needs of our students and families, and behaviors. Our teachers are struggling to teach in classes of 25 because of that overflow. I cannot imagine their struggle if class sizes increase. Kids who want to learn are losing instruction because the teachers and support staff are tied up responding to high flyers. High flyers aren't getting anything out of lessons because they can't get their basic emotional needs met, which is all due to the fact we don't have enough staff to help them. We simply do not have enough bodies, space, or resources to help meet the physical, emotional, and academic needs of our students.

I am struggling to support the mental health of kids, teachers, and families because I am only one person in a school of 1,000 people. We are fortunate to have a second .5 counselor, but it is NOT enough. And I know we are not the only school in this county with these issues. We are all spread so thin because there aren't enough resources to meet the needs of our students and families AND staff. Thinking that I may not get to move up a step in my salary or may lose a .5 co-counselor due to budget cuts is discouraging, infuriating, and asinine.

Cutting the budget is only going to make these issues more severe, and HCPSS will lose good educators who don't feel adequately compensated. Please, please, please do not cut the budget.

Thank you for your consideration,
Heather Moore

Heather Moore
heather_moore@hcpss.org
8108 Sea Light Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21045

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget concerns

From: Heather Moore <heather_moore@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:46 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
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.]

Opal Jones,

Hello,

I am very concerned about the budget needs of HCPSS. Increased class sizes will have strong impacts on students and teachers. For students, more individualized instruction cannot happen with more students for teachers to give attention to during the school day. In addition, with the growing concern and the need for social and emotional growth and learning in our children, having more students gives less time for teachers to build a relationship with each student to help in understanding each child's needs or making them feel safe. In increasing class sizes, students with special needs will feel more anxious and overwhelmed with the noise and stimuli that more students in one classroom will bring.

For teachers, increased class sizes will also have negative impacts on their health and performance as a teacher. Stress levels from having to meet the needs of more students, more discipline problems, and having more students in the classroom will rise causing teachers' health to decrease. As teachers have more students to teach, also comes more paperwork - papers to grade, report cards to write, parents to communicate with about progress, etc. Teachers already spend a substantial amount of time outside of school hours to get these things done, and adding more students will only increase these hours.

As a school system, with increased class sizes our ratings, scores, and well being of everyone in the system will decrease. We must have lower class sizes.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Concerns for the proposed budget

From: Megan Tiralla <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:49 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Concerns for the proposed 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 teacher in Howard county I feel I must express my concerns with the proposed budget. When I first started teaching in HCPSS 12 years ago, low class sizes was a point of pride for the county. Now low class size is not something we can claim and I have noticed a direct impact on the education I am able to provide my students. In a 4th grade class of 27 students with mixed abilities it is impossible to differentiate instruction to meet all of the needs of students. Small group instruction is made up of 8 to 10 students, where it used to be 5 or 6 in a small group. Our students are suffering with our resources being spread too thin. Increase the budget to lower class sizes and provide more resource teachers such as school psychologists and counselors to our schools.

Megan Tiralla
mlgerretson@gmail.com
427 ayrlawn drive
Millersville, Maryland 21108

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget decisions

From: jill ruppe <Jill_ruppe@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 7:50 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget decisions

[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 classroom teacher in Howard County. When I began here in 2002, my first grade class had 18 students. We found out this afternoon that our fourth grade classes could have up to 33 students each next school year. Even having 30 students this year has been overwhelming. I want to give students individual attention and prompt feedback on assignments for a highly productive educational experience. With so many students, this is proving extremely difficult. This budget decision MUST be reconsidered, for the sake of our students and the teachers. Thank you very much.

jill ruppe
Jill_ruppe@hcpss.org
10249 wetherburn road
ellicott city, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:58 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Hcpss funding

From: Stephanie Wickstrom <stephanie_wickstrom@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:02 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Hcpss funding

[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,
Stephanie Wickstrom, Psy.D.

Stephanie Wickstrom
stephanie_wickstrom@hcpss.org
9361 Kendal cir
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Katie Jennifer
katieajennifer@yahoo.com
6401 Woodvale Pl
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 2:59 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Threat of Increasing Class Sizes

From: Katie Jennifer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:03 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Threat of Increasing 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,

Currently I am in my fourteenth year of teaching with HCPSS. It is with a heavy heart that this is the first time I feel driven to write a letter of concern.

How can we possibly believe that our students and staff can handle increased classes sizes? We know what the research says. We have studied it endlessly. Increasing class sizes decreases the quality of education that each child can possibly receive. In addition, the quality of the work environment declines.

There will be an increase in stress put on the the educators, specifically lead teachers. There is simply not enough time to give each child the maximum amount of time and attention they need if the number of students in each class continues to rise.

When will it stop? When will we look around and realize the damage is far to great and we've gone too far?

Please, please reconsider where budget cuts will impact HCPSS. It can not be the quality of the students' education. It can not be the quality of the work environment for the staff.

Thank you.

Katie Jennifer

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:00 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Lauren Bhatia <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:03 PM
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,

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. Currently our special educators have 16-18 students on their caseload. With growing concerns about students' social and emotional well-being, we must have decreased class and caseload sizes. The biggest way to enable teachers to impact students' social and emotional well-being is to have less students in all classes and special education caseloads. The only way to make this possible is to increase funding to hire more general education and special education 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,

Lauren Bhatia

Lauren Bhatia
laurenwismans@gmail.com
6348 Burnt Mountain Path
COLUMBIA, Maryland 21045

continuing to raise expectations. You are creating a lose-lose situation and thus ruining the future of HCPSS and Maryland.

Noelle Mineart

janmineart@gmail.com

4243 dunwood terrace

Burtonsville, Maryland 20866

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:14 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: 35 for class sizes is a BIG MISTAKE

From: Noelle Mineart <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:06 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 35 for class sizes is a BIG MISTAKE

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

Opal Jones,

You continue to burden teachers with more work while expecting them to have the time to support the mental health of students. You tell special educators that they need to service students inside the classroom, but then you place 32 needy students in the same class and expect 2 teachers to give them everything they need. Despite our protests you continue to pack the curriculum with more and more content each year, acting as if we have all the time in the world. You tell us to differentiate for the various learners in our classroom, but we never have enough planning time. You tell us to use technology, but never provide adequate training. How are we supposed to service 35 students EFFECTIVELY and help them to be prepared for college if we are unable to do this at current class sizes. You keep reaching higher and higher, which continues to leave lower level students in the dust. What types of citizens are you trying to produce? By raising class sizes, instead of decreasing them, you will CONTINUE TO DAMAGE the future of state as a whole. You will continue to produce learners that have no real transferable skills. Learners that are afraid to try because they are unable to receive the support they need to succeed. How dare you put your political agenda or line your pockets at the expense of our children. How dare you determine that students should not be provided with the appropriate skills to be successful in our digital world because you refuse to support them and those who service them.

You are cutting the legs out from under the students who need the most help by simultaneously ignoring the people who specialize in actually teaching children while

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:16 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please do not increase class sizes

From: Tonia Dolinka <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:10 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please 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,

My son is currently in first grade and flourishing at centennial lane elementary school. He speaks at length about the help he is getting from his home room teacher and his math teacher and how much he loves school. I know that smaller groups and more one on one time is a big reason my son is doing so well. As a mother and a former educator I'm appalled that in a county as wealthy as Howard county (and with the taxes I'm paying) the discussion of more kids and less teachers is even occurring. What we need is less new developments and more focus on building new schools to help with overcrowding, not the opposite. We need to do what is right for our children not our pockets or bottom line. Our voices will be heard.

Tonia Dolinka
tdolinka@gmail.com
3808 font hill drive
Ellicott cit , Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: fund Smaller class sizes!

From: Lauren Honza <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:11 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: fund Smaller 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,

Class size is one of the most widely researched aspects of education. Time and time again, it is empirically proven that smaller class sizes improve education for students and teachers alike. While I understand that teacher salaries make up a huge portion of the budget, it saddens me that in one of the best counties in Maryland we are even talking about going backwards on one of the most highly effective variables. As a school counselor in the county, I can not stress enough, our kids needs are growing dramatically and our teachers are overwhelmed and overworked. Adding money to the school budget needs to happen for our kids and our educators. Tax the developers appropriately. Your students and teachers are tired of taking the brunt of others poor financial decisions.

Thank you for reading,
Lauren Honza
HCPSS School Counselor

Lauren Honza
lhonza81@yahoo.com
9368 Duff Court
Ellicott city, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: To whom it may concern,

From: Christy Emanuel <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:19 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: To whom it may concern,

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

Opal Jones,

The reason that I, and many parents move to Howard County is the public schools. Don't force us to leave because the quality of education is terrible. Make good choices.

Christy Emanuel
christyemanuel@gmail.com
7915 Tilghman st
Fulton, Maryland 20759

■

Thank you for considering my letter.

Sincerely,
Cecilia Haley

Cecilia Haley
cecilia_haley@hcpss.org
8100 Aladdin Drive
Laurel, Maryland 20723

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please fully fund the HCPSS budget request

From: Cecilia Haley <cecilia_haley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:26 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please fully fund the HCPSS budget request

[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 middle school ELA teacher and ELA Team Leader for my school, I see first hand what a lack of resources means for my students.

A reduction in staffing means even fewer special educators in classrooms, and already our students with special needs do not get the one-to-one support and materials that would help them be and FEEL successful in the classroom. It is devastating to see our students struggle and then not be able to provide the support they need.

Smaller class sizes mean I can give my students more attention, build stronger relationships, look more closely at their writing, and offer more specific feedback in order to help each student with his or her skills in reading and writing.

As I teacher, I already spend multiple hours beyond the school day planning lessons, providing feedback, updating Canvas, responding to parent emails, and more. I can't imagine what an increased class size would do to my already overwhelming workload.

Frankly, I worry that teachers are getting so burned out by the demands of the profession that they will leave the job they love. Please don't make this job any harder by reducing funding and increasing class sizes. Our children are our future as both individuals and a county. They, and everyone in the county, deserve full funding in our budget, at a minimum.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size - Teacher ratio

From: Lisa Siano <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:28 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class size - 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,

Howard County Schools already have very over-crowded classrooms. School facilities are at a breaking point trying to squeeze more children in tighter spaces. Teachers are increasingly asked to do more and more for more children with less resources. It's time to build new schools, hire more teachers and reduce class sizes.

Thank you for your courtesies.

Lisa Siano
lsianoesq@gmail.com
5041 Castle Moor Dr
Columbia , Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:22 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding

From: Sherry stephanos <toronto68@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:29 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding

[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 my concern, I work in the School System. Class sizes need to be smaller. Why you ask, well if they are smaller the Teacher can actually teach and not worry about the kids acting up. The larger the class more kids are in with friends. If you think about pre-school there are 6 kids to a teacher so 12 kids in a class 2 teachers should be in there. Yes we are talking about older kids if in High School, or Middle, but it does not matter. Let's get back to teaching instead of managing the class. This is what is happening with LARGE class sizes. So funding our schools with more Teachers and Para's will limit large class sizes. Think about being a Teacher or Para in a class rm with 30-35 kids in your class and teaching them. Yes, hard you say. That is us or at least most of us. Please listen to all of us. Please STOP taking our jobs away. The kids need this too. Think about our IEP kids, 504 kids, Alt. Ed Kids, ALS Kids, IBP Kids. This would also limit behavior issues t oo. I see this everyday in classes. Please think about all of this when you are making your decision. We are important, Kids are important. Thanks Sherry

Sherry stephanos
toronto68@verizon.net
10633 Delfield Ct
Laurel MD, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:23 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: funding the HCPSS budgetary needs

From: Christine Pearman <christine_pearman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:33 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: funding the HCPSS budgetary needs

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

Opal Jones,

Hello!

Please be mindful of the importance of fully funding the HCPSS budget. After twenty years of teaching in the elementary school classroom, I am certain that larger class sizes would broadly impact our efficacy at a critical time in our nation's history. I am deeply concerned about the funding gap and how it would effect our school communities! We need your full support! Thank you for your service~

Christine Pearman
christine_pearman@hcpss.org
9470 PINECONE ROW
COLUMBIA, Maryland 21045

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Alison Rudo <akrudo1@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:34 PM
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,

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,
Alison Rudo

Alison Rudo
akrudo1@verizon.net
6541, Meadowfield Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: The Education Budget

From: Kathleen Goffaux <kathleen_Goffaux@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:40 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: The Education 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,

I write to you to express my concern for our education budget this year. My hope is that you will fund the Howard County Public School budget fully this year. Class sizes are already at a high number. As a teacher in this county, I can not imagine having any more students sitting in my classroom each day. Teaching upwards of 175 students each day does not allow me to build the relationships needed in the classroom to help my students be successful. It also poses a safety hazard for my students. Our time and resources are already stretched very thin and adding even more students to each classroom seems unthinkable.

I understand that money is tight and cuts my need to be made somewhere but I can not understand how increasing class size and cutting educational resources can be good for anyone, students, teachers or the community. Please fully fund our future.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Goffaux

Kathleen Goffaux
kathleen_Goffaux@hcpss.org
12031 Keymar Road
Keymar, Maryland 21757

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: In need of your help

From: Molly Klein <mollyklein@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:47 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: In need of 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,

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,

Molly Klein

Molly Klein
mollyklein@verizon.net
7524 Summer Blossom Lane
Columbia, MD, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Funding

From: Marcia Davis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:47 PM
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,

Please fund our schools! One of the top measures of students success is small class size.
Research bears this out!

Marcia Davis
marciadavis255@gmail.com
6661 WINDSOR CT
COLUMBIA, Maryland 21044-4147

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Funding

From: Tim Reinhardt <tim_reinhardt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:47 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget Funding

[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:

I am writing to advocate for full funding for the Howard County Public School System budget. Increasing class size diminishes the educational experience of every student. Classroom management will become more difficult, resources will not be available, and differentiated instruction will be less effective. Our school has worked hard to provide the staffing required to meet the needs of our student population. Losing teaching positions will threaten the fundamental paradigm that has created the success enjoyed by Howard County thus far. Please fight for our funding, our class sizes, and our teaching positions. Please fight for our students!

Thank you for your consideration,
Tim Reinhardt

Tim Reinhardt
tim_reinhardt@hcpss.org
6720 Monroe Ave.
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

■

all of them and spend the required time for them to be successful. With the social/ emotional struggles our kiddos are facing and the increased violence in schools, I cannot fathom these decreases in staff and budget! We don't want to lose these kids to suicide, not graduating, or just low self-esteem!

Please consider funding our needs, as I would like to see Howard County produce more great citizens, teachers, and singers (like my sister)! My sister, educated all the way through 21 in Howard County, is now a happy individual with a job at a local hair salon. Please keep funding us and promoting more great students to their fullest potential!

Thank you for your greatest consideration in this matter!

Amanda Peter

mandy_peter@yahoo.com

Paragon Circle

Elkridge , Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: I'm concerned....

From: Amanda Peter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:48 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: I'm concerned....

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

Opal Jones,

I'm writing to ask you to please consider approving more for our budget on behalf of the students, most importantly, but also the parents, teachers, and county residents. I grew up in Howard County and had some really great teachers along the way who inspired me to do the same. When I was 10, my sister was born with Downs Syndrome. This only inspired me more to go into special education as a career. When I came back one year from college, when my sister was in 5th grade in Howard County "mainstreaming at the time", she had taken it upon herself to stay after school and try out for the talent show. She sang a Barney song at the time called, "I love my sister"! She proceeded to stand on stage with a picture of me and sang her heart out! She brought the audience, my family, and all the staff to tears! She'd made a connection.

Now with our county superintendent's vision of making connections, my heart is sad that staff is being cut and class sizes are increasing. I've been teaching special education for 20 years now and have seen many changes. Unfortunately, now we are feeling a little defeated as teachers. We need to make those close connections to understand children's perspective and viewpoints, but with increasing class sizes and diminished staff, it's becoming next to impossible.

When I was a younger teacher, I remember when class sizes were smaller. In fact, some general education teachers were even in the smaller "project rooms" with only 18 students. Now as a special educator, I have that many students on my caseload spread among 4 general education classrooms and even more math classrooms, making it very tough to reach

8851 Mission Rd
Jessup, Maryland 20794

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:32 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget request

From: Anna Gannon <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:50 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget request

[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 very concerned about the impact that lack of funding will have on my classroom. I am currently teaching in a room with the maximum capacity of 25 students due to the size of room I teach in. However, I teach the reading modules in two grades that a required for each student in their respective grade. Students are often prevented from engaging in a activities that require movement, staffing restraints a do not provide sufficient staff to provide assistance to our neediest students (ELL, SOED, below grade level readers, etc.); and lack resources (technology, textbooks, magazine subscriptions) to supplement the rigorous curriculum. It is imperative that this year's budget financially invest not only in overworked staff but to invest in staffing to provide the most effective staff to student ratio. We are overwhelmed trying to connect to students personally while trying to prepare engaging real world educational experiences. We need you to invest in us, our schools, our children to effectively secure the future of our community. You have this ability to partner with educators so that every child has the tools that they need to find success. I urge you to fully fund the requested budget for education funding.

Sincerely,
Anna Gannon

Anna Gannon
msgannon11@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:32 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget cut

From: Donna Trang <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:52 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget cut

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

Opal Jones,

Please do not increase class size and decrease number of teachers to trim Howard County's budget. It is at the detriment of our children and the future of this county because the excellent education that is offered here will be sacrificed in order to trim your budget. Although it may take longer I am certain there are other areas that can be looked at in order to save. I can tell you having just moved here from Texas, we picked Howard county specifically for the schools. Why do you need to increase class size to achieve your budget ? I am sure if this continues you will see the quality of the communities suffer. School communities and relationships within a town are vital and integral parts of what make up great neighborhoods. You are threatening to make many people upset and unfortunately you will see this directly affect you in the next election. I beg that you reconsider the action you are about to take for the greater good of our children.

Thanks you,
Donna Trang

Donna Trang
donna.trang@yahoo.com
2716 west end circle
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Class Sizes

From: Sarah Bae <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:55 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County 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,

Dear County Council,

I am saddened to hear of the potential increase in class sizes for next school year. As a current first grade teacher of 23 students, I know that having up to 27 students will only hurt the students. To do my job well, I need to truly know each child and how he or she learns best. That is extremely difficult with large classes. Please, I urge you to reconsider increasing class sizes. This can not be what is best for students.

Thank you,

Sarah Bae

Sarah Bae
sarahbae20@hotmail.com
7377 Gardenview Drive
Elkridge , Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Overcrowding and underfunding

From: Cherie Parlette <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:56 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Overcrowding and underfunding

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

Opal Jones,

It was very apparent this year that our school was over capacity when our entire 5th grade class and GT resource teachers all had to be moved to portables. Now to hear that in addition to this issue, we aren't finding enough teachers is baffling in a county where we pay very high taxes. This makes us ask the question... what are your priorities for the community? What is more important than our younger generations? To ask a more self serving question... How are we going to maintain the status of having some of the best public schools in the nation if this is the route we are going down???

Cherie Parlette
cfparlette@gmail.com
11321 Harrison Street
Fulton, Maryland 20759

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fund our schools budget

From: Courtney Skinner <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:57 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fund our schools 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 Member,

I am a parent of two HCPSS students and I am also a teacher in the Howard County school system. I see on a daily basis how lack of funding greatly impacts the education of our students. Our buildings contain inadequate teaching space; making many learn in book closets and other makeshift classrooms. We do not have proper technology to provide our students with access to online research, tools and online educational programs. My son's middle school asked parents to purchase chromebooks since they lack proper technology in their school. As a special education teacher, I see first hand how our classes and programs are not adequately staffed to support childrens' needs. We lack staff to keep children safe and provide access to curriculum for children with disabilities. Cutting the budget, adding to class sizes and cutting staff is not the answer, if we are expected to compete in a world that is only made better by a quality education.

Courtney Skinner
courtneyskinner35@gmail.com
3020 Grotto Walk
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for the school

From: Daniel Pendley <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:57 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for the school

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

Opal Jones,

Find the money requested. People live in the county for the schools.

Daniel Pendley
dan.pendley@gmail.com
10483 Route 108
Columbia , Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Classroom Sizes

From: Teresa-Angelica Weathington <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:00 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Classroom Sizes

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Lawmakers,

It has been brought to my attention that there is a proposal to increase class size across the board as a measure balance the budget. While I value fiscal responsibility, I think it would be a mistake to increase class size. While our teachers are amazing, they are already stretched thin. Also, increasing class size make it more difficult for students with 504 plans to receive the accommodations they need. Please consider other options. I appreciate all the effort you put into making these incredibly important decisions.

Teresa-Angelica Weathington
tweathington@gmail.com
9407 Clocktower Ln
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase funding for Howard County schools!

From: Maria Smioldo <marias709@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:02 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase funding for Howard County 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 was shocked to learn that our schools have a budget shortfall which will result in larger class sizes and the surplus-ing of teachers. When I cast my vote in the recent election, there was a provision that a percentage of casino revenues would be given to Maryland schools — not simply replacing existing funds, but increasing educational revenue overall. This passed and will become law in the fall. It is the only reason many of us voted to allow gambling in Maryland. Now our state leaders are not holding up their end of the bargain. We moved here for the excellent educational system, which sadly will diminish if these measures are implemented. Please re-fund our schools — what could be more important than our children??

Maria Smioldo
marias709@verizon.net
6425 Quiet Night Ride
Columbia, Texas 219

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Budget Shortfall

From: Amy Stoddard <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:02 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County 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,

The county budget shortfall impacting our school system is certainly challenging, however I would like to understand the analysis done on alternative options. There must be other viable solutions that do not impact our good teachers and ultimately our students. Please find an alternative solution. We have a mental health crisis in this country and it starts with children. They need to feel safe and cared for, and decreasing the amount of time and attention, or conversely adding unrealistic expectations of our teachers, is passing the buck and putting us further behind. Fund our schools appropriately and support our children and community.

Amy Stoddard
a.gignac12@gmail.com
6814 Grimes Golden Ct
Columbia, Texas 21"

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Don't increase class sizes please

From: Lori Sharp <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:03 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Don't increase class sizes please

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

Opal Jones,

The thought of increasing class sizes, and reducing the number of teachers, does a disservice to our children and the quality education our county has been known for.

My children are in 1st and 4th at CLES. My 1st grade daughter struggles with reading as is. The thought of her class size increasing makes me fear that she'll fall even further behind.

How can 1 teacher possibly assist that many students? I see parents in our neighborhood pulling their kids out and opting for private school instead. That never used to happen in this district. Makes me sad to see the path this is going down. Please make our children the top priority!

Lori Sharp
lorijmu02@gmail.com
10016 Inkpen PI
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042-4960

■

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increasing class sizes

From: Kaleigh Thomas <kaleigh_thomas@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:05 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increasing 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,

Dear County Council,

My heart hurts tonight reading the awful news that HCPSS' budget has not been fully funded which is causing an increase in class sizes. From last year to this year, class sizes by 3-5 students and it has been so detrimental to the students especially the special education students whom I service. The amount of emotional and academic needs these students bring is immense. It is impossible for teachers to address social/emotional and academic needs of all 28 students this year. The thought of even larger class sizes is frightening. It's not fair to the children. It's our job to teach them to become the next generation of contributing members of society. With large class sizes, the amount of students falling through the cracks or needs that will be unmet is only going to increase. For HCPSS being the "best" county in the state of Maryland, you can do better for our students, their families and my fellow teachers.

Sincerely,

Kaleigh Thomas

Kaleigh Thomas
Kaleigh_Thomas@hcpss.org
5636 Waterloo RD
Columbia , Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Lower class sizes!

From: Colleen DeClue <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:05 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Lower 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,

My most effective tool as an educator is building relationships with my students. By pushing the class size to 33 students for third grade, how can I possibly give each student the individualized attention and instruction that they each deserve? We are in Howard County, where the standards are set extremely high. I already bring home enough work throughout the year but add on these additional students and the work will multiply. I understand that cuts need to be made somewhere, but please do not do this. This will set both students and teachers up for failure.

Colleen DeClue
colleenjack21@gmail.com
6905 Norwood Fry
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for teachers

From: Holly Zinn <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:05 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for teachers

[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,

As a teacher and parent in Howard County, I am deeply saddened by the news to increase class sizes and reduce staffing. We are losing connections and interventions with children by increasing class sizes. The impact of these actions today will be felt for many years.

Holly Zinn
hzinn26@gmail.com
4837 South Haven Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Funding

From: Peg Glasser <mglasser@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:06 PM
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 am writing with concern about rumors of planned increases in class sizes and decrease in numbers of teachers. I oppose this budget change. I'm retired and have no children of school age. However, my neighborhood is filled with wonderful children whose parents located in HoCo for the greatest American school district. Please don't let them down.

Peg Glasser
mglasser@comcast.net
11047 Nashville Ct
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget shortfall

From: Akiba Perry <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:06 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,

As a parent of two (soon three) students in HCPSS, I would like to implore county executives to address the budget shortfall without negatively impacting school and classroom sizes. Teachers are responsible for the quality and ranking of HCPSS, and school quality and (also housing values) will fall to reflect declines in staff and resulting increases in class size. Most importantly, as a parent whose children had been in private school until this year, I have been very pleased with my children's first experience with public school academically and socially. They both (10th grade and 6th grade) have been on Principal's Honor Roll all three quarters, and I credit their teachers with keeping them engaged and supporting their academic pursuits.

Akiba Perry
akibatperry@gmail.com
11406 Liberty Street
Fulton, Maryland 20759

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Against the Proposed Class Size Increase

From: Ulyssa Beaty <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:07 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Against the Proposed 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,

Dear lawmakers, it has been brought to my attention that there is a proposal to increase class size across the board as a measure balance the budget. While I value fiscal responsibility, I think it would be a mistake to increase class size. While our teachers are amazing, they are already stretched thin. I know my daughter specifically will have an increased difficulty learning in a larger class size. Also, increasing class size make it more difficult for students with 504 plans to receive the supposed accommodations they need. Please consider other options. I appreciate all the effort you put into making these incredibly important decisions. Sincerely,
Ulyssa Beaty

Ulyssa Beaty
ubeaty@gmail.com
9218 winding way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Reduce class size

From: Erin Tunkel <erin_tunkel@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:07 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Reduce 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 am writing to request and urge that you keep class-size to a minimum. The dynamics of our elementary schools are changing. We are in high demand of counselors, psychologists, and behavior specialists. Keeping the class size small will help support the individual needs of each child. Thank you for your consideration.

Erin Tunkel
erin_tunkel@hcpss.org
1812 Kings Forest Trail
Mount Airy, MD 21771

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:57 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Catherine Koch <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:07 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,

I have had the pleasure of working for Howard County Schools, specifically Laurel Woods Elementary School for 9 years. I entered HCPSS from another school system, and I was shocked with the quality and number of resources we had for our students. I am still impressed with the resources we have. At the beginning of this school year, as a 5th grade teacher at a Title I School I faced class sizes of 31 students. There was only one way to organize student desks in my classroom: in rows. Getting students to focus on their work, and being able to provide quality feedback when there are that many bodies in one space was incredibly difficult. We were fortunate to be given an additional teacher. which lowered our class sizes. I am now able to meet with reading groups of the appropriate size, and provide adequate feedback for student work. I understand that the budget may not allow for the full funding. And I truly appreciate that staff will receive our benefits and our step. But raising class size is not the answer. Class Size is one of the greatest changes we can make to support student success, and is one of the biggest stresses for classroom teachers. I would suggest making changes to staff that do not work directly with students. That way the impact on students is lessened. I appreciate your consideration when it comes to our budget.

Catherine Koch
clkoch99@gmail.com
12 S Potomac St
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:58 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Sizes

From: Keiry Duran <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:11 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,

Hello Council Members,

I am a parent and volunteer at my child's school. I have seen first hand how teachers already have more than a full day and to think of adding more children to the class. I'm not sure how numbers are determined for classes when thinking about children with disabilities. I do see inclusion as a positive but believe that increasing class sizes will take away the personal dedication and time the teachers have with students. It is very important for my child's and others children's success that class size stay stagnant or better yet decrease. I love the new ideas in curriculum for elementary classes but adding bigger class sizes makes hands on activities and those that require supplies less practical. Please consider not increasing class sizes as it will be greatly detrimental to our children.

Thank you,

The Epperson- Duran Family

Keiry Duran
keirylduran@gmail.com
10268 Cabery road
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:02 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Prioritize Our Students

From: Belinda Miller <belinda_miller@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:14 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Our Students

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

Opal Jones,

In a world where we are surrounded by so much negative news, let's prepare our next generation for success both academically and emotionally. We cannot increase class size and give students the support they need. Please fully fund the needs of The HCPSS.

Belinda Miller
belinda_miller@hcpss.org
6741 Hunter Road
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

▪

2857 deerfield dr
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:02 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Size

From: Cindy Croft <cindy_croft@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:15 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,

Esteemed Council Members,

As a primary grade teacher in this county for over 20 years, I am writing to express my concern that we are once again looking at raising class sizes to meet the county's budget. Over the past few years, the class size ratio for primary grades has been raised from 1:19 up to 1:25. Now you are looking at raising the ratio to 1:27. Research clearly shows that class size has a direct impact on increasing student achievement, student test scores, student engagement, graduation rates, retention rates, drop out rates, college attendance rates, and non-cognitive skills such as persistence and motivation. (<https://www.classsizematters.org/research-and-links/>). The recommended class size for primary grades is 15-17 students. We are looking at class sizes with over 10 more students per class than what is recommended. Smaller class sizes decrease teacher workloads and allow teachers to spend more time with each student, individualizing instruction as necessary. This raises achievement rates for all students. I understand that the school system has many financial needs and must find a way to cut a large sum of money from the proposed budget. However, it does not make sense to remove funding from the area which research has proven has one of the greatest impacts on so many factors of student achievement as an effective way to make up the budgetary shortfall. Thank you for your time, consideration, and support.

Cindy Croft
cindy_croft@hcpss.org

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: don't increase class size

From: Joanne Harkness <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:18 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: don't increase 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,

My children need teachers that are not burnt out

Joanne Harkness
joanneharkness@gmail.com
6096 Adcock Ln
Hanover, Maryland 21076-1054

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget concerns

From: Heather Moore <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:19 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
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.]

Opal Jones,

Hello,

I am concerned about the budget constraints that could impact class sizes. My daughter has thrived in an HCPSS school because she has built relationships with each of her teachers, and has been given individualized attention in class.

If class sizes are increased, my daughter, along with every other HCPSS child, will not be able to have the same relationship with her teacher because there are so many students in class.

In addition, she has greatly benefited from smaller, small group sizes in reading and math. If class sizes are increased, those small groups are no longer smaller groups. She will not receive the attention needed from her teachers to target problem areas and help her as needed. Instead, the teacher will only be able to teach to the majority of the students' needs in the group, and not each child.

Thank you for your consideration,

Heather Moore

Heather Moore

mrs.hkmoore@gmail.com

8108 Sea Light Lane

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Budget

From: Jen Thomas <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:20 PM
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.]

Opal Jones,

To Whom It May Concern: While a budget is super difficult to make, our schools should be the number 1 priority for our dollars. Please consider what the increase in class sizes will do for our children and consider raising the school budget for next year. Thanks, Jen Thomas

Jen Thomas
jnp3211@yahoo.com
5291 Talbots Landing
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:10 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Where does all the money go?

From: Karen Estrada <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:21 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Where does all the money go?

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

Opal Jones,

I realize that the current Council and BOE both have inherited somewhat of a mess financially speaking, but as one of the wealthiest countries in America, Howars County should be placing a greater priority on education, have strict AFPOs, and stop development until schools can be built to accommodate growth and current schools are brought up to date through renovation. All schools need to be on even footing when it comes to supplies and technology, which is certainly not the case right now. Larger schools, where there is often more "money" are getting better funding and more resources than some of the smaller, older, and demographically less wealthy schools, which are in greater need of resources. Without a strong budget and steady support of the programs, resources, and even facilities that a county that ranks high in the nation both for wealth and education deserves, the council and BOE are failing their constituents, and the future leaders of our county. Please support full funding of the education budget, for the sake of our students.

Sincerely,
Karen B. Estrada

Karen Estrada
karen.b.estrada@gmail.com
6429 BELLEVIEW Dr.
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:15 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Funding

From: Sandra Berger <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:22 PM
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,

Good evening, I attended a portion of the budget meeting tonight. I heard passionate testimonies for funding. I know it is hard to make budget decisions. In my work, I have to recommend where we invest and where we won't. It is quite difficult. Still, if we think of why this county is sought after by so many, the number one reason is for our schools. Our schools are why so many people want to move here, developers want to develop here and why so many people stay. We have committed teachers and administration who tirelessly work each day to make my children's learning fun, interesting and effective. My daughter's second grade teacher, Mrs. P. Larner, (at SJLES) came to watch her after school play on her own time. She didn't have to do that, but she did. Naomi was so excited Mrs. Larner was there! This is just ONE small example of the commitment teachers have to their students. Let's give them a chance to do what they do best - teach! Please find the budget fully and then some. Thanks.

Sandi Berger

Sandra Berger
sandijean@yahoo.com
2630 Thornbrook Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:15 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Funding

From: Cheryl Rager <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:22 PM
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 am sad to hear about the lack of school funding. We claim to have the top school system however that cannot happen when our schools are not receiving the money they deserve. Having up to 33 students in a class is not acceptable. You are setting the teachers and children up for failure. I am urging you to fund the schools. Our future depends on it.

Cheryl Rager
giantsfan2716@gmail.com
4749 Hale Haven Dr
Ellicott City, Md, 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:17 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Jennifer Soumah <jensoumah@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:24 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,

I was already concerned about the high number of students in my daughter's 4th grade class. She has 29 students. I just read this could go up to 33-35. I have already started looking at private school. I think with a smaller class size my daughter would excel in her academics. I think children are getting lost in the large classrooms.

Jennifer Soumah
jensoumah@verizon.net
Ridge Rd
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:19 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Needs more teachers

From: Binjal Ali <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:26 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Needs more teachers

[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 unacceptable. We need to take care of our teachers.

Binjal Ali
binjal.ali@gmail.com
10018 Bluebell Way
Laurel , Maryland 20723

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:19 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increased class sizes

From: Andrea Stremmel <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:26 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increased 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,

I am writing to express my distaste for the suggestion that our educators in Howard County are being told that there is a strong possibility that the school system will be increasing their class sizes. In no way is this an acceptable solution to our budget issues. These issues were caused by adults and the solution is being taken out on the backs of our children.

My other concern would be with the effect this Will have on our children in regard to mental health and early intervention. For many of our children their homeroom/1st period teacher is the first interaction with an adult that they may have. When you put an absurd number of children into a classroom, there is no way that their teacher can be fully present for all of the children. We are doing a detriment to our children, and their futures, if we proceed in this manner.

Please vote no to making our students and educators take the fall for poor leadership.

Andrea Stremmel
astremmel@gmail.com
9181 Windflower Dr
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

a gym that can not accommodate that many students. It means music and arts teachers teaching classes of 50+ students.

4. Our staff was also told 4 classroom teachers would be eliminated. How can anyone justify surplussing classroom teachers when there are 34 students in my daughter's 4th grade class? And that is not an anomaly at our school, or many other schools for that matter.

I could provide many more examples of the negative effects of underfunding our schools. Our system cannot operate under the budget the CE proposed. It simply CAN NOT function under that budget.

I realize tough decisions need to be made, but shortchanging kids and shortchanging residents with less than necessary funding for HCPSS cannot happen. When HCPSS suffers, the county suffers.

Please fund our schools with the requested \$693M dollars that has been requested. It is not an extravagance. It is the bare necessity.

Thank you,
Kelly Balchunas
Resident, D5

Kelly Balchunas
usf1998@mac.com
10930 White Dahlia Drive
Woodstock, Maryland 21163

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 4:26 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS 2019-2020 budget

From: Kelly Balchunas <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:27 PM
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 Councilmembers,

I am writing to plead that the HCPSS budget requires more funding than what has been proposed our county executive. I am a parent of MS and ES students in the system, as well as a substitute teacher with HCPSS. Since my oldest daughter started kindergarten in the 2012-2013 school year, I have seen a consistent, persistent decline in the learning environment at our school - a decline that has nothing to do with our stellar teachers. I have seen class sizes increase exponentially. I have seen schools bust at the seams with not enough room for students. Some personal examples include:

1. My 4th grade daughter has 34 students in her class. Do you know how difficult it is for any child to effectively learn, and any teacher to effectively teach, when there are 34 students in a class?

2. I have seen a decrease in the staffing ratios in other areas which require that teachers do more with less in a multitude of ways. We have 1 paraeducator for 7 classes in second grade. That is simply outrageous. When my daughter started kindergarten 7 years ago, the grade paraeducators were able to help students in small groups. Not anymore.

3. Related arts are hit very hard when staffing ratios decrease. Our staff was told today we would be losing 3.3 related arts positions. This means upward of 90 kids at one time for PE, in

10847 Olde Woods Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

■

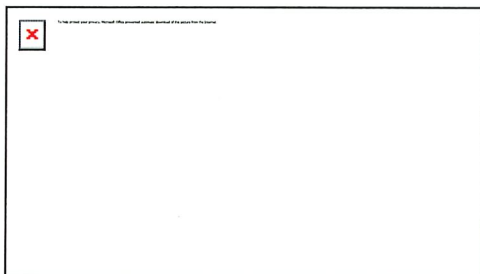
I am attaching studies and articles that demonstrate the links between class size and student achievement. Please read them, seek more information, talk to teachers and students, and consider what we sacrifice when we cram more students into classes that are already too large.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and consider my concerns. This is a pivotal moment in our county's history, and I don't want our children to look back on the decisions made during this county council's tenure and wonder what went so terribly wrong.

Sincerely,

Wendy Williams-Abrams
District 1
3144 Saint Charles Place
Ellicott City, MD 21042

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/class-size-what-research-says-and-what-it-means-for-state-policy/>



Class Size: What Research Says and What it Means for State Policy - Brookings - Quality. Independence. Impact.

Given the high cost of maintaining small classes, the current fiscal environment has forced states and school districts to rethink their class-size reduction policies. Russ Whitehurst and Matthew ...

www.brookings.edu

<http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/research/class-size-and-student-achievement>

Class size and student achievement | Center for Public Education

Reducing class size to increase student achievement is an approach that has been tried, debated, and analyzed for several decades. The premise seems logical: with fewer students to teach, teachers can coax better performance from each of them.

www.centerforpubliceducation.org

<https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/WP136.pdf>

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: panyongmei@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 11:22 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: chao_wu@hcpss.org
Subject: Hcpss 2020 budge

[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 HCPSS parents, I just surprisingly found that the 2020 HCPSS budge only increases 0.9%, not even enough to maintain the basic school operation. 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, only half to cover the increased expense caused by more students!

The big deficit 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 ours 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: Brooke Dalesio <bdalesio27@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 9:37 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Class size increases

[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 over the budget shortfalls that will likely result in class size increases across HCPSS. As an 18 year veteran educator and current College of Education faculty member at the University of Maryland at College Park, PTA President for Longfellow Elementary School's PTA, and parent of three HCPSS students, it is troubling that even with the wealth of research we have on the benefits of smaller class sizes in relation to student achievement and teacher production and job satisfaction, that your Council is still proposing these cutbacks.

I urge you all to put yourselves in the seats of these children and educators if this budget goes through as is. Imagine sitting in a class of 33, in a cramped classroom, with one teacher, trying to get individualized attention when you don't understand a concept or need to be pushed to learn the next standard. Imagine being a teacher with 33 students to plan differentiated instruction for daily, deliver lessons that address the various needs of 33 students in a class where students don't have space to work in small groups, grade 33 sets of papers/quizzes/tests, write 33 report card comments four times per year, hold 33 parent/teacher conferences, and prepare 33 students for the many standardized tests they are forced to administer every year. How can a teacher possibly meet the needs of 33 students in this way? Which students get left behind bc there just isn't enough time to teach them all what they need to know? Who is to blame when test scores go down and schools start looking less desirable and developers stop wanting to build in HoCo? Historically, schools and teachers are blamed, however, if this budget cuts funding for education in HCPSS, it will be a direct reflection on the lack of care and irresponsible decision-making of our elected county officials.

As all of you know, HoCo parents don't forget and vote accordingly. I urge you to do the right thing and fund HCPSS the way the kids and teachers of this county deserve.

Sincerely,
Brooke Dalesio
PTA President
Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia, MD

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Jodi Schwarzl <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 4:52 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Don't cut teacher positions

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

Council Members ,

Dear Council Members and all involved in disseminating your school budget,

Teachers matter and so do classroom sizes.

Overcrowding a classroom is counterproductive.

The larger the classroom size the less time a teacher can give to each student.

The less time a student receives from a teacher, the more they fall behind.

The more students fall behind, the more additional resources they require.

The increase in students receiving resources will end up costing you as much (if not more) than you figured you'd save.

Cutting teachers and raising classroom sizes is short sighted with a byproduct of putting the students last.

I'm confident that you're final decision will meet the expectations of all the tax paying and voting residents.

After all housing prices are directly affected by the quality of the schools.

The last thing you need is to be the cause of a drop in property values because the schools lose credibility.

Keep your teachers, keep your class sizes small and keep the quality of your schools and the students' education high.

Thank you,

Jodi Schwarzl

Jodi Schwarzl

jhschwarzl@gmail.com

57 Finchley Court

Southampton, New Jersey 08088

Sayers, Margery

From: Jodi Schwarzl <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 4:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Don't cut teacher positions

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

Council Members ,

Dear Council Members and all involved in disseminating your school budget,

Teachers matter and so do classroom sizes.

Overcrowding a classroom is counterproductive.

The larger the classroom size the less time a teacher can give to each student.

The less time a student receives from a teacher, the more they fall behind.

The more students fall behind, the more additional resources they require.

The increase in students receiving resources will end up costing you as much (if not more) than you figured you'd save.

Cutting teachers and raising classroom sizes is short sighted with a byproduct of putting the students last.

I'm confident that you're final decision will meet the expectations of all the tax paying and voting residents.

After all housing prices are directly affected by the quality of the schools.

The last thing you need is to be the cause of a drop in property values because the schools lose credibility.

Keep your teachers, keep your class sizes small and keep the quality of your schools and the students' education high.

Thank you,

Jodi Schwarzl

Jodi Schwarzl

jhschwarzl@gmail.com

57 Finchley Court

Southampton, New Jersey 08088

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please Fund Our Schools

From: Madeline McErlean <Madeline_McErlean@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2019 12:37 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please 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,

Dear County Council Members,

I am a first year teacher. I currently teach 3rd Grade in Ellicott City. Last school year, I interned in HCPSS and received a Master of Arts in Teaching from Towson University. Even when last year's budget proposal was announced, 200+ teachers were at risk of surplus, and multiple HCPSS employees told me that I would not get hired in the school system that I loved, I stayed committed. I took 4 interviews and turned down 4 job offers from surrounding counties, hoping I would still have the opportunity to become an HCPSS educator. My wishes were answered when I received a single call for an HCPSS interview last July- and got the job.

As I come towards the end of my first year of teaching, I have done much reflecting on my experience as a Howard County educator. This year has had many challenges, beyond those that naturally accompany the first year of teaching. There have been 7 weeks this year (almost an entire marking period's worth of time) where I have been unable to meet and co-plan with my Special Educator to support my students with special needs, because a lack of adequate staff has pulled her to support students in another part of the building. If we are able, we try to communicate over the phone on weekends or weeknights to make up for missed planning time. This is time that we take away from spending with our own loved ones, and refreshing for the next whirlwind week of teaching and loving 8- and 9-year old children. There have been many days where I have been left on my own to manage and teach an inclusive math classroom of 22 students, several of whom should be receiving additional close ad ult support

for inclusion in the general education classroom every single day. On these days, so much of my time is committed to accommodating the needs and behaviors of my students with special needs, that I am often unable to guide and support my entire class in meeting that day's learning objective. Equitable learning is our most fundamental priority as HCPSS educators, and feeling as if we are falling short in sufficiently supporting and growing each student is absolutely debilitating.

As a new teacher who was shaped by HCPSS mentors and missions, I wish to continue working for the best school system in the United States. If we wish to maintain this prestigious status, adequate funding is absolutely vital. Please consider increasing the funds provided to help our students and teachers become the best they can be.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maddie McErlean

Madeline McErlean

Madeline_McErlean@hcpss.org

417 Charles Street Avenue

Towson, Maryland 21204

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:58 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget and Class Sizes

From: Angela Pope <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:53 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget and 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,

To the Howard County Council Members,

I implore you to search for and give more funds to the Howard County School system and to not increase classroom sizes or decrease staffing.

In the few times I have been able to teach small classes, I've been able to build stronger relationships with my students and spend more time ensuring students get the individual assistance they need. With less students to be in charge of, I had more time to communicate with parents, give more detailed feedback when doing formative and summarize assessments, and I could be confident that we would have enough materials in a class. Raising a middle school class size to 35 increases the chances of us not having enough materials, time or literal space to meet each student's needs. Students especially in the eastern and central part of the county are experiencing traumas at a higher degree and also need more counseling and mental health support, and we need a fully funded budget to support this need

Currently our school has already needed to surplus 2 teachers this year, due to re-districting lowering our total student population. If the budget HCPSS requested is not met, we will have to surplus 2.2 additional teaching positions. This means less staff to support students who are in crisis, a less flexible master schedule which won't be able to support collaboration amongst teachers and won't be able to ensure that all students are placed in the best class for them. A less flexible schedule also means our students with disabilities will either be all crammed into one class without enough support to go around during that class, or some students will be

placed in classes with 0 support, while others get all of their support. (Which would be an illegal violation of their individual education plan).

This budget could also imply a potential salary freeze. I have worked full time in Howard County for eight years, and I've never been able to focus solely on teaching because I've always needed to work 1-2 part time jobs. The majority of my co-workers (especially those who are new teachers or para educators and are on the first few steps of the HCPSS pay scale) have to supplement their income by working part time as well. Teachers and support staff can't dedicate their 100% best selves to teaching if they are worried about money, or splitting their time between teaching and working other jobs. That means less after school activities for students, less engaging lessons, less detailed feedback for student work, less time to communicate with parents, less time to grade and return work in a timely manner, and less energy to teach with positivity and build relationships. It leads to a quicker burnout and perpetuates the cycle of teachers quitting teaching within the first 5 years.

The perpetual decreases in budget have also meant that I personally am buying materials so my students can be successful. I have paid my own bills late multiple times to make sure my students have the materials they need, once my classroom budget has quickly run out.

If this budget doesn't increase this county is going to lose excellent teachers who choose to go to other school systems or leave the teaching profession in entirety.

Please allocate funds differently and find the funds to fully support HCPSS's budget proposal. It is irresponsible and insulting to our students/staff that the County and State government continually take more and more money away from the school system while expecting us achieve more each year. How can we teach children to become engaged and productive citizens of society when they consistently get a message from their local leaders that their education does not matter because they are not willing to fund it? As your constituent, I beg you to reconsider.

Sincerely,
Angela Pope
Howard County Teacher

Angela Pope
pope.afp@gmail.com

6300 Bayberry Court
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:58 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please help prevent increased class size

From: Amy Barnes <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:00 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please help prevent increased 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 am writing to ask for your help to do whatever we can not to increase class size. Preventing additional residential building until infrastructure can catch up might help, but increasing class size, in what already feel immensely tight, cannot be the solution:(. These children are being asked to hide, run and fight from congresses inability to provide gun control, the least we can do is provide the children room to run. With desks, material storage, and the students themselves, these classrooms are not designed to fit the children that they have now. I am not sure how the fire department let's us get away with it now, let alone with additional bodies in the room. Please help us!!!!

Amy Barnes
abarnes79@gmail.com
5853 Blue Sky
Elkridge , Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:56 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget cuts

From: Michelle Proudfoot <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:04 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 Council Members -

My daughter is a first year kindergarten teacher in the county. Her dream job! But through budget cuts and CRAZY class enrollment increases, she may lose it. Teachers put so much in to their students and to add on more is such a disservice to the teachers and the students. Howard county schools are supposed to be among the best. I don't see how this will stay the same with increasing the class sizes, losing the new, excited about their job, teachers and class sizes that will hinder mental health training and personal connections.

My daughter gets to work early and brings work home with her every night that has her working until 9-10 pm almost every night. Amazon packages come many times a month for classroom supplies and materials to use with the children she has now. That would have to increase if class sizes increase. The budget needs to be raised, not slashed. The teachers are the ones in the trenches, day in and day out. They need support, not cuts!

As much as she loves her job, supervising 23 five year olds is a yeoman's task. It is so hard to meet the needs of each child when there are so many...and class sizes are going to increase? This is insane. This is going to effect the kids more than anything and stress good teachers beyond their limits.

Say no to budget cuts and support the teachers of this great county!!!

Michelle Proudfoot

smaklp@yahoo.com

4826 Lauren Ct

Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:51 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Joyce Wood <Lynn_Wood@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:18 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,

Hi!

I think it is a shame how little teachers and support staff make and how much is expected of them. I have worked in the school system now for 18 years. I hear how many at home hours and after school hours teachers put in. Also, money out of their own pockets for classroom items that are not provided.

Students are the back bone to our future. Why are teachers paid so little to prepare students for their future and our nations future???

Joyce Wood

Lynn_Wood@hcpss.org

8440 Ice Crystal Drive Unit K

LAUREL, Maryland 20723

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:51 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS funding

From: Margina Luecking <margina_luecking@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:20 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS funding

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

Opal Jones,

PLEASE do not increase class sizes! i have worked in Howard County schools for over 20 years. The level and severity of behavior problems has increased dramatically. If class sizes increase, it will definitely negatively impact student learning and staff and student safety. We are over crowded and understaffed already. Please do not increase class sizes!

Margina Luecking
margina_luecking@hcpss.org
2024 Pleasant Villa Ave
Catonsville , Maryland 21228

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School funding

From: Jennifer (Ginger) Segala <gjsegala5@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:21 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,

The HCPSS budget must be increased to align with the needs and expectations of the Howard County citizens. No child is best served in classes over 30 in 3rd grade! There is not a single person who would say that raising class size to balance the budget is in the best interest of children.

I realize that Dr Ball did not do the hard work needed to keep his campaign promise to fully support the school system. Unfortunately, that means the hard work falls to the county council. Moving dollars around to do what is in the best interest of the school system is also what is in the best interest of the whole county. We can't be parading flags about equity for low income people on one side and then create a public school system that isn't actually decent for all. With the proposed class size increase, families who can afford to will push their kids into private schools in other counties to escape what is quickly becoming a third tier school system in many pockets of Howard County. Leaders must do what is RIGHT for ALL children of Howard County and fully fund the HCPSS budget.

Jennifer (Ginger) Segala
gjsegala5@verizon.net
5013 Stone Hill Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Don't surplus teachers

From: Joan Cooper <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:27 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Don't surplus teachers

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

Opal Jones,

Hi, my daughter will be starting Kindergarten in the Fall. I want her first educational experience to be positive, and if there are over 26 kids in the class this will be highly unlikely. Please don't surplus teachers and please put our kids first!

Joan Cooper
joandcoop@gmail.com
7383 kindler rd
Columbia , Maryland 21046

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budgets and Staffing

From: Chris Kohout <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:40 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budgets and Staffing

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

Opal Jones,

Dear representative,

I understand one of the potential solutions to the budget shortfall is to cut staffing and raise classroom sizes. As a parent and volunteer in the school I have personally witnessed how larger classroom sizes lower productivity and decrease learning. With larger classroom sizes teachers have to spend more time managing student behavior and distractions that are inherent to a larger group of students. Further if a teacher wants to give individual attention while teaching a particularly challenging skill, the waiting time for the rest of the class while the teacher makes her way around the room becomes excessive. While in an ideal world students would be able to continue to work independently, this is not typically the case and many students will become distracted with socializing or other negative behaviors. Smaller class sizes are critical for teachers to continue teaching at the high standards and rigorous pace that have made Howard county schools excellent. Raising classroom sizes will jeopardize the quality of education.

Chris Kohout
chrisdkohout@yahoo.com
4647 Yorkshire Drive
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:50 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget short fall affecting the class sizes

From: Prasad Karunakaran <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:44 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget short fall affecting the 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,

Dear Howard County council,

Just heard about the budget short fall and the decision by the council to increase the class sizes. I think this will impact the quality of education in the county. Please reconsider this decision.

-prasad

Prasad Karunakaran
pppprasad@gmail.com
7640 President Street
Fulton, Maryland 20759

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Need and Class Size

From: David Floyd <david_floyd@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:54 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget Need 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,

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. Also, as an elementary Technology teacher we only are provided with 30 computers in our classroom for students. If a class exceeds 30 students then we cannot teach our classes effectively. Another thing to consider is that Chromebook carts only come with 28 laptops, if a class has 33 student there are 5 students without laptops. We would be unable to teach efficiently.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dave

David Floyd
david_floyd@hcpss.org
6058 Claire Dr
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Joanna Huling <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:55 AM
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,

I am genuinely concerned that increasing class size will have a detrimental effect on students. All research shows that smaller class sizes yield better results for students. How can one of the best school districts in the state so blatantly disregard something so important for the well being of our children? We need smaller classes and more well paid teachers, not the opposite.

Our children depend on us to keep them safe, both physically and emotionally in our schools, and the recent actions of HCPSS will jeopardize both. Please help!

Joanna Huling
huling.offers@gmail.com
7476 Hickory Log Circle
Columbia , Maryland 21045

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase funding!

From: Kimberly Merritt <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:01 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase funding!

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

Opal Jones,

We need to increase funding to keep class sizes from increasing!

Kim Merritt

Kimberly Merritt
mrskimmeritt@gmail.com2094navy
9926 frederick rd
Ellicott city , Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for HCPSS - Special Education

From: Mary Larocco <mary_larocco@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:04 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for HCPSS - Special Education

[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 am asking that you take the time to review the current county data that reflects the continual increase in the number of students that require specialized instruction due to their IEP's. In order to provide these students the instruction that they require, we are in desperate need of the funding required to provide adequate staffing. All students have the right to a free and appropriate education and without funding for special education staff, we are depriving these students of the education that they deserve. Please review this critical need and fund the requested budget. Thank you.

Mary LaRocco

Mary Larocco
mary_larocco@hcpss.org
12325 Sherwood Forest Drive
Mt Airy, Maryland 21771

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Amber Naden <amber_naden@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:04 AM
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,

Hello, I am a teacher at Worthington elementary. I have been teaching for 16 years, and as someone who started out in PG with a class of 27 Kindergartners, I know first-hand that class size is the most important issue facing teachers. Please, take the money needed from anywhere else. I'd rather make less, pay more in benefits, than spend the rest of my career with an unmanageable class size.

Thank you for listening,
Amber Naden

Amber Naden
amber_naden@hcpss.org
7856 Foxfarm Lane
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HELP!!!

From: Bonnie Dorsey <bonnie_dorsey@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:09 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HELP!!!

[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,

Please seriously consider adding money to the BOE school budget so that class sizes do not increase. Increasing class sizes would hurt our students- and we are tasked with helping them to succeed!!!

I am a first grade teacher. 28 students is NOT a reasonable amount to students to teach to read, to help them grow emotionally and socially, and to help with all the math skills that are new to these young learners. We are already stretched thin as it is, and this would take us over the edge. In addition, we need the resources to be able to teach these little people. Materials are needed. Seriously!

I am already working hours before and after school to keep up with the planning and grading work for 22 students. 28 students would add hours more work for me. We do not have materials easily available for this size class, therefore students would need to share materials until more games could be made for them to play.

I beg you to consider cuts in other areas of the county budget so that our students to do not have to pay the price. There are multiple studies of hour small class size is one of the best

indicators of student success. Please consider this data before increasing class size. Our students deserve nothing but the best.

Yours,
Bonnie Dorsey

Bonnie Dorsey
bonnie_dorsey@hcpss.org
9243 Ridgefield Cir
Frederick, Maryland 21701

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Class Sizes

From: Alexis McKenzie <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:18 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget 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,

Good Morning Council Members,

I wanted to express my support for the county council to further fund HCPSS. Allowing our class sizes to grow is detrimental to the quality of education our children will receive. Howard County is known across Maryland and the nation as a top school system. We can no longer hold that title if we allow our schools to become overcrowded and underfunded. Please consider supporting additional funds so our children have the opportunity to thrive at school.

Alexis McKenzie
amlaske@gmail.com
5945 Meadow Rose
ELKRIDGE, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Funding

From: Joan Gromada <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:20 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,

Class size increases will have a detrimental impact on students. There isn't anyway struggling students can get the additional attention they need with classes that large. I bought my home in Howard County because of its education system but slowly our schools are becoming similar to other counties with large class sizes. At a time when test scores are being used to determine teachers' job performance how unfair to put even a greater burden on them. Please find our schools. Perhaps we don't need so many positions in central office?

Respectfully,
Joan Gromada

Joan Gromada
sarajoaj@yahoo.com
5034 Orchard Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Concerns

From: Courtney Proudlock <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:24 AM
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,

Dear Council members,

As an educator for the Howard County Public School System, I am directly affected by the budget. The increasing class sizes make providing quality education for all students difficult. In addition, the increasing number of students and decreasing faculty/staff in each buildings make monitoring student behaviors and maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment more difficult.

I personally purchase materials for my classroom frequently. I pay for color copies of materials, purchase paper, supplies for students who do not have their own materials, as well as supplemental instructional materials to enhance and enrich the students learning. This money comes directly from my pocket and is money I could be using for my own family.

The surplus process is also very emotional and stressful. It is very disheartening to wonder if I will have a placement for the following school year due to budget cuts. I was one of the Elementary World Language teachers that was affected last year when the budget was cut and that program was eliminated. It is not a good feeling to know that I have put in so much effort to provide quality language instruction for the students of Howard County and then have to wonder if there will still be a position for me the following school year. If I am put in the

surplus process again this year, this will be my second year in a row not knowing if or where I will be teaching the following year.

I sincerely hope that the board does not make the proposed budget cuts that will increase class sizes and eliminate staffing because this will be detrimental to the school system.

Thank you for your attention.

Courtney Proudlock

Courtney Proudlock
courtneyproudlock@gmail.com
486 Hawkrigde Lane
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:45 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fully Fund the HCPSS Budget

From: LeRay Blanding <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:24 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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.]

Opal Jones,

I am writing to request that you fully fund the HCPSS Budget request. Losing classroom teachers and increasing the size of classes in middle school to 35 students would cause a major disruption to schools and classrooms across HCPSS.

LeRay Blanding
lblanding75@gmail.com
9738 Summer Park Ct.
Columbia, Maryland 21046

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:45 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Class Size

From: Stacey Folkemer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:28 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County 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,

Good morning,

I have recently been made aware of the discussion to increase class sizes in Howard County due to budget constraints, and I'm writing to implore you to reconsider.

I know there are issues with the school system budget and a lot of push back around redistricting, but giving our valued teachers a class size so large is a disservice to them and not something I'd expect a school system as prestigious as Howard County Schools to find acceptable. Those of us who purchased homes in Howard County did so because we wanted to avoid situations just as this.

Thank you for your time.

Stacey Folkemer

Stacey Folkemer
staceyyfolkemer@gmail.com
5242 Lightfoot Path
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:45 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: URGENCY OF NOW

From: Courtney Howe <courtney_howe@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: URGENCY OF NOW

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

Opal Jones,

Hello to anyone I am able to share this with,

My name is Courtney Howe and I am a first year teacher at Bellows Spring Elementary school. I also am very likely part of what would be the 225 positions cut if the budget needs are not met. With that being said, I want to take the opportunity to tell you about my class, and what my position has allowed me to do this year. My class currently sits at 22 students, this year I began with 20 students and has 2 students added after February. In my class I have 7 students with IEP's (individualized education plan), which are from 2 different programs in my school. Of my other students, I have one below grade level student, and 2 above grade level students. That is the hard data, in arguable and what you can see when you look at piece of paper. My class is so much more than that. This year I have had an amazing opportunity to work with every single one of these students, and learn about who they really are as people not just learners. Through that time, I have been able to more accurately reach my students. Ensure that I am discussing topics and people who will help inspire them to become the most incredible adults. It has allowed me to figure out which students have an excellent home life, a safe consistent place to go, and also the ones who come to school for their safe place. It has allowed me to figure out which students love school and embrace challenging tasks, and which ones need a little bit more of a buy in to see the value in what they are doing. It has allowed me find the students who already in first grade "don't like who they are", who, "don't understand why they look different", who "are worried they won't have friends anymore if they

tell", who need an extra check-in everyday with a trusted adult, who love to help because at home it's how they feel seen. Every student needs an adult to care. Every student needs proper supports. Every student needs someone that cares for them unconditionally and has the time for just them. I can confidently tell you I work far beyond contract hours, and have spent thousands of my own dollars to ensure that I can meet the needs of my students. I can confidently tell you that I work so hard and make those sacrifices to ensure that I feel that I have done EVERY POSSIBLE THING to ensure I am helping those individuals who walk into my class each day. I can also assure you that if I had 5 more students in my class, I don't think I could feel like I have fully supported them. I would feel that my time is too short, or I didn't check in with that student like I should have, or that I just didn't even know a student had a certain need. Teaching is important, and right now you are holding the future in your hands. You are the decider of each of those students futures. You get to say whether or not they will have the caring adults in their lives that they need or not. You get to decide whether those teachers who spend hours every night work tirelessly to support those kids get to keep doing their thing. You decide whether or not we continue to serve our community or if we let down generations to come. I already said I have done every possible thing to support my students and my class, to prove that I choose the right place to be. Can you promise that you have done the same?

Thank you for your consideration and time. I know this is not an easy decision to make. I welcome you to come visit our school and see what we are able to do for our community and students.

Thank you,
Courtney Howe
1st Grade Teacher
Bellows Spring Elementary

Courtney Howe
courtney_howe@hcpss.org
8125 Old Stockbridge Dr.
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Funding imperative

From: Elena Desantis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:33 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Funding imperative

[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 writing to address the funding needed in HCPSS.

My son was born premature and is making amazing strides to catch up thanks to the RECC program and his phenomenal teachers and aids. I believe it's imperative for our children's future, that we get more funding in HCPSS. Our county attracts the most qualified and highly educated teachers in the country and in order to continue to attract the talent we need for our children, we need to give them the tools they need to help our children be successful. If we don't get this funding, we are setting them up for failure. Thank you for all you do for this county.

Sincerely,
Elena DeSantis

Elena Desantis
eid.elena@gmail.com
Susini drive
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School sizes

From: Avery Spitz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:38 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: School sizes

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

Opal Jones,

I feel taken advantage of as a tax payer, the schools already have a poor ratio for such a over inflated education program. Increasing sizes is not what we need. The teachers in middle school barely have time to help students learn. Cutting teachers is not a good choice.

Avery Spitz
averyellen@yahoo.com
5372 Dunteachin
Ellicott city, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Inadequate Staffing/Large Class Sizes

From: Christina Shumaker <christina_shumaker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Inadequate Staffing/Large 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,

Dear County Council Members, Please do everything in your power to fight for our students. The slated class size changes are too large for students to get the adequate support needed to learn and grow academically. Every student in Howard County deserves the chance to succeed! Larger class sizes and decreased staffing equals a poor learning environment. This budget plan affects all schools in our county, but especially our Title One schools with the highest needs. I trust that together we can convince our board to do what is best for our students. After all, isn't that what education is all about?

Christina Shumaker
christina_shumaker@hcpss.org
14101 Barbara Circle
Cooksville, Maryland 21723-9603

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please fund our schools

From: Dana Taylor <danamallerich@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:49 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please 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,

HCPSS attracts new families and jobs. Builders sell houses based on the strength of our schools. Having class sizes in excess of 35 students is not acceptable and will negatively impact our children, our schools, our teachers and our community. Be the school system you promised us = help our children to learn and grow and not get lost in the crowd (which WILL happen to kids who are in the middle of the pack - it does know and it will only get worse.

Dana Taylor
danamallerich@comcast.net
10746 Folkestone Way
"WOODSTOCK, MD", Maryland 21163

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fund Our Future!

From: Katie Bolger <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:53 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fund Our Future!

[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 an increasing number of students in each class, there is not enough time to form personal connections and check-in daily with every student they teach. There are also growing concerns about students' social and emotional well-being. We must have decreased class sizes and more support. 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. As a special educator, I see the struggles the students have when not able to get the needed attention and support with larger class sizes. The distraction in their environment is growing and the success and growth are falling. Please consider funding our needs, as I would like to see Howard County produce more great citizens, teachers, and young adults with the skills they need to be successful in life to their fullest potential.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katie Bolger

Katie Bolger
klbolge@gmail.com
1510 Rutland Way
Hanover, Maryland 21076

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Smaller Class Sizes

From: Mary McKnight <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:54 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Smaller 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,

I was a teacher with our county for 29 years. Smaller class sizes = success. Pure and simple. Younger children with smaller classes= opportunity for knowing the whole child and effectively addressing their strengths and needs. The needs of today's child include a need for connection/relationship and this ability for teachers diminishes the larger the class size given today's curriculum requirements. If you are going to increase the class size, then you need to revisit the current curriculum and edit. I would be open to discussing/problem solving opportunities for/with our county.

Warm Regards,
Mary McKnight

Mary McKnight
breatheintoyourtoes@gmail.com
4838 South Haven Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:42 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for our students

From: Michaeline Van Reenan <michaeline_van_reenan@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for our students

[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 generally don't get involved in the political parts of teaching but this highly impacts our students who are the primary reason for what I do. If our school system is asking for a certain amount of money to fund programs, teachers, and resources, I trust it is necessary for student achievement. Working for HCPSS, I have learned that we are a strong, resourceful, and leading county in education, therefore, if these funds are requested, they must be needed. I trust that. In saying that, I am saddened to think that what budget was approved at this point, isn't even close to what is needed. The current approved amount would increase class sizes, decrease teachers and support staff, and probably limit our resources. All of these are important to student achievement. It is possible to teach 30+ students but definitely not effective to so. There is not enough time in a day to make it more effective. Support staff help to reduce the class size with instructional groupings. The resources we use each day are a part of our effective instruction so it is important to have those tools to teach and for students to use to learn.

For being the best county in the country, I would hope that we can stop letting money determine what is necessary to still be the best and most importantly, nurture our students and their academic future. Please fully fund our school system for our students.

Sincerely,

Michaeline Van Reenan
20+ years with HCPSS

Michaeline Van Reenan
michaeline_van_reenan@hcpss.org
6012 Kennard Court
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:42 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Need - Increased Class Size

From: Emily Gotowka <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget Need - Increased 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,

Dear lawmakers, I have recently learned that there is a proposal to increase class size across the board as a measure balance the budget. While I value fiscal responsibility, I think it would be a terrible mistake to increase class size. Our teachers are truly amazing, but they are already stretched thin. Our youngest children require and deserve a much smaller teacher to child ratio to promote an early love for learning. When class size increases too much, there is a greater chance for the child to feel left out and become left behind. If a child does not start loving school at an early age, the school will may encounter more challenges (behavioral & emotional) as the child grows. Also, increasing class size make it more difficult for students with 504 plans to receive the accommodations they need. Please consider other options. I appreciate all the effort you put into making these incredibly important decisions. Thank you,
Emily Gotowka

Emily Gotowka
emily.gotowka@gmail.com
3921 Foxhill Dr
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Decrease class size, don't increase it.

From: Danielle Pientka <danielle@diydanienne.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:02 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Decrease class size, don't increase it.

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

Opal Jones,

Hi. I saw the pending changes that call for a cut to teachers in HoCo, thereby increasing class sizes.

I'm a parent and had the experience of volunteering for career day last year. I visited kindergarten through third grade classrooms. These classrooms are already TOO full. We need to be focusing on decreasing class size, not increasing it.

You're expecting too much from teachers and these expectations are going to cost you long term- in turnover rates, lawsuits, extra tutoring costs, more IEPs, and in the performance of the kids.

I grew up in an extremely small school system with classroom sizes of around 20. The individualized attention that I received meant that I didn't slip through any cracks. Teachers weren't burnt out. They saw if a kid was bullying another kid. They intervened if someone needed extra help in school. Teachers stayed at our school for their whole career and they did a great job. They had the energy to care about each child.

Last year I walked into a kindergarten class for career day and saw the teacher attempting to clean pee out of the bathroom while also trying to keep control of a class that was too large

and had too many kids who needed extra support. They're not janitors. They're not there to babysit. They need to be able to teach.

The more you increase the class sizes, the more you're turning teachers into glorified babysitters. In the meantime, you're also setting the expectation that kids sink or swim in an environment where they have to do quite a bit of self study. This isn't fair for young kids or realistic.

I've seen what larger class sizes looks like long term- I worked in Baltimore City. It's ugly when teachers are so overwhelmed with large classroom sizes that 1st graders are running the halls with NO ONE to chase them.

"Where's Joe?"

"He ran out of the class with Sam" "When?"

"I don't even know, an hour or two ago? I called the office, but they were dealing with other crises."

Kids RUNNING LOOSE with NO STAFF AVAILABLE to chase them. This is how kids get hurt and how lawsuits happen- if one kid runs out the front doors and gets shot/hit by a car/lost, the school system starts seeing the cost.

I've seen kids report to teachers that they'll be jumped after school and the teacher ignored it- assumedly because they were so burnt out and had such high class sizes that they couldn't run crisis control. The kids got jumped by 3+ kids after getting off the school bus. Then the school gets to deal with the after effects of this- legal issues, requests for switching schools/bussing, etc.

I've had to deal with kids getting placed in classrooms that were over capacity. NO SEATS. No other classes to put them in. Teachers WHO WERE READY TO WALK OUT. These teachers desperately are working to do good and you can't keep taking away their power to do so. Disempowering teachers is a HUGE mistake.

Increasing classroom size is a slippery slope. As you increase, you see more budget issues because you start getting the financial costs of higher classroom sizes. Then you have to increase class sizes again to pay for those expenses. Repeat. Forever.

If you think your budget is tight now, consider the long term costs of cutting staffing at schools.

Please consider decreasing class size- don't increase it.

Thank you,
Danielle Pientka

Danielle Pientka
danielle@diydanielle.com
15440 Woodbine Morgan Rd
Woodbine, Maryland 21797

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Inadequate staffing

From: Janel Radford <janel.radford@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:07 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Inadequate staffing

[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 have two students attending HHS. They've been in the Howard County school system their entire lives. I am dissatisfied with a trend towards larger class sizes. This is such a detriment to the quality of education and student/teacher safety. My children are at HHS which is so overcrowded and with diminishing staff, class sizes are becoming even larger. Do we really want to sacrifice our children's education while putting even greater demands on our already overworked teachers? So much is at stake for students, teachers, and the whole community at large by increasing class sizes. Let's continue to improve our quality of education here in Howard County and not diminish it.

Janel Radford
janel.radford@verizon.net
7720 Sandstone Ct.
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Classroom size

From: Antonia Watts <antonia.b.watts@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:12 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Classroom size

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

Hello Mr. Jones,
My name is Antonia Watts and I live in Willowood. We spoke briefly during your campaign.

There is a petition circulating on Facebook saying that classroom sizes will increase significantly and that over 300 teachers will be surplus. Is this true? If so, with the increase in the budget, how is this possible and what can be done at this point to mitigate it?

Thank you,
Antonia Watts

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Current Budget

From: Erin Fowler <erin_fowler@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:15 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Current 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 about the current budget needs of the Howard County Public School System. I am expressing my concern at the decision to increase class sizes. I currently teach fifth grade. When I heard about the increase to 33 students I started to do the math. Best practices teaches that teachers can reach more students when more time is devoted to them. In my reading block alone I would need to have 4 reading of groups of no less than 8 kids. EIGHT KIDS! That is not a small group. This is not only an issue for instruction but it's an issue of space and relationship building. We teachers are taxed with so much. I know a few more kids doesn't look like much but what if that extra student was your own son or daughter? Would you be ok with them receiving less because one teacher just can't do it all? I ask that you increase funding so that this does not happen! Thank you for your time!

Erin Fowler
erin_fowler@hcpss.org
Old Stockbridge Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increased Class Size Concerns

From: Kim Gjerde <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:19 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increased 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,

Dear County Council Member:

I have been employed by HCPSS as a teacher since 1994. I am concerned about the current budget proposal, which would increase class sizes across the board. In a time when demands on teachers are greater than ever, it is appalling to think that money can't be found in the budget to keep class sizes reasonable. Howard County is one of the wealthiest counties in the United States and families come to Howard County from all over the United States and other countries for the world-class education their children will receive. I encourage you to find the money necessary in the proposed budget to keep our quality of education high and our teacher's sane!

Sincerely,

Kim Gjerde, teacher, and parent of an HCPSS student

Kim Gjerde
kimmiesmile@hotmail.com
8610 Hunters Drive
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Teachers and the budget shortfall

From: Sue Vincent <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:21 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Teachers and the 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,

Teachers are our first line of defense for our children particularly for the child who is "different " in any way. We need more teachers not less. If there is a shortfall then first the politicians then the administration should take the hit not the teachers because class size directly impacts our children. Save the teachers, save our children.

Sue Vincent
vincentlrry@aol.com
9010 moving water lane
Columbia, Maryland 21046

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Vote to fund HCPSS

From: Avery McClelland <avery_mcclelland@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:22 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Vote to 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,

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing as an educator of twelve years in HCPSS who is also a product of the system. The current budget needs for our school system impact every student, staff member, and parent in our county. I am dual certified in art and special ed and no amount of professional development or training aid large class sizes.

The number one quality I pride myself on as a teacher is my relationships with my students. As class sizes go up, it makes it that much harder to connect with students and truly get to know them. I've been a grade level paraeducator, special ed paraeducator, special education teacher, and now art teacher. These positions have all given me the opportunity to form and grow these relationships over not just one but many years of a student's time in elementary school.

Special education desperately needs the funding to add teachers and support staff. These students need additional support or their educational gap widens and they feel like failures. I teach at Bellows Spring Elementary where we are lucky to house many regional programs in which students with and without disabilities have the opportunity to be included in classes with each other. These students develop skills that become instilled and not taught like empathy, compassion, and patience. Nobody wins if you combine all these students into classes as

large as 33 students. You will have increased anxiety, behaviors, and students feeling left out. Students and staff are all stressed and feeling like they can't do their best.

Art is a favorite subject of a majority of students. It may not be a tested course, but in a time when addressing mental health is so important, I feel lucky that I am in a position to help students shine regardless of their educational abilities. Just today I had a student say to me, "I only came to school today because I couldn't wait for art." That was the only conversation I had the chance to have with her during class because sadly with class sizes of 30, when you take out time for directions and clean-up, I can give each student 1.33 mins of attention a week. Realistically, some students take up far more than that, meaning there are some weeks I can't even check in with some students. That's not fair to these kids who look forward to this all week, the kids who feel art is the only place they fit in. I was that kid.

I feel it's important to share the teaching moment I am most proud of from when I was a special educator. Several years ago I had the privilege of having twins with down syndrome on my caseload. One of them, Christopher, loved the band Maroon 5. Because of having a small caseload of students that year (small being 7), I was able to truly individualize their instruction. To this day I can still tell you their favorite foods, books, holidays, songs. I helped Christopher that year make a video about how he did all his school projects about Maroon 5. I connected his IEP objectives to this project so that he was working on them in an authentic way and not just a task for the sake of data. He internalized everything and made so much progress that year because I gave him my time. I also had enough support staff to make this possible. The rest of the story is that he got to meet the band because of this video and it ended up going viral around the world. But that is not the important part of this story. I am sharing this with you because it shows what can be accomplished with appropriate staffing.

People all over the country move to our county just for the amazing school system. I hope you will think about this as you vote at the end of the month on the budget. You are more than welcome to visit my classroom any time to be reminded of who these amazing people are that we need to invest in. Be prepared to be asked your age, be complimented on your shoes, or asked for help unclogging their glue bottle.

Thank you for your consideration,

Avery McClelland

Art Teacher

Bellows Spring Elementary (T, W, F)

Fulton Elementary/Cedar Lane School art inclusion program (M, Th)
avery_mcclelland@hcpss.org

Avery McClelland
avery_mcclelland@hcpss.org
8125 Old Stockbridge Dr.
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Funding

From: Elissa Hozore <elissa_hozore@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:27 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,

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 we 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.

Please also be aware that many of the materials and supplies are allocated based on classes of 30 (laptops, ukuleles, etc.) or 28 (chromebooks). It makes the class very ineffective if each student does not have the equipment the lesson depends upon.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elissa Hozore

Elissa Hozore
elissa_hozore@hcpss.org

Old Stockbridge Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School class size

From: Hope Ripkin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:46 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: School 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,

How do you expect HoCo to continue to have thriving students with large class sizes? We are one of the wealthiest counties how are funds not available to supports our teachers and our future (the students).

Please put our kids first!

Hope Ripkin
hripkin75@gmail.com
8512 Clarkson Dr
Fulton, Maryland 20759-9629

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: fund our students AKA our future !

From: Joyce Love <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: fund our students AKA our future !

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

Opal Jones,

I'm writing to ask you to please consider approving more for our budget on behalf of the students, most importantly, but also the parents, teachers, and county residents. I grew up in Howard County and had some really great teachers along the way who inspired me to do the same. When I was 10, my sister was born with Downs Syndrome. This only inspired me more to go into special education as a career. When I came back one year from college when my sister was in 5th grade in Howard County "mainstreaming at the time", she had taken it upon herself to stay after and try out for the talent show. She sang a Barney song at the time called, "I love my sister"! She proceeded to stand on stage with a picture of me and sang her heart out! She brought the audience, my family, and all the staff to tears! She'd made a connection. Now with our county superintendent's vision of making connections, my heart is sad that staff is being cut and class sizes are increasing. I've been teaching special education for 20 years now and have seen many changes. Unfortunately, now we are feeling a little defeated as teachers. We need to make those close connections to understand children's perspective and viewpoints, but with increasing class sizes and diminished staff, it's becoming next to impossible.

When I was a younger teacher, I remember when class sizes were smaller. In fact, some general education teachers were even in the smaller "project rooms" with only 18 students. With the social/ emotional struggles our kiddos now have and the increased violence in schools, I cannot fathom these decreases in staff and budget! We don't want to lose these kids to suicide, not graduating, or just low self-esteem!

Please consider funding our needs, as I would like to see Howard County produce more great citizens, teachers, and singers (like my sister)! My sister, educated all the way through 21 in Howard County, is now a happy individual with a job at a local hair salon. Please keep funding us and promoting more great students to their fullest potential!

Thank you for your greatest consideration in this matter!

Joyce Love

mtkelly31@gmail.com

8125 Old Stockbridge Dr.

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Jennifer Patel <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:11 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,

Please reconsider the proposal to increase class size in an effort to cut costs in the budget. This would be an unfortunate solution with significant impacts. Studies have proven that smaller class sizes improve student achievement. Also, one of the best ways to improve student behavior and therefore performance is through building and fostering strong relationships. This is very difficult to do with such large classes. Especially for specialists who only see the classes once per week. Additionally, as a technology teacher, we just don't have the resources for teaching 33 students at a time. We are only supplied 30 computers, and often times at least one is broken needing repair. The schools with chrome books are allotted 28 computers per class, so this would also take technology away from being implemented in the classroom.

I know it is a tough task to find the funds, but please search for other solutions before increasing class sizes.

Jennifer Patel
jen.patel12@gmail.com
6102 Noah Way
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Funding

From: Lisa Johnson <lisa_johnson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:15 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,

Hello,

I am a Special Educator at Clarksville Elementary in Howard County and am writing to you in regards to the HCPSS budget. I am very concerned about the current budget proposal, because while it does fund the teacher's negotiated agreement and health care, it leaves significant gaps in several high needs areas, such as staffing. If funds are not increased, class sizes will have to go up. This would negatively & directly impact the education of students in Howard County. For example, intermediate teachers will be forced to increase group size for reading instruction. This would negatively impact my students who receive differentiated instruction. Smaller class sizes allow for more personalized and differentiated instruction. We have students with wheelchairs and other modified seating. Currently we have 30 students in a class and the space to move is extremely limited. With 33 students, I am sure it would be a safety concern for all my students with mobility challenges to navigate through the classroom.

I am also a parent of a student with a specific learning disability and another autistic. My children need smaller class sizes to ensure they can successfully participate among their peer group. Larger class sizes lead to more difficulty with sensory regulation as the setting is louder and has more visual stimuli. I am pleading with you to please increase the funds to the HCPSS budget to ensure equal access among all student groups.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lisa Johnson

Lisa Johnson
lisa_johnson@hcpss.org
8928 Tawes Street
Fulton, Maryland 20759

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Tammy Royo Szczepanski <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:15 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,

As a 54 year resident of Howard County congratulations on your tenure on the Council. Today I am writing to you as a teacher with HCPSS with 35 years of service, however my experience with HCPSS goes back to 1967 when I entered Kindergarten at Atholton Elementary school. Yes, I have seen the county grow and expand, but I have also witnessed how our amazing school system has continued to do more with less every year and the wear and tear to our system and our school buildings started about 8 years ago and now we no longer hold the top spot in the state for our test scores or appeal. Why you ask? Well the number one reason is increased class sizes to keep the budget in line. I work with amazing educators at my school, but increased class size has come with student behaviors that can no longer be managed with just a look or a word. This new generation of students is no longer coming to us with respect for learning or their teachers and now we are being asked to know the learner while managing upwards of 33 students per class next year. I see this as a lack of support for our future and feel that you hold the key.

Respectfully submitted, Tammy Royo Szczepanski - Howard County Resident since July 1, 1964.

Tammy Royo Szczepanski
sczskit@gmail.com

9934 Dellwood Avenue
Columbia, Maryland 21046

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:34 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please Fund our Schools

From: Kelly Auxt <kelly_auxt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:16 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please 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,

Dear County Council,

I am a teacher at Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School. I have worked in Howard County for 12 years. I am also a graduate of the Howard County Public school system. I truly love HCPSS. I worked in another county in the state and couldn't return fast enough to HCPSS. My main reason was because of how Howard County takes care of their students. I am now fearful that as a Howard County teacher I will not be able to take care of my students. Raising class sizes would be detrimental to the students and teachers of HCPSS. Today's students have unique learning needs in the way that they liked to be taught and how they learn. Raising the class size would make it extremely difficult to meet all of my students needs. I don't know how I would provide individualized instruction to my students when meeting in small groups. Small groups should be around 6-8 students. With increased class sizes, small groups for guided reading would be between 8-10. This does not afford me the time to work with each student during group time. This is a time that the students and I rely on for understanding concepts. Another concern with adding more students to each class is the physical size of the classroom. I do not have room for any more students, desks and their materials. This is a problem. The students feel cramped, get frustrated with their belongings being tripped over generally want space to spread out. It is already difficult to find the space to meet as a class on the floor for class meetings, an integral part of our day and building a positive classroom environment. Another concern I have with raising the class sizes is the extra work for me that

comes with it. I already take work home every night and every weekend in order to keep up with everything. When it comes time to complete progress reports and report cards I am already struggling to meet the time restraints in filling these out. Adding more students to my class just adds more pressure and anxiety to my plate. Our plates are already overflowing in Howard County. If you value us as teachers, neighbors and friends do not add to our class sizes. If you want the best for the kids of Howard County do not add to the class sizes. This has been a very stressful time for the teachers of Howard County. The constant yo-yoing of our emotions in hearing that our fellow co-workers and friends are going to be surplus, then they are saved and now they are going to be surplus again is breaking down the faith of our county leaders and the atmosphere in our buildings. Please put your money where your mouth is. If you truly respect the work that us teachers do, then fund our schools. We could use a boost in knowing that the people we elect actually care about us.

Thank you for your time,

A Concerned Teacher

Kelly Auxt

kelly_auxt@hcpss.org

9402 Berkley Lane

Frederick, Maryland 21701

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget needs

From: Kelly Groves <kelly_groves@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:26 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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,

Hello all,

I am writing to you today re: the proposed budget for the Howard Co. School System. I am pleading w you to please read the letters that being sent from our teachers and explaining their current teaching situations. We have the best teachers here in Ho. Co. but w the proposed changes, there is no way we can effectively do our jobs. We, here at Bellows Spring Elementary, are already busting at the seams, w the increased population, but also w the many needs of our special education students. I would implore to you visit our school so you are able to make educated decisions by seeing 1st hand how we are currently operating. Increasing class sizes would be devastating.

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,

Kelly Groves

Bellows Spring Elementary.

Kelly Groves

kelly_groves@hcpss.org

8125 Old Stockbridge Dr

ELLICOTT CITY, Maryland 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: no more budget cuts

From: paula dalonzo <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:50 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: no more 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,

Thank you for re-considering the budget cuts to schools. I work in Special Ed and we really need funding to help our most vulnerable students. I also think it is unsafe and not in the students' best interest to overcrowd classrooms with increased class sizes. Some of our classrooms can't even physically fit extra desks in them. Overcrowded classrooms is not good for student behavior and best learning. Please consider an alternative to increased class sizes. It does not work for students or staff in schools. Thank you!

paula dalonzo
pdalonzo14@gmail.com
4856 ellicott woods lane
ellicott city, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase Funding to Howard County Schools

From: Jennifer Markwood <jennifer_markwood@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:13 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase Funding to Howard County 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 Howard County Council Members,

I am writing this letter to implore you to increase funding to the Howard County Public School System's budget. Our entire Howard County community will suffer greatly with the current budget as class sizes have increased, teacher and support staff positions have been lost, and resources have been reduced. Students cannot learn effectively in large class sizes and teachers cannot meet the needs of their students or develop personal connections with them. Emotional and behavioral problems will increase which will affect the ability of everyone to learn. All of this will result in a decline in Howard County's ranking and reputation as having one of the best school systems and as being one of the best places to live. This will cause families to either not move to Howard County or to move out of Howard County which will create an economic decline for the entire county. Is this what you envision for our county? Please make the funds available to keep our schools strong and to do what is best for our children, our families, our educators and our entire county!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Markwood
Pre-K Teacher
Bellows Spring Elementary School

Jennifer Markwood
jennifer_markwood@hcpss.org
7121 Morning Light Trail
COLUMBIA, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Cutting budget for public schools

From: Anna Nemirovsky <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:17 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Cutting budget for public schools

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

Opal Jones,

The proposed class size increases are unacceptable. At the time when the nation and the international education community keeps advocating smaller classes and more individual attention to students, Howard county is attempting to go back in time. Please do not support the proposed budget cuts! Help our kids to get the education they deserve with highly qualified teachers in a manageable environment.

Anna Nemirovsky
snemir@gmail.com
9918 Postwick Road
ellicott City, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS funding

From: David Albert <david@dalbert.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS funding

[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,

Like many Howard County residents, a primary factor in my decision to move here was the quality of the schools. I have been delighted with that choice but concerned over the increasing crowding, demands placed on teachers, and difficulty staffing STEM education positions.

Teachers are asked to work long hours to support extra-curricular activities and often provide materials for students from their own funds. The workload on the teachers and the rising class sizes are degrading an otherwise excellent school system.

As an HCPSS parent, I implore you to increase funding for HCPSS; it is the crown jewel of the county and must be protected.

Thank you for helping make Howard County such a wonderful place to live!

Sincerely,
David Albert

David Albert
david@dalbert.net

10718 Vista Road
Columbia, Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Restore budget to decrease class sizes!

From: Kimberly Kennedy <kcpynekennedy@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:21 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Restore budget to decrease 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,

Dear Members of the County Council.

For the second year in a row, I have seen the morale of a happy and student-focused staff, who works so hard every day for our 900 students, be sucked away by news of class size increases and surpluses due to the education budget not being fully funded AGAIN.

Leadership talks about building community and addressing mental health issues, yet the stressors related to these drastic changes are only going to increase mental health issues for stakeholders and decrease our ability to build community. As Dr. Martirano has said, "to teach a child well, you must know the child well" and that child must know you as an educator and trust you also. Imagine building this relationship with 33 students with varying needs with an already limited amount of time to do so due to the academic demands that must be met. I'm in awe of how students and teachers can continually be treated this way, in a way that is entirely contradictory to what is preached by our leadership.

As a parent, I'm even more furious and quite honestly, scared. My son will be entering 2nd grade at Hanover Hills Elementary and receives a number of special education supports as part of his IEP. His amazing teachers and staff work tirelessly to meet his needs and even with all of their hard work, he has struggled this year with peer relationships and the demands of 1st grade, even to the point of making threats against himself at one point this year. As you can imagine, I am terrified as a parent that there will be the same or more students who's needs must be met by even less staff members.

This budget issue must be worked out. Students do not deserve this! Teachers do not

deserve! Please restore the budget to decrease class sized to an optimal level and give our students what they deserve and need!

Sincerely, Kim Kennedy

Hanover Hills Elementary School Parent

Gorman Crossing Elementary School Educator

Kimberly Kennedy

kcpynekennedy@verizon.net

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please increase the budget

From: Nicole Payne <nicole_payne@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:26 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please increase the budget

[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:

As an educator, when class sizes are big (25 plus students), it is difficult to foster a strong relationship with students to build a constructive and welcoming classroom environment. The class then usually turns to focus on a disciplinary means rather than educating on the necessary content.

Too many teachers work too hard to be surplus and that will be taking away their livelihood. It will also take away the livelihood of the teachers who are now trying to manage unmanageable class sizes.

Additionally, with more demands from the job (central office/students/parents/guardians), educators' growing families suffer due to the workload and lack of planning and grading time allotted to teachers in the secondary field.

Also, spending my own money to supply students with class necessities (such as pens, pencils, paper, binders, markers, highlighters, meals, etc) - cutting funds will only make it more difficult in the classroom to make sure the students are engaged and learning not just content, but life skills that will help them be successful in their future endeavors.

This budget cut would be detrimental to the entire county and the county's future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nicole Payne

nicole_payne@live.com

1650 Village Green Dr

Woodbine, Maryland 21797

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:21 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Sizes and Surplus Directly Affecting Teacher and Students Academics and Well Being

From: Jenna Boule <jenna_boule@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:31 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class Sizes and Surplus Directly Affecting Teacher and Students Academics and Well Being

[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,

I am a kindergarten teacher in Howard County. I directly see the effects of having smaller class sizes on my students. When hearing the news that classes may be as large as 26 I was very worried for the academic and social emotional impact on our children. When teaching 24 students, It was already uncomfortable for students to find space on and around the rug (which only fits 20) and for all students to listen to story from their teacher. Our reading groups are the most important time that we have to work with students at their instructional level in a small group setting. Even with 24, we had students crammed at a table and had major difficulties making sure every student had room in a group appropriate to their level. When the classes are overcrowded, the activity and noise level increases which makes it very difficult for special education students or students with attention needs. Developing relationships with parents and students is also way more difficult when there is almost 30 students and families. The class sizes being raised will make the classrooms physically uncomfortable and make it very difficult and almost impossible for kindergarten teachers to provide the instruction and care that every student deserves. Regarding the surplus that could happen due to this change, this is a very emotional and upsetting event for teachers. I have been at my school for 5 years. I long term subbed and then got a position and now am pursuing my masters. The thought of having to pack up my entire classroom and move to a new school and learn all new routines as well as the time spent moving furniture and supplies while in my final year of my masters program

causes significant stress. I have always received positive feedback on my lessons and when being observed, but now I am concerned for my job and having to leave a team that has helped me grow so much professionally and that I work very well with. Every year, I am put on this emotional roller coaster where I am told I may be surplus and I have to imagine what I will do and prepare for interviews. The emotional toll that this puts on myself and other teachers in my position is terrible. As a teacher that has received tenure and good marks on observation and who also is pursuing a Master's Degree to work towards a higher leadership position, this kind of treatment feels very unfair. When comparing myself to others in similar points in their careers it seems like more respect and consideration is being given among other fields. Education should be a respected career as well where teachers are treated as professionals. The number one priority for my classroom would be to lower class sizes to make sure that I can build relationships and reach every student. However, the opposite is happening. After working hard for years and pursuing higher education, I feel that there should be more respect for my job and placement but every year I am treated like a brand new employee and face the threat of being moved. Now I have to prepare for the possibility of starting at a brand new school and new grade as I am finishing my masters degree and internship as a reading specialist. I hope that something can be done to help the teachers that put in tireless hours to help our future and to help every student have an education where they are not one of thirty students in a class with one teacher. Thank you.

Jenna Boule

jenna_boule@hcpss.org

1901 South Charles Street Apt 457

Baltimore, Maryland 21230

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:15 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Shortfall for HCPSS

From: Tracy Stansbury <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:42 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget Shortfall for 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,

Tracy Stansbury

Tracy Stansbury
tracy.stansbury@gmail.com
4612 East Leisure Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:15 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS funding

From: gabrielle jacobson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS funding

[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,

First of all, I invite each and every one of you to spend an entire day with me, or any other Special Educator in the County, to get a better understanding of the magnitude of issues we face each and every day to provide the best educational experience possible for our students. A 10-minute walk through just doesn't give you enough information.

There's no way to convey the number of directions we are pulled in at the same time...every day. No staffing formula could ever really convey how much support students (those with and without IEPs) need in order to be successful.

We are feeling the snowballing effects of students being asked to do too much, too early. Their brains aren't ready for much of the academic material we are forcing on them, and so we are left with the emotional and behavioral fallout. And it takes staff time to provide support. Time is the intangible in all of your formulas.

You can't imagine how much energy our amazing staff at Hammond Middle spends trying to coordinate care for our students. And to imagine that you want us to provide more mental health supports-per the Superintendent's mission-with LESS staffing is just laughable.

Truly, EVERY middle school student needs mental health supports, but as it stands now, only the ones who have risen to the top because of their disruptive behaviors or threats are receiving the most services. What about the child suffering in silence who doesn't even hit the radar through the fray of the more vocal students? How is that child being impacted for life because she/he isn't getting the attention they deserve?

We have a psychologist who splits her time with another school; and when she is here she's quite often in meetings. We have two guidance counselors who are buried in paperwork instead of helping students. Why not hire a Student Services staff person dedicated to paperwork only so that the mental health professionals can actually provide mental health services?

Just this morning I spent nearly 120 minutes with a student in crisis. I had to have support staff evacuate the classroom in order to keep the students safe. This meant that those staff members were pulled away from the students they were assigned to support and the students in my class missed nearly two periods of their specialized instruction. I can't fathom having even less staff to rely on.

Have you spent 50 minutes sitting in a room with 35 students and tried to have a meaningful learning experience? I would hope that you'd perform your due diligence and do just that. The type and severity of distractions might actually leave you speechless. I really want to know whether you could learn in an environment like that?

I hope you'll take me up on my offer to spend the day with me. I've already cleared it with my administrator. We'd welcome the opportunity for you to see, up close and personal, just how your budgetary decisions affect real, live children.

Thanks so much for your consideration,

Gabrielle Jacobson

Special Educator, Hammond Middle School

gabrielle jacobson

gabriellejacobson@yahoo.com

11078 Dorsch Farm Rd

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:12 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School System Budget for 2019-20

From: Elizabeth Hughes <elizabeth_hughes@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:52 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: School System Budget for 2019-20

[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 concerned by the news that the school system is potentially facing a \$28M shortfall for next school year. It is particularly alarming to me that financial savings will be made by reducing staffing and increasing class sizes.

When I started teaching in Howard County 15 years ago, class sizes were capped at 19 in primary grades and 25 in upper elementary. We had fewer special education students, and were better able to provide individual attention, differentiation, and support to our students.

My school currently has classes of up to 30 students, with a greater number of special needs students, including the UL and PL programs. I have observed a noticeable increase in students with anxiety and emotional challenges. Over crowding classrooms makes it virtually impossible to build relationships with students and provide the calm environment many of our students need to succeed.

In all the years I've lived in Maryland, Howard County has maintained a stellar reputation as a community with a great school system. Many families I know have moved to this county specifically for the school system.

I strongly believe that to continue the county's legacy of excellence and diversity, it is imperative to fully fund the school system budget for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Hughes

Elizabeth Hughes
elizabeth_hughes@hcpss.org
6716 Ridgecrest Rd
New Market, Maryland 21774

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:10 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Crisis

From: Candice Provino <candice_provino@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:55 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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,

“Students don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care” – John C. Maxwell. This is perhaps one of the most important quotes in current educational trends. The present budget crisis in Howard County wants to increase class size. This would greatly diminish a teacher’s ability to convey how much they care, their ability to foster critical relationships that support ever evolving social and emotional needs, and meet individual students learning styles.

I challenge you to think back to high school, middle school, and even elementary school. Who are the teachers that you remember most? Do you remember what they taught you, or how they made you feel? If you are being honest with yourself – it’s going to be the ones that made you feel welcomed, loved, special in your own way, and the ones that made you feel like you wanted to go to school on any given day. I remember my American History teacher – I cannot really tell you what he taught us, but I can tell you that I loved being in his class, and never once wanted to miss it. He made us feel so loved, cared about, missed if we were not there. He asked us about our lives, and truly made each of the days I had him better. I had a really hard time in high school, and he was my ray of sunshine. I wonder if that would still be the case now that class sizes have increased so much in the last 20 years, not to mention right now?

Larger class sizes do not afford for these types of connections to occur. Without these relationships, countless students will be lost in the day to day interworking’s of the school day. This includes students on every end of the learning spectrum. Learning needs will not be met,

and the ever-increasing demands placed on teachers will become even more unattainable. Teachers are already spread too thin. Students are presenting with greater academic, and social and emotional needs, that are currently difficult to find ways to address. This causes great frustration, and burnout for amazing teachers. Classes are already too large, even one or more students dramatically changes the classroom climate and dynamic. If we continue to increase class size, we foster a broken education system that is focused on dollar signs, and not the individual child.

As a Physical Education teacher, class size has a direct impact on student learning and safety. We are often “doubled” which means we have two classes – which are often times sprinkled (see note below) inside a small gymnasium. For those who are not familiar with sprinkling, it is when one class is broken apart and spread into other classes for related arts. Typically, 25% of one class will be added to another. You can imagine this class size! There are some related arts classes with over 30 students in them. When two classes are in the gym, that is over 60 students. There has been talk of having to triple because of the proposed budget and class size – which would mean upwards of 90 students in the gym. I know many people do not value the importance of Physical Education. Whatever your opinion on the matter, student safety is of the utmost importance. With that many students and behaviors to manage, safety, and quality instruction are challenged.

This is the second year in a row I have been impacted by surplus, and budget cuts. I have worked hard to forge relationships at the schools that I am split between, as I know the value and importance of this for student success – not just in Physical Education. I often give up my lunch time to have lunch with students, or give students who may need extra support some small group, or 1:1 time with an adult. I love doing it, and will continue to do it no matter the outcome – however it makes it extremely difficult to continuously enter new schools and develop relationships. The number of students who face social, academic, and emotional challenges will only increase as class sizes do. It is quite frustrating as an educator to pour your heart and soul into your craft and a school, only to be told you have to leave.

This budget crisis needs to be resolved, and funded quickly. The community, our students, and teachers do not deserve this. The time is now to shine a spotlight on the importance of class size and student success. Please help a positive light shine on Howard County Public Schools, the amazing students and families here, as well as the dedicated, and incredible educators that make up this system.

Thank you,

Aleah Zinalabedini

Physical Education Teacher

Bellows Spring Elementary School
Gorman Crossing Elementary School

Candice Provino

candice_provino@hcppss.org

9999 Winter Sun Rd

Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County School System 2019-2020 budget

From: Yang Tai <yang_tai@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County School System 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,

To whom it may concern,

HCPSS staff were alerted yesterday that there is a shortfall in the budget. There will be an increase of class sizes.

Kindergarten = 26+ students

1 & 2 = 27 students

3-5 = 33 students

6-12 = 35 students

Over 250 teachers will be surplussed, which means many schools will lose good teachers.

This will dramatically influence the quality of education and a lot of excellent teachers will lose their job since it's K1-12. The teachers on surplus will have no place to go. Please consider increase the budget.

Yang Tai

Yang Tai
yang_tai@hcpss.org

7836 Quidditch Lane
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support our Schools

From: Dana La Rosa <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:16 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support 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,

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Dana La Rosa, and I am an elementary teacher in the Howard County Public School System as well as a member of the Howard County Education Association. I recently learned about the budget shortfall and proposed measure to increase class sizes to account for the discrepancy. Larger class sizes benefit no one, and only prevent our students from getting the education they deserve.

I have seen the proposed class size numbers for the upcoming school year and frankly, they are terrifying. My school already suffered staffing cuts during the 2018-2019 school year, resulting in increased class sizes. In particular, our class sizes went from approximately 26 to 30 students in grades 3 and 4. This may not sound like a lot of students, but it has made a tremendous difference as an educator. This year has been one of the most difficult years I have seen as an educator. Classrooms are cramped and overcrowded with every little room to move between desks, creating a fire hazard. We do not have enough materials for each student (computers, instruments, etc.) so every activity takes twice as much time because we have to rotate so that every child has a turn. With so many students in a class who need supervision at all times, particularly at the elementary level, I am rarely able to devote one-on-one time to any students who are struggling, and I cannot take the time to form relationships with my students. In addition, many of the students in our Title I school come from difficult home lives, and many of them come to school with behavioral and emotional issues that are

only exacerbated by being in larger classes with peers with whom they do not get along. Smaller classes allow us to put students in peer groupings so that they can have the support they need, rather than spending most of our instructional time dealing with student behavior. We have also lost staffing in special education positions, so many of our students with IEPs and 504 plans are not getting the support that they need to be successful.

I hope that the County Council will consider looking for ways to close the budget gap. Howard County has always had an excellent reputation as one of the best school systems in Maryland, but it will not continue to be that way if schools are underfunded and overcrowded.

Sincerely,
Dana La Rosa
9450 Ridgeview Dr.
Columbia, MD 21046
908-489-0754

Dana La Rosa
dana.m.larosa@gmail.com
9450 Ridgeview Dr
Columbia, Maryland 21046-1965

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS budget funding

From: Tara Scully <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:25 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS budget funding

[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 product of the HCPSS and a life long resident in HoCo, I'm extremely disappointed to read the reports that class sizes could be increasing and teachers could lose their jobs due to a lack of budget. And we still aren't properly supporting kids with dyslexia and other learning and behavioral challenges. This has got to stop. We won't continue to be highly rated if we can't force developers to pay their fare share....so the houses they want to build will grow in value, when folks live here for the good schools. Please fully fund the budget and fix adequate facilities!

Tara Scully
taramscully@gmail.com
3102 Ramblewood Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Your crucial vote

From: Lori Jenner <lawdy60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:28 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Your crucial vote

[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 taking the time to write to you because the decision you have to make regarding the budget impacts us all. Our school is a title One school and we currently receive extra funding to help us reach all of our students.

As the school counselor, I have seen a negative change in the dynamics in our classrooms and a decline in the mental health of our students. Teaching in the classroom has gotten trickier because the varying needs of our students and their families.

I ask you to come and observe in our schools to see the students and staff you say you represent. Our Student Support Team walks the building with Wallis talkies in order to be at the ready to help calm students in crisis and/or respond to difficulties within a classroom. Increasing class sizes would exacerbate these issues. Our jobs would be even more reactive rather than proactive.

I implore you to think of other ways to find money in the budget to keep staffing resources at the levels they are now. Perhaps it's time to encourage early retirement for those folks getting closer to or already at retirement age. New staff coming in would receive starting salaries at more than half the cost and classrooms could maintain a desirable level.

Thank you, Lori Jenner

Lori Jenner

lawdy60@gmail.com

5470 Hesperus Drive

Columbia, Maryland 21044

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: budget needs

From: Jen Fogler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:44 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: 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,

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,
Jen Fogler

Jen Fogler
canmebeu@yahoo.com
8125 Old Stockbridge Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Fund HCPSS at the BOE Request

From: Edward Cosentino <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:56 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Fund HCPSS at the BOE Request

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

Opal Jones,

It is imperative to provide the Howard County Public School System with proper funding required to operate our schools. As a long-time resident, I am concerned that we are not fully investing in the future of our school system. Unfunded initiatives, constant cuts, increased class sizes, and deferred maintenance will all catch up to us in the future.

Personally, as an employee, I am gravely concerned in the social and emotional well-being of our students. It is becoming increasingly hard to see students unavailable to learn and struggle in school. The Superintendent's budget addresses the concerns and needs. We finally have a leader who elevated these concerns, and we must support his vision.

Thank you,
Edward Cosentino

Edward Cosentino
ecosentino74@gmail.com
9349 Windbell Way
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes should not increase!

From: Sarah Baumert <sarah_baumert@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 12:59 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: Class sizes should not 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 work as a Family Liaison at a Title 1 school in Howard County, and am the parent of five students who attend HCPSS schools. I moved here four years ago and have appreciated the quality education that my children have received. I was very disappointed and discouraged this morning to hear that there were be changes next year due to budgetary constraints. The numbers I am seeing are staggering. I am not even certain that 30 upper elementary school students will fit comfortably into the classrooms both where I work, or where my children attend elementary school. As a former second grade teacher, I know that lower elementary teachers will be even more taxed as they try to meet the very diverse needs of up to 27 students. My older children attend Centennial High School, a school so crowded that families have been asked numerous times to consider enrolling their children elsewhere. How will my older students feel if they are asked to pack more tightly into classrooms ju st to access their basic educational needs? How will my daughter feel next year as she navigates the middle school for the first time? Will she be overlooked by her teachers because she is quiet and likely to disappear into the back of the classroom? Our children deserve the attention of quality teachers, teachers who are not stretched beyond belief. Our country is struggling with mental illness, and families are pressed for time and energy. Our school district needs to do everything in its power to hold on to our fabulous teachers, and to support all children. No child should have to squish into a classroom, and no student should squeak by because his or her teacher can not do more. Please protect our good schools and keep this a quality school

system. Do not allow classroom sizes to increase, and do not allow our teachers to be taken out of our schools.

Sincerely,
Sarah Baumert

Sarah Baumert
sarah_baumert@hcpss.org
9848 MIDDLE MEADOW ROAD
ELLICOTT CITY, Maryland 21042

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: URGEN Budget Needs

From: Kathryn Uhl <kathyn_uhl@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:00 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: URGEN 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,

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kathryn Uhl and I am a first year Special Educator at Hammond Middle School. I am deeply concerned about the budget needs of HCPSS. I fear for the needs of my students, the HCPSS community, my colleagues, and the future of Maryland. Without meeting the full needs of the budget, there will be a significant lack of resources and support. Firstly, staff will be physically and mentally unable to meet the needs of all students in such large classes. With each student having different needs, wants, and learning styles, teachers will not be able to teach classes well. Secondly, it is outrageous to expect teachers to use their own money to purchase materials for such large classes. Teachers do not make enough money to support themselves and their students as it is. If the budget does not pass, teachers will leave the profession because they will be tired of the financial burdens presented in Howard County. Finally, with an increase in class size, teachers will have to remain at school for even further extended hours. Currently, I work about 10-15 additional hours outside of teacher contracted hours weekly. It has taken a toll on my mental and physical health. I can only imagine how the struggles will increase if the budget does not pass. For the sake of student learning, teacher happiness, and the future of the state, I URGE you to support HCPSS' budget needs.

Regards,
Kathryn Uhl

Kathryn Uhl
kathyn_uhl@hcpss.org
5413 Kerger Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Teacher and Parent

From: Katie Stablein <Katie_stablein@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:00 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Teacher and Parent

[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 teacher in my 13th year of teaching and made the move this past year to HCPSS. Howard County has been my home for the last ten years. We have chosen to have our daughters attend HCPSS schools (after a year in private school). As a parent, I want the best for my child. I want her to be in the best learning enviroment.

Katie Stablein
Katie_stablein@hcpss.org
8475 Kings Meade Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:02 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Proper Funding of HCPSS

From: Nicole Alston <nicole_alston@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:03 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Proper Funding of 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 moved to Howard County wanting to give my children the education they deserve. To not have to deal with overcrowding, deteriorating buildings and overworked teachers. But the rapid growth this county has had and will continue to have puts Howard County Public School System on a collision course with with the same fate like Baltimore City and Washington, DC public school systems. If adequate is not provided HCPSS will not be able to maintain its quality education system. Gone will be the days of being one of the best school systems in the nation. Priority has to be give to our students, teachers and the staff that supports both groups. Simply taking a single step out of the normal parameters for funding will not secure the school system's strength; but a leap will. As the County Council, we need you to go above and beyond and fully fund Dr. Martirano's requested budget.

Our school system has an array of talented teachers and staff but their talent is stifled by increased class sizes and additional administrative demands because faculty members have been surplus to other schools

Nicole Alston
nicole_alston@hcpss.org
8814 Blue Sea Dr
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:57 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Teacher and Parent

From: Katie Stablein <Katie_stablein@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:14 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Teacher and Parent

[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 teacher in my 13th year of teaching and made the move this past year to teach in HCPSS. Howard County has been my home for the last ten years. We have chosen to have our daughters attend HCPSS schools (after a year in private school). As a parent, I want the best for my child. I want her to be in the best learning environment. I want her to be in classes where she can have the individual attention she needs. Adding students to classes is not what is needed to have her in the best learning environment.

As a teacher, I have classes with all types of learners, SPED, ESL, general ed learners. Adding more students per class takes away some of that individual assistance I can give my students. We are already short SPED teachers at times and taking away staff would take away the very important assistance some of our students need to ensure they have success in their classes. I have around 250 students each semester. Adding to that number increases my workload (planning and grading) greatly.

Taking away staff also put a safety concern in our buildings. Not have the staff to help students in crisis (or all other safety issues) would be a safety concern for everyone in the schools.

Taking away staffing would mean less time to help students grow mentally emotionally, and academically. It is so important to keep the current numbers to help all our students be successful. Thank you for your time.

Katie Stablein
Katie_stablein@hcpss.org
8475 Kings Meade Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Proposed Changes

From: Julianne Meagher <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:32 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Proposed Changes

[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 you today with great concern related to the recent proposed changes to the Howard County class sizes. The changes would not only cut the jobs of over 200 dedicated teachers, but would greatly increase the workload for those that remain. I am a product of Howard County schools and am incredibly proud of my education. In fact, that is one of the reasons my husband and I work so hard to maintain our residence in the county. So far, we have been amazed by the education our son has received at his county school. His teacher is nothing short of amazing. She knows my child's strengths and challenges and works with him on his level. She uses her own (unpaid) time to come up with constantly engaging and fun activities for her students. And she responds to my emails and questions well after work hours. I am amazed at how dedicated and loving she is to each and every child in her class and am often in awe that she can do this with her current class size. How can we ask a teacher to maintain this type of relationship, care, and competence when they are tasked with taking on more and more children? Today our teachers are asked to not only teach but counsel, console, provide case management, and often even put their own safety on the line as part of their everyday job. In my opinion, the county's proposal to increase class sizes is nothing short of negligence. Howard County loves to talk about the quality of their education and the success of their students. How, in good conscience, can you continue to do this if you are taking away those that are able to provide these services? I can't help but wonder what the

upper management, central office, or board of education will be sacrificing while asking our teachers to take on impossible loads. I will always be proud of my education in Howard County and I cannot stress the gratitude I feel for my son's current school and teacher. But I am greatly concerned about this current proposal and hope that those in power will take immediate, meaningful steps to change this proposal so that HCPSS can continue to be the school system that has provided quality education to so many.

Thank you.

Julianne Meagher
juliannemeagher8@gmail.com
7915 Savage Guilford Road
Jessup, Maryland 20794

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Public Schools

From: Sofia Mulinazzi <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:32 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Public 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'm an alumni of HCPSS public schools, and the class sizes you're proposing for schools is absolutely ridiculous. No kid will get the attention they need in a class of 35 children.

Sofia Mulinazzi
sofiamulinazzi@gmail.com
Rivers View Court
Columbia, Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please Restore Class Size

From: Christina Wanex <christina_wanex@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:38 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please Restore 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 am writing this letter to request that you not increase class sizes. This will have a tremendous impact: possible reduction in force, impacting families; surpluses of teachers who are part of a school community that took time to develop and who contribute valuable attributes to their team; and most of all- the actual instruction and well-being of the students. As a primary teacher of a class size of only 19- with very diverse needs, I feel like I did the year I taught third grade with 31 students in my homeroom and 33 in my math class. As it is now, I should have 7 different reading groups to meet the needs of my students, and I am only able to have 4 (when best practice is to 3 in a day)- putting me into a position to send students off to other teachers for groups, or not being able to challenge a children to the point that they should be due to having students who are not even on grade level yet, and even cutting writing instruction short to fill the gap in reading. Larger class sizes do not promote optimal hands-on learning opportunities, and it creates a situation where we run out of space to have a common area together in the classroom. Often times, desks can only be arranged in rows due to space needs. When I had 33 in my math class, students were sitting on storage cubes around small tables, with no desk to store their belongings for math. Please do not increase class size. Instruction will suffer and opportunities for closing achievements gaps will diminish. We won't have enough manipulatives either.

Christina Wanex
christina_wanex@hcpss.org

6911 Carroll Highlands Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Concerns

From: Amy Potler <AMY_POTLER@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:52 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
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.]

Opal Jones,

Hello,

I am a Occupational Therapist in 4 Howard County schools and am writing to you in regards to the HCPSS budget. I am very concerned about the current budget proposal, because while it does fund the teacher's negotiated agreement and health care, it leaves significant gaps in several high needs areas, such as staffing. If funds are not increased, class sizes will have to go up. This would negatively & directly impact the education of students in Howard County, especially those with special needs. Howard County has a stellar reputation for it's inclusion philosophy. If class sizes are increased, it will have a negative effect on how our special needs students will be integrated into larger, more chaotic and less safe situations. I am pleading with you to please increase the funds to the HCPSS budget.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Potler

Amy Potler
AMY_POTLER@hcpss.org

3638 Sharp Road
Glenwood, Maryland 21738

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Making impossible, possible

From: Brittany Lewis <Brittany_Lewis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Making impossible, possible

[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,

I am a special education teacher in Howard County. This year I have experienced working long days without breaks due to a lack of staff and help around the building. Our teams work SO hard day in and day out to keep our students safe and to provide them with what they need. However, if our budget does not allow sufficient funding to bring on/keep our staff members, it is the students who will suffer. As our school continues to grow, our need for more staffing also grows. The decisions on this matter are made by respectable professionals. But teachers are the people who are in the classrooms daily and who are expected to nurture, monitor, teach, discipline, maintain, record data, communicate with parents, and so much more. We are expected to go above and beyond every single day. And we do. Every, single, day. We not only want more room in our budget but we NEED it in order to do our (important) jobs effectively. So, please, PLEASE, hear our voice and help our schools by providing us with the budget we NEED.

Respectfully,

Brittany Lewis

Hanover Hills Elementary School

Brittany Lewis

Brittany_Lewis@hcpss.org

5133 West Road
White Hall, Maryland 21161

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: PLEASE RECONSIDER BUDGET...

From: Candice Provino <candice_provino@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 1:59 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: PLEASE RECONSIDER BUDGET...

[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:

My name is Candice Provino, and I am a Physical Education teacher at Gorman Crossing Elementary. I have been at my school for 16 years, and I love my job and my students!

When I received the news about the budget, I was very disappointed and scared for our Howard County School system. I cannot imagine losing staff members, while our student numbers and class sizes increase. In my subject area, increasing the intermediate class sizes to 33...means that when we have double classes, there will be a total of 66 students in our small gym at one time. This is definitely a safety hazard waiting to happen. And looking ahead at what our schedule may look like next year in second grade (since we are supposed to lose .4 PE staffing), we could possibly have a day where we have 3 classes (with the highest behavioral needs) and ONLY 2 teachers. This does not seem like it will work...does it? Nor will it be safe by any means!

Increasing class sizes and decreasing staff support is NOT a good idea. This idea does not have the best interest of students in mind at all. Giving students the attention and instruction they need and require, especially in elementary school, will be near impossible if class sizes increase.

Not only am I a teacher, but I am a mother of a 15 month old. Part of the reason I chose to live in Howard County was because I wanted my child to attend a Howard County school. Thinking about eventually sending my son to a public school in Howard County with increasing class sizes is making me reconsider sending him to public schools. I would love to have my child attend the school where I am working, but if the class sizes are as large as they say they may be...I will definitely be looking into private schools. I do not want my son to slip through the cracks...like some students unfortunately do in larger classes.

Please, please, please...reconsider the budget, with the students' well-being and success in mind. We need as many teachers as we can to make Howard County the best county!

Thank you,
Candice Provino
Gorman Crossing Elementary School

Candice Provino
candice_provino@hcpss.org
9999 Winter Sun Rd
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size and budget

From: Emily O'Neil <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 2:16 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class size and 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,

I recently read that due to budget shortfalls, class sizes for Howard County schools will be increased next year. I have a son entering kindergarten and a daughter who will attend school in a few years. I absolutely love Howard County and the superior school system that is available, in fact it played a large role in why my family settled here. The large class size is very concerning both for the students in their learning and the attention they can receive, as well as the quality of employment and job satisfaction for the teachers, which trickles down to the student experience. I would love to know how I as a parent and community member can help alleviate the budget shortfall and understand where this money is going instead. I feel that education should be one of our highest priorities. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,
Emily O'Neil

Emily O'Neil
terp4481@yahoo.com
9913 Evergreen Ave
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please increase funding

From: Lindsey Kim <lkim@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 2:18 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please increase funding

[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 have been an elementary teacher for the last 16 years. In that time, I've had large classes with all of their challenges. I've also had smaller classes and the luxury of getting to know my students better that comes with smaller numbers. I am now an ESOL teacher and routinely work with some of our students who need the most support.

It's this simple: the smaller the group of students, the better the teacher and students can get to know each other. We want our students to feel safe, successful, and known. When there are 33 upper elementary sized bodies squished into one room, this becomes less of a reality. Behaviors increase, and students with linguistic or disability-related needs have less time with the teacher. And Kindergarten. In September, Kindergarten really is like herding kittens. Please keep those classes smaller.

The students on my ESOL caseload have a lot of background knowledge, but are lacking the academic language to succeed in a classroom without linguistic support. More students puts more of a strain on classroom teachers and makes it that much harder for them to meet the varied needs of the students in the classroom.

Our school system's mission states:

HCPSS ensures academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps.

Please increase funding so that our students have a learning environment that matches this mission.

Thank you,
Lindsey Kim

Lindsey Kim
lkim@hcpss.org
2119 Oak Forest Dr.
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County Class sizes

From: Kwabena Davis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 2:33 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County 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 ensure that class sizes do not increase, the children in the lower grades are practically teaching themselves. I have volunteered as a WATCHDOG multiple times and the class sizes are unmanagable for 1 teacher as is.

Kwabena Davis
kwabena.davis@gmail.com
6344 Arbor Way
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: more funding NEEDED

From: Brianne Miller <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 2:39 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: more funding NEEDED

[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 HCPSS parent and teacher. I am very concerned about the increase of class sizes and lack of funding.

This is extremely important!!! Class sizes are going to be raised if funding is not increased.

Kindergarten will be raised to 26 students per class

First and second will be 27 per class

Grades 3 through 5 will be 33 per class

Middle school 35 per class. THIS IS CRAZY and not best practice.

We are the one of the richest and best school systems in the nation. Our kids deserve better.

This is the reason good educators stop teach teaching... big class sizes, reductions, in supplies, and resources make it difficult to give our children the best.

Please give our kids the best! Find the money to help our kids be the best!

Brianne Miller

briannefriskmiller@gmail.com

2032 Meadow Tree Court

Cooksville, Maryland 21723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Staffing decrease in HCPSS

From: April Williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Staffing decrease in HCPSS

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

Opal Jones,

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you as both an HCPSS employee of 14 years and an HCPSS parent. I'll try to keep this short and to the point. One of the main reasons my husband and I chose to move to Howard county and pay a lot more for our mortgage and property taxes was simply due to our wonderful school system. I wanted my son and daughter to experience and receive the best education possible and I thought this was the right place. When my son entered as a Kindergartener last year I was quite disappointed at the amount of students in his class. And now I find out it's only going to get worse. This is very upsetting to me as a parent. People pay a lot of money to live in this county and one of the main reasons for many is because of the schools. Please don't take that away from our county! I have always been very proud to say that I work in the HCPSS and sadly it seems that pride has been diminishing over the past few years. The expectations for teachers are getting ridiculous. It's to the point where honestly, I don't see many people retiring from this career as has always been the case in decades past. Especially in the "tougher" schools like I and many others work in. I can't even imagine having more kids placed than they already are Please hear me as a concerned parent and staff of this county to reconsider this decision and keep HCPSS one of the best places to attend and work. Thank you!
Sincerely,

April Williams

Concerned parent and staff of HCPSS

April Williams

alovemd2@gmail.com

5505 Fox Tail Lane

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS budget

From: Adrienne Grein <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 2:51 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,

Dear Ms. Walsh,

I am extremely concerned over the recent revelation of the budget cuts being considered for our school system. I work in an elementary school in Alternative Education, and my children attended Howard County Public schools.

The loss of staffing and the increased class sizes will be detrimental to the education of our students. HCPSS has seen an increase in behavior problems and mental health issues in our students. By increasing our class size, we are ignoring the social emotional needs of many of our students. By decreasing our staff, when we should actually be increasing support staff, we are putting many students at risk. The impact of these behaviors (some of which involve physical violence) can be significant, causing emotional scars, anxiety, and even physical injury.

There are so many other concerns, regarding pay, cost of living, etc. We consider ourselves a "world class" school system? We will never be that, and will not draw top notch educators if we are not willing to invest in our schools. Who wants to move their family to a school system where their children will be in class sizes of up to 35? It's ridiculous.

I ask that the budget proposal be reconsidered. Our children are our future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Grein

Adrienne Grein
agrein@hotmail.com
6142 Fairbourne Ct
Hanover, Maryland 21076

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Potential Financial Shortfall

From: Terry Rainey <terry_rainey@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 2:53 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Potential Financial Shortfall

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Committee Members,

Please fully fund our school system budget. I am a proud parent of 2 Howard County graduates. We moved here from out of state and bought a house in Howard County because of its excellent schools. We left our jobs out of state and took our kids out of the school system they were in because of budget cuts. We need to keep our system an extraordinary school system. By making cuts or short changing our students, we will see our schools become more ordinary rather than extraordinary. People will move away, property values will decrease (which will cause further shortfalls in the future since the revenue stream will decrease), and there will be less highly skilled jobs available in Howard County. As a homeowner in Howard County, I would rather pay a little more in property taxes than see our school system suffer and have to face the long term consequences that are associated with having a lower quality educational system. Please fully fund our schools so we can remain extraordinary and provide our kids the very best opportunities for their future.

Sincerely,
Terry Rainey

Terry Rainey
terry_rainey@hcpss.org

4949 Orchard Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Time to Get Real

From: Melissa Schropp <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Time to Get Real

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

Opal Jones,

Time to prioritize. I get it. There's a limited amount of dollars and they have to be stretched more and more. I get it. You need to do what's best for the county as a whole and allocate funds in a major that meets many competing needs.

There have been endless posts on Facebook from many counties making the same budget cuts. Class sizes spiking. Teachers being laid off. Don't add our county to this epidemic. Please don't do this to our teachers. Please give our students the attention they deserve. Everyone says teachers are angels for what they do. Teachers work miracles every day. I agree. If you make life more difficult for them they will rise to the occasion. I've seen this, but there's only so much you can ask of them. What do you think will be the consequence? There are only so many hours on a day a teacher can work. How do you grade-assess student progress when your caseload increases? You have to cut back on the quality of the feedback. What about that drama club they volunteer for afterschool? What about that extra class they were going to take? What about the early morning office hours they volunteer for kids who need help? Please don't force them to make these choices.

Our teachers, our students, our county deserves better. Find a way. Make it happen. This is not impossible and everyone knows it.

Melissa Schropp
melissaschropp@gmail.com

2234 mount Hebron drive
Ellicott city , Maryland 21042

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:52 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS BUDGET NEEDS

From: Shiri Leibowitz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:11 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,

We moved to Ellicott City two years ago because of the incredible public school system. We heard many good things about the educational stuff and the children who attend the school. The teachers are very professional, hard working, and loving people who put their students first. They helped my son and daughter in many ways, academically and socially. My children love going to school and say it's their second home.

If you reduce the schools' budget, the children will not get the attention and help that they desperately need. School aged children need to feel that their teachers have time to help them which promotes their self-esteem and academic success. Also, the teachers will feel more motivated and appreciated for their hard work.

We are shaping our future generation and we want them to be good citizens.

Sincerely,

The Leibowitz Family

Shiri Leibowitz
leibowitzshiri@gmail.com
2426 Valley View Way
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Priorities

From: Susan McAleer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Priorities

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

Opal Jones,

People move to Howard County because of the great schools. These schools are great because of the amazing teachers. I retired from HCPSS after teaching 1st grade/Kindergarten for 32 years. I love our system and our county, but being a teacher was always a challenge. I retired at 55 which I think is young, but there were too many challenges--spending my own money and time at home on school work was the least of these challenges (but both happened on a regular basis). Meeting the needs of ALL children, including those with special needs, was becoming more and more frustrating with the lack of support that was needed--mainly in human resources, but also in materials. What was expected of me as a teacher with so little support was way too much. If our priority is really our children then we need to do what is best for them. Helping teachers meet the needs of children is what is best for them socially, emotionally, and academically. If we make class sizes larger, especially in those primary grades, teachers will not be able to create an environment where children's needs are met. This also includes an environment where they are safe and where they can develop relationships with their educators which increases their motivation to learn. Let's put our money where our priorities are and support teachers by keeping class sizes smaller so they can help children reach their potential. If we don't do this we will lose good teachers and be part of a community that puts obstacles in the way of children becoming healthy and successful adults. Please develop a budget that puts children and their needs at the center!!

Susan McAleer
susan.mcaleer@yahoo.com
9503 Glen Ridge Dr.
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please Reconsider

From: Lauryn Reade <lauryn_reade@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:29 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please Reconsider

[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:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the budget predicament the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) has found themselves in. To my understanding, there is a large amount of money requested we will not be receiving. The significant difference given is sure to be very problematic and causes great concern.

My first concern, is the adjustments that will need to be made within the elementary, middle, and high schools to make up the different. HCPSS School Board has proposed increasing class sizes. As this sounds effective and like a solution on paper, it could not be more ineffective for the students. Research shows students learn more efficiently, build greater self-confidence, and are instructed better when they are in smaller classes. Teachers are able to circulate the classroom and assist students with their varying needs when numbers are kept low. In order for teachers to effectively teach students to the best of their abilities, the class sizes should be decreasing, not increasing. This also causes safety concerns with so many children in one classroom with only one adult supervising them.

Secondly, with larger class sizes, teachers' work load increases. As it stands now, teachers already have difficulty completing their assigned tasks within their contracted hours. Planning,

collaborating, grading, and teaching students is more than a 40 hour a week job. Adding more students only increases this workload without any additional money compensation.

Lastly and most crucial, is the amount of jobs that will need to be reduced in order to save the money not given. HCPSS is named one of the wealthiest and highest achieving counties in the United States. This standard was earned, not just given. The sudden change in staffing will surely impact that status and cause families to second-guess their decision to join HCPSS. Within each school building, hard working staff members are at risk of losing their job they have worked so hard to achieve, maintain, and grow professionally. Non-tenured teachers have put in their time and are striving to be a more-permanent member of this school system. The thought of laying off employees is heart-breaking and can surely be avoided.

With all these concerns in mind, I ask you to reconsider the amount of money allotted to HCPSS. I could not think of a more crucial and valuable outlet to invest in than the school system. We are building the future leaders of our country and without the additional money, an injustice is done to the students, staff, and families.

Thank you for your time,
Lauryn

Lauryn Reade
lauryn_reade@hcpss.org
6354 Arbor Way
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget 19-20

From: James Javorsky <James_Javorsky@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS Budget 19-20

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

Hi Mr. Jones,

I am a teacher at Thunder Hill Elementary School, and a Columbia resident. I was recently made aware of the shortcomings for the Howard County Public Schools 2019-2020 budget. The cuts that will be necessary if we cannot fully fund the budget proposed by Dr. Martirano will have a significant and lasting effect on our school system's place among the top districts in the country.

It is my understanding that the district is proposing increasing the size of already large classes to make up for some of the gap in funding. As a music teacher, I see my students for 60 minutes each week. With intermediate classes growing to over 30 students per class, that equates to less than 2 minutes of individualized attention per student per week. With increased requirements for assessments in every subject area, it becomes increasingly difficult to give students the proper amount of attention and feedback. This year, our school was forced to "sprinkle" our first grade students for related arts. This created class sizes of up to 29 students. Trying to differentiate instruction for 29+ students and give each student the attention they need and deserve is impossible in the time allotted.

I understand the difficulty of creating and maintaining a budget. However, the damage that will be done with these cuts might have lasting damage on our students, our families, and the Howard County School System as a whole. Dr. Martirano himself says, "in order to teach a child well, you must know a child well."

We must work to not only maintain current class sizes, but attempt to decrease them, providing each and every child with more individualized attention throughout their day.

Thank you for the work you do representing my family and the rest of District 2, and thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Jim Javorsky
General/Vocal Music Teacher
Thunder Hill Elementary

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Kindergarten class sizes

From: Carla jefferson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:02 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Kindergarten 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,

Hello, my son is in kindergarten in one of the hcpss schools. At this time he has 24 students in his kindergarten class and that is astronomically high. I can't even imagine being a teacher with 26 kindergarten students in one class. With class sizes that high, I can imagine it extremely difficult for the teachers to truly develop a caring and nurturing classroom where each individual students needs are met. Essentially, there will be no such thing as small group instruction because each "small" group will likely consist of about 8-10 students. As a former special education teacher for k-2nd grade students, I can attest to the fact that "small" group instruction, where the group size goes up to at least 10 students, is very difficult for the teacher to instruct and monitor each students learning. That is unfair for the teacher and especially for the students. Please, for the sake of our students do not increase the class sizes. It will slowly have negative impacts on ou r students, teachers and school system as a whole.

Carla jefferson
yellowcj2018@gmail.com
8616 stonehouse drive
Ellicott city, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Jeannie-Marie Leoutsakos <jeannie-marie@jhu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:03 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,

Hello,

Please do not increase class sizes. Larger class sizes will mean less attention for all kids, but will particularly impact kids with special needs. My son has autism and the overcrowding in his school (currently at 127%) has already adversely impacted him. More noise and more people bumping into him in the hallways causes him to panic and sometimes become aggressive. If class sizes increase as well I will probably have to take him out of the public school system. This is one of the richest counties in the U.S. The money is there.

Jeannie-Marie Leoutsakos
jeannie-marie@jhu.edu
2813 Millers Way Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Urgent: Funds Needed

From: Jackie Bryant <jaclyn_bryant@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:28 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Urgent: Funds Needed

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Councilmembers,

I am a teacher in Howard County, and I am writing to you to urge you to set aside additional funding for our county schools next year.

On Wednesday morning, we had a staff meeting to discuss the current outlook for next year, and the scenario laid out was worse than I could have imagined. We were told that without additional funds, we would be losing not 1 classroom teacher due to population numbers, but 4(!) classroom teachers. All grades would have the maximum numbers of students allowed in each class, and that is before we would even have kids who transfer in mid-year (which ALWAYS happens). If you have never taught a class of 33 students, you cannot possibly know how much of a strain it is on a teacher's morale, energy, and resources. And that's only one class! Most teachers in my building teach a morning class and an afternoon class, which would make that 66 students. We barely have enough time to plan, assess, grade, work in small groups, and provide meaningful feedback as is with classes of 25-28 kids. This means related arts teachers, who sometimes have to double up classes in the same class period, could be looking at more than 60 kids in PE at one time- a nearly impossible situation. Please don't make our difficult jobs even harder by spreading us more thinly than we already are.

I hope you will consider allotting urgently needed funding to HCPSS for next year to take the strain off of our current staffing and retain highly qualified members of our staff. Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Bryant

jaclyn_bryant@hcpss.org

1134 Circle Dr

Halethorpe, Maryland 21227

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Our Children Need You

From: Susanne Bischoff <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:31 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Our Children Need You

[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 come from a family of teachers. My parents started fighting for reduced class size in the late 1960s. In 1970, their district put a limit of 35 students in K-6th grade classes. With all of the research demonstrating the benefits of smaller class sizes, I am shocked to hear that 50 years later, current class sizes are still around that number!

Our mission at HCPSS, to ensure academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps, is only achievable when teachers can truly get to know the needs of the students, both academic and social-emotional. It is not possible to split yourself 35 ways.

Research has shown that reducing class sizes has wide-reaching benefits:

- closing racial achievement gaps
- early identification of learning disabilities and fewer students placed in Special Education through the years
- improved behavior and reduction in discipline referrals
- lower incarceration rates
- improved graduation rates

Choosing to increase class size is choosing to make our mission mere rhetoric!

Please put our children's future at the forefront of your decision making.

Sincerely,

Susanne Bischoff

Special Educator

Susanne Bischoff

sdbischoff@gmail.com

1607 DEPRIEST DRIVE

SHADY SIDE, Maryland 20764

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support our teachers and our students

From: Kimberly Keating <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:39 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support our teachers and our students

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

Opal Jones,

Good day,

We moved to this county for the school system. It's supposed to be one of the best in the nation. After 6 years we are nothing but disappointed. And now you want to further cripple our teachers and punish our students with this budget. Our schools are overcrowded, our teachers are overworked, and our students are the ones suffering. Howard county teachers and staff are already expected to do more with less and now you are making this even worse! You are loosing good teachers (no, GREAT teachers) which this county sorely needs all because of budgeting issues. Fix this now. Find the money to support our future (may I suggest from developers since you insist on continuing to overdevelop this already overcrowded county!). Howard county is in a poor state of affairs and I voted my conscience in the last election to try and fix things. Do better. Be better. Our kids deserve it.

Kimberly Keating
keating.kimberly@gmail.com
2622 Kidwell Place
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Susan Karlheim <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:43 PM
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,

To Respected Leaders in the County,

Please be advised that I fully understand the needs of the County to cut salary positions due to budget restraints. However, the County needs to be aware of the current inequity of teacher responsibilities in ALL buildings. For example in my building, I am personally responsible for over 200 students. I see over 280 come through my teaching area everyday. Across the building are teachers who see 50 students a day and some teachers who work with only 6 kids a day. We are severely shortchanging our diploma bound students for our certificate bound students. When one room can have a full time teacher and a full time TA, and an assistant for four students, we need to reevaluate our resources since we are spread so thin. Our Special Education Team leader should have classes and she does not. The ratio of Special Educators in a building that have assigned classes to their student body has to be reevaluated. One teacher should not have 220 students and 10 classes and another have 24 students with assistance and only 4 classes. YOU are burning out your content area teachers by using all your salary positions for such a small minority in the school system. I understand those parents have been strong advocates for their children and we all want the best for ALL our students but the pendulum has swung so far out of sight that MANY kids are having their instruction compromised by over extended teachers without the proper resources. Case workers constantly complain when they have to compile information on a student. Content teachers have to compile the information to provide the case workers with information

since most have "no idea" how the student is doing in the classroom since they do not visit the kids in the classroom. These same content teachers have submitted IEP, 504, and behavioral reports on all the kids and still found time to provide a warm learning environment with engaging lessons and communicate with over 200 parents and grade all submitted work. The responsibilities of a Special Educator and a classroom teacher are very off balanced. I would suggest that in the middle schools, that the 2.5 position that is projected to be cut come from the Special Education Department. Respectfully submitted,

Susan Karlheim

HMS Teacher

Susan Karlheim

Karlheim@aol.com

901 Meadowgreen Drive

Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: New Projected Classroom Numbers & Teacher Furlough

From: Robin Barnes <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:47 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: New Projected Classroom Numbers & Teacher Furlough

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

Opal Jones,

This proposal of classroom sizes is unacceptable. My son has had so many issues with bullying that his very kind, amazing and yet clueless teacher knew nothing about. He is currently a first grader. The increased classroom sizes will only make circumstances like his worse. Our school already has 1000 students and already creates a naturally overwhelming environment based on size. This is not the best set up for students or teachers. Please find the funds to better serve students, families and staff. Perhaps from the developers who've been allowed to over develop our area in the first place?

Thank you,

Robin Barnes, Mom of 5

Robin Barnes
robinebarnes4912@gmail.com
4413 Brittany Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Gap

From: Olivia Kelly <olivia_kelly@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:48 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget Gap

[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 shocked and astounded to learn of the county's "solution" to the lack of funding. As a Howard County educator, I was drawn to the county because of the high caliber of education being offered to students. As we continue to cut valuable programs and make changes that are harmful to student learning, such as increasing class sizes, that caliber falls. It is unfair to the students to decrease the quality of education being delivered, which is what raising class sizes will do. Lower class sizes are backed by research, not simply words.

Not only will the students suffer, but the educators will be burned out faster than ever. As the demands of teachers increase year after year, the challenges they face increase as well. Teachers continuously pour not only their salaries, but their time, emotion, and dedication into their students. To continue to add to the challenges teachers face is absolutely devastating for our community, and most importantly, our students.

Howard County has been one of the most prominent counties, recognized throughout the country for our high quality education. However, when we make changes that negatively impact student learning, we stray further and further from that high quality claim. As a county that emphasizes getting to know your students and making connections to increase achievement, how can we expect our educators to continue making meaningful relationships as we add more students to their rosters? In order to remain at the front of education, we need to make changes backed by research to increase student success. We need to fund the

decision to keep class sizes low in order to continue to deliver a high quality education, which every student deserves.

Olivia Kelly, HCPSS Teacher

Olivia Kelly

olivia_kelly@hcpss.org

5470 Hesperus Drive

Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Yoon Choi <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:53 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,

Reduce class size

Yoon Choi
kate.cha@gmail.com
9816 Madelaine Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:45 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Health Services Staffing

From: Amy Wilson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Health Services 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 writing as both a parent to children who attended Howard County public schools and as an employee for the system. As a school nurse, our role is to care for the many medical as well as emotional needs of our students, faculty and visitors. This is becoming increasingly difficult due to the volume of students and acuity of their needs. Each school needs a nurse and a health assistant. I have well over 1300 students between 2 schools. To say each day is challenging is an understatement. For adequate care to our students and ensuring their safety, increased coverage in health rooms is needed.

Thank you,
Amy Wilson

Amy Wilson
amylynn0673@gmail.com
9226 Marydell Road
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042