

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please fund us more fully

From: Will Funk-Heiser <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:11 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please fund us more fully

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

Opal Jones,

Hello,

Last year I was almost surplussed due to budgetary constraints, which would have ended the German program at Long Reach High School. Thankfully, the County Council was able to provide additional funds that were used, in part, to save my program and maintain program choice for students.

Somewhat shockingly, I find myself in the exact same peril as last year with the exact same possible consequences. I am hoping and asking that a more permanent solution be applied and class sizes can remain the same.

Sincerely,
Will Funk-Heiser

Will Funk-Heiser
will.kpf@gmail.com
6146 Regent Park Road
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:44 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding to Howard County Public Schools

From: Neda Frayha <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:19 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding to Howard County 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,

Dear County Councilwoman Walsh and Colleagues,

My child goes to Hollifield Station Elementary School in Howard County's District 1. We have been so fortunate to encounter caring and dedicated teachers and staff.

My fellow neighbors, community members, parents and I are deeply concerned about the budgetary challenges facing our County. With its fantastic schools, in an area with so many resources, and where the citizens pay high property taxes, it is inexcusable that our children's education should suffer. Our teachers already wring every last drop out of the resources they have to care for our children. To ask them to take on bigger class sizes and cope with deeper budget cuts goes against the values of this County.

Please increase the budget for the Howard County School System. It is the right thing to do for our whole community.

Sincerely,
Neda Frayha MD

Neda Frayha
neda325@gmail.com

2880 Millers Way Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Howard County budget

From: Cyndi Freeman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:24 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Howard County budget

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

Opal Jones,

Good evening!

As a resident of Howard County as well as a teacher, I am disheartened to hear about the proposals to increase class sizes due to budget issues. We are supposed to be providing World Class education, but that cannot be done if we have classes that are overcrowded in addition to not having extra support. As a kindergarten teacher in a classroom not designed for kindergarten, I cannot imagine how I will physically have upwards of 26 students in my small room much less give them the time and attention they need to develop the foundational social, emotional, and educational skills they so desperately need.

As a resident and former HCPSS parent, I am dismayed that the amount of taxes I pay will not provide the education I came to this county for to provide for my child, as well as provide to other children. As a single woman, I can barely afford to live here, yet I believe in this county. My belief is being swayed now.

Please look for other ways that do not sacrifice the education of our students to make ends meet in the budget. Our future depends on it!

Cyndi Freeman
cyndifreeman@aol.com
8141 Aspenwood Way
JESSUP, Maryland 20794

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes and the school budget

From: Yasmina Overcast <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:26 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class sizes and the 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,

I'm writing because we are my husband and I demanding to the County Executive and HoCo County Council to increase the school budget. We moved here for the schools, we pay high property taxes not to have our kids suffer and be in overcrowded classes or in portables. This is unacceptable! We are horrified! We do not know why you allowed builders to keep building but you do not build new schools or add a second level to the existing schools??? Hollifield Station Elementary school had to give up the RECC program just to free some classes, and still, it's not enough. We were looking forward to putting our 3 years old there since we are in the community like we did with our 15 years old and 12 years old. We loved the program but now we have to pay more money to send our daughter to a private preschool. It's INCOMPREHENSIBLE! Howard County Schools are supposed to be one of our Nation's best! We DO NOT want to have our kids in a class of 35 kids and a kindergarten class at 26! This not only bad for our kids but also our teachers! Increase the budget and build schools! Build another level at Hollifield Station Elementary School! Education is important and should be a priority in your plans! Where our taxes go??? We demand action.

Yasmina Overcast
oraia_giasemi@yahoo.com
2876 Millers Way Drive
Ellicott city , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget cuts and increase in class sizes

From: Stacy Snell <snelly@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:29 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget cuts and increase in 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've lived in this county my whole life. I went to elementary, middle and high school here and my husband and I were lucky enough to be able to afford a property in Ellicott City when we got married so now both of my children go to school here too. Howard county schools have always been a notch above everyone else. In Maryland it is the county you fight to work in and live in. It has some one the best schools in the nation and always has and it doesn't come cheap to your residents that pay extremely high taxes to live in this county. I've never once complained though because I thought of the value of what I had and my children have especially when it comes to the schools. However I will say I have really noticed it slipping as of the last 2 years and this notification I am seeing about further budget cuts, job cuts to teachers and increases in class size I guarantee will be the final bullet that drives it down. We will no longer be number one or even close, the students in this county will suffer and grades and well as test averages and graduation rates will drop. If this goes thru you will set back what had been a ongoing achievement for this county for many many years, you will loose residents and new residents will not come. If you care about your residents the students in this county and the amount you do bring in from the county residents currently living here I would suggest you find some other ways to make it work and not cut the budget cut the teachers or sacrifice the education that we provide in this county.

Sincerely,
Stacy Snell

Stacy Snell
snelly@comcast.net
Church lane road
Ellicott City , Maryland Md

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Sizes

From: Michelle Roemer <michelle_roemer@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 5:34 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,

Good Evening,

I am reaching out in regards to the growing concerns of increasing class sizes for the 2019-2020 school year. If schools are being increased by size, are we going to lower the expectations we have for students? Having an increase in class size means limited attention for individual students, more disruptions, more materials and supports needed for the classroom, etc.

Do you understand the impact even 1 student can make in a classroom? Do you understand the time, effort, dedication, and energy our teachers are putting into their classrooms every day? This will not only increase the time, effort, dedication, and energy for the teachers, but other staff, students, and parents.

A school is not run by 1 person, or by simply 1 job. We are a community. This potential budget will not only impact teachers, but communities as a whole. It is important to remember whom is effected because it is a lot more than our teachers. But entire communities.

Michelle Roemer
michelle_roemer@hcpss.org
1129 Buckhorn Road
Sykesville , Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Education

From: Jacqueline Teachout <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:10 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Education

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

Opal Jones,

Having over 20+ students to one teacher means less time for a teacher to help individual students learn. That enough should alert you. If that's not enough think about the kids futures and how not having enough teachers will impact these students, they will not always be able to get the one on one help that is required. Not all students learn by being lectured they need individual help which they would be able to get. I say this as a student that has just graduated and was fortunate enough to have only had about 15 kids in a class. I was able to get one on one help. Do not fail this generation. You should be helping the next generation not taking opportunities away from them.

Jacqueline Teachout
jackie.teachput@me.com
1421 Emmanuel church road
Huntingtown , Maryland 20639

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: No to larger class sizes and fewer teachers

From: Gabrielle Hayes <hayesgabby@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:10 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: No to larger class sizes and fewer teachers

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

Opal Jones,

Why is the classroom the first to be impacted during budget cuts? Trim the payroll of those at the board of ed making over \$80,000. I am a SPED Para and I make \$27,000. It is not enough to live on.

As a SPED Para I think the classes are too large now. Increasing sizes impacts the quality of learning and basic space allotment for everyone. I work in a 5th grade class and it is hard to help the children with so many in the class already. We don't have enough text books or space to hang up your coat and backpack. It is a struggle to function day to day. I should mention the design of the building that was changed to incorporate walls and doors as a result of school shootings. Our heating and cooling system does not work properly because the airflow is now cut off leaving some rooms sweltering and some cold. Adding more students has made it worse. How are we going to function with less teachers. Our teachers are at their wits end already. More paperwork, less supplies and less support=a teaching recipe for disaster!!!! PLEASE FUND THE FULL BUDGET FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN!!

Gabrielle Hayes
hayesgabby@verizon.net
13389 Triadelphia Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Sara Britt <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:12 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 Leaders,

It has come to my attention that due to budget constraints it is becoming more and more likely that a class size increase is in the future for our children. I wanted to express my severe concern over this matter. I have two daughters, one in first grade and another that will enter kindergarten in the fall. I moved to Howard County for the express purpose of sending my children to the renown Howard Country school system. Unfortunately, I have been less than impressed by our current school experience. My daughter's kindergarten class was near max capacity at 24 making it obviously difficult for her kindergarten teacher. At one point my daughter was so anxious about asking to use the bathroom she had an accident in the middle of class. I believe this is a direct result of the teacher's attention being spread so thin she did not notice my child's need. My experience in first grade has not been better. My daughter has had her hair cut, her shirt cut, her hand bitt en, and pictures of her drawn as the victim of horrible crimes. Again, I attribute this in large part to the class size. A teacher is unable to have eyes on everyone and as the class size grows, this situation is made even worse. I fully believe with a smaller class size the teacher could've addressed and even prevented all of our negative experiences. As it stands, I often find myself questioning why Howard County Schools are ranked so high? Are my experiences unique? I am guessing I am not alone in the fact that large class sizes have already caused negative experiences. Can we really afford to exacerbate this situation? At some point we need to stand up and say enough is enough and

that our children need to be put first as we are so quick to brag about when HCPSS is ranked highly in any news report. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sara Britt

Sara Britt
kitty_kat40@hotmail.com
8350 Chestnut Farm Ln
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Photography

From: Susan Sturek <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:16 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Photography

[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 result of the budget deficit, my daughter was informed today that Photography may be removed from Marriotts Ridge High School. This would be a tragedy! Not only would the school be losing a phenomenal teacher, my daughter would be denied the opportunity to pursue a subject that she has found a passion for! Please find a way to keep the program and my daughter's passion alive. Thank you.

Susan Sturek
koenigsusie@hotmail.com
2966 Pebble Beach Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Classroom sizes can not increase!

From: Rosanna Gambo <Rosa_gambo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:22 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Classroom sizes can 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 am write to you to express my concerns about the budget decrease. I work in a Howard County public school. I am also a parent of a Howard County Student. The elementary school I Work in has over 900 students . We are way over crowded and under staffed. The ratio of children to adults is so wrong. At times we have 2 adults watching 150 children. This is already a bad situation. Cutting staff and increasing class sizes would be so wrong. The class size are way to big now. With all the behaviors and no repercussions for the actions, children are out of control. Top that with bigger class and less staff . We are set up to fail. So will our children. High school students are huge adult size people. Their classrooms are smaller than ours. You can not put 35 students in one class. We need more staff! Help with children with mental health issues. Please help us to create a better future for our children. Not set them up to fail!

Rosanna Gambo
Rosa_gambo@hcpss.org
6416 Rockledge Court
Elkridge Maryland , Maryland 21075

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Shortfall

From: Karyn Bitzel <Karyn_Bitzel@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:22 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,

Good evening,

As a classroom teacher in the school system, I am extremely concerned about the consequences of not fully funding our budget. Without appropriate funding, our schools will be asked, again, to maintain a high level of performance with even less resources. How many times do you think that you can ask the same stakeholders to make up the difference when financial support is reduced? When funding is decreased, this does not result in a decrease in the expectations of our supervisors and families. Expectations remain the same, but teachers are the ones who have to deal with the actual work of meeting those expectations. It seems that no matter how hard we try, how much of our personal time we give, how much of our own money we spend, we are being asked, again, to make up the difference. The wells are running dry, folks. Teachers across the county are increasingly demoralized by the constant demand for more, more, more. Enough. Fund the budget or finally admit that it is not possible to maintain the level of performance we currently demonstrate because we can't afford it!

Karyn Bitzel
Karyn_Bitzel@hcpss.org
160 Sanford Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Laura Grabowski <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:27 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,

I am a mother of 3 daughters and a 3rd grade teacher in Howard County. We moved here for the schools. I transferred here for the schools. You speak of the social emotional wellbeing of a child. How can we do this justice with 33 to 38 students in a class? I fear for my children - ALL of them

Laura Grabowski
laurawats@hotmail.com
8584 Dark Hawk Circle
Columbia , Maryland 21045

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Needs!

From: CALVIN JACKSON <calvin_jackson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:30 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,

CALVIN JACKSON
calvin_jackson@hcpss.org
Waterloo Road
Columbia , Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: PLEASE do not increase class sizes!

From: Michelle Sullivan <michelle_sullivan@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:40 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,

Hello,

I am writing regarding the current budget needs of the Howard County Public School System. I have been an a general educator at Waterloo Elementary school for 8 years, and feel fortunate and proud to work for a system that promotes collaborative learning, embraces diversity, fosters positive relationships between students and teachers, and encourages differentiation to meet the needs of all students. However, the current recommendation to increase class sizes is simply not conducive to teaching or learning. Not only can I express that as an opinion from my daily experiences, but there have been countless peer-reviewed studies that prove that smaller class sizes have a significant positive outcome on student achievement. HCPSS prides itself on implementing best practices in order to do what is BEST for KIDS. I do not believe that having up to 33 students in my classroom will allow me to do my BEST work for the kids I care so much about. First and foremost, teachers are encouraged to utilize various instructional strategies, such as small-group reading, math centers, individual conferences, etc. These techniques become almost impossible as class sizes increase. Teachers already feel the struggle of having 30+ students in each class. I currently have 29. When I pull three "small" groups, those 10 students do not even fit at the rainbow table where I am supposed to conduct guided reading instruction. Additionally, I believe that creating quality, meaningful relationships with my students creates the foundation for success in the classroom. With over 30 students, I am unable to foster those connections to the best of my ability. The larger the class, the less time I can spend with each student ensuring that they are receiving

the support they need. I think back to my days in college and how the huge lecture-style classes freshman compared to my higher-level classes with less students. Can we really expect 9 year olds to remain engaged, focused, and motivated in a classroom with so many individuals? I want my students to feel like their strengths, unique talents, and perspectives can be truly heard. The best way to enable teachers to positively impact students' achievement, as well as their 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. I understand that budget concerns are inevitable, and "cuts" will be made if needed. However, it is sad to see that any councilman would make a decision that SEVERELY negatively impacts the teachers that work so hard and most importantly the CHILDREN that we serve and every day. I sincerely urge the stakeholders in the situation to consider the effects of increasing class sizes. Thank you for your time.

Michelle Sullivan
michelle_sullivan@hcpss.org
5940 Waterloo Road
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Hi i deserve better

From: Kortni Magliaro <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:43 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Hi i deserve better

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

Opal Jones,

I cannot begin to describe the unfathomable conditions which will arise if this budget is not fully funded. My school building can not accommodate 30+ class sizes. Have you ever put 30 middle schoolers in a small room together for 50 minutes? How about 7 times a day for 180 days? Can you imagine the level of chaos that would ensue on a regular basis not to mention the overall decrease in the quality of education that can be provided.

Additionally, as an English teacher, I grade writing as frequently as possible. The amount of grading and feedback I will be able to give to my students will decrease significantly with every additional student added to my classroom. This would do a major disservice to the learners who for no fault of their own cannot make the strides as their peers in surrounding counties.

Finally, I have to raise a personal issue regarding the budget. I went to college with the promise that the federal government would forgive my loans because of the public service I provide on a daily basis to society. My salary is so embarrassingly low that I can barely make the minimum payments on my loans. My account was overdrawn this week so I could pay the renters insurance so that I don't get evicted from my one bedroom apartment. Frankly, I'm tired of living this way and it is only a matter of time before I branch out for a different career where I will be paid respectfully.

Kortni Magliaro
kortni.magliaro@gmail.com

8445 Oakton Ln Apt 1E
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Funding

From: Rebecca Carson <rcarson79@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:52 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 am writing this letter as a concerned parent of a Howard County student and future Howard County student. I was informed that we have budgetary concerns and as such the county is looking at cutting back funding for schools, which could mean loss in teachers and increasing class size. I understand the difficult decisions that the council, county, BOE have in front of them, but I implore you to look at other options. The education of our students should be our first priority and ensuring our youth receive the best possible future. I would hope that we can find creative solutions or work together as a community to help this situation. I understand that we are currently not charging home builders nearly what other counties are and I hate to say it but over development has led to over crowding and some of this situation. As a tax payer, I am also willing to contribute more, as long as I know it's going to the schools. I implore this council to please, please, please think of what is really in the best interest of our county and our families, which is a solid environment and education for our students. A lot of us moved to Howard County because of the schools and the education and experience our students receive, I worry that this cutback has the potential to alter the wonderful education and experience our students receive today.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,
Rebecca Carson

Rebecca Carson
rcarson79@msn.com
2833 Burrows Lane
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS funding for 2019-2020 school year

From: Kelly Kirk <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:57 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS funding for 2019-2020 school year

[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 has been in the HCPSS school system for 6 years and the amount she learned in a classroom size of 25 vs 30 was significantly improved. I would encourage you to sit in for a full day of instruction in a large classroom and judge whether you can afford to reduce staff so that this is the norm. Our teachers are amazing but they are being asked to do so much for the students. The major reason Howard County is so popular is the education system. That's why we moved here. Please consider funding HCPSS at levels that do not reduce staff at a time when student enroll is growing. Thank you!!

Kelly Kirk
kelly.beth1@gmail.com
8315 Old Frederick Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget 2019

From: Ben Shipley <benjamin_shipley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:02 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget 2019

[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 want to express my concern that by underfunding the education budget for next year we will not be able to effectively meet the promise of preparation to our student. Increasing the student:educator ratio to 1:35 is not an effective solution to county budgetary concerns. Not only does this require that either students stand rather than sit in a classroom, it will likely necessitate purchasing additional classroom furniture and therefore endanger our students safety. I work in a building that is about 50 years old, and simply, there is not more room for additional chairs, desks, tables, or bodies in the classrooms. None of that even begins to address the studies indicating the decline in student learning and achievement that occurs in classes above 20-something. Rather than spending money on crowding our education spaces with furniture, spend it on human capital and fully fund our schools.

Ben Shipley
benjamin_shipley@hcpss.org
8100 Aladdin Dr
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Sizes

From: Jennifer Sacks <jennifer_sacks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 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,

To Whom It May Concern: It has come to my attention that Howard County proposed increasing class sizes by 2 students. While this might not sound like a large change to someone who does not spend every day in the classroom, as a teacher, I believe it will have a detrimental aspect to both teachers and students. Howard County continues to encourage social emotional learning and the importance of classroom community. The ability to know each student well and build sincere relationships with students will be impacted by this change. Teachers already go beyond expectations to spend their lunches with students and work with students in small groups. With larger classes, their attention to students must be more divided. Additionally, the burden placed on teachers extends beyond physical space. The increased class sizes will create complications for how to group students together for small group instruction, how to give the appropriate amount of attention, encouragement, and constructive feedback to students, and it will impact teachers' time grading/analyzing student data and communicating with families. Please consider the well-being of both students and teachers while making any decisions. Our students deserve the best, and the quality of instruction is what sets HCPSS apart from other districts. Please protect the integrity of our school system and the quality of instruction and care we give to our students.

Jennifer Sacks
jennifer_sacks@hcpss.org

4923 Lee Farm Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Dawne Royo <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:09 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,

As 54 year resident of Howard County, a graduate of Howard County Public Schools, and a HCPSS school librarian for 40 years I am writing you to express my concerns. I teach in the school library and with maintenance of effort funding I find that the cuts in the book budget are having a impact on my students because we now weed more damaged books from the collection than we can purchase. Also I am in a school that is now 21 years old and the carpet has never been replaced. Needless to say it is stained, threadbare, and is deteriorating beneath our feet. There is talk of increasing class sizes to compensate for lack of funding. Students of today are beyond "active" learners. Their bodies are constantly in motion and having 33+ students in a class is going to impact their ability to listen and learn, much less the teachers' ability getting to know the learner. We are the richest county in the United States, it is sad that we cannot do better.

Dawne Royo
Dawne.Royo@gmail.com
6717 Seneca Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21046

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: It is our childrens to receive Education in Howard County, MD w/ not enough teachers

From: MIN PAEK <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:16 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: It is our childrens to receive Education in Howard County, MD w/ not enough teachers

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

Opal Jones,

Hello.

How are you?

I think Education are very important for our children.

It is very unfair to our children to receive Education w/ less teachers because not enough education funds to give incomes to 300 teachers.

It is happen in suddenly.

Our children have right to receive good education because children are our future.

MIN PAEK

dec132009@gmail.com

8377 Tamar Dr Apt 638

Columbia, Maryland 21045

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:37 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Heather Shull <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:16 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,

We recently heard about the increase in student size. As pretty much everyone knows or could expect, this is extremely detrimental to our students. Not only does it affect our students, but our teachers as well. Demands and expectations of teachers increase yearly, and expecting teachers to deliver a high quality education while increasing class sizes and cutting important positions is impossible. Teachers already pour their time, emotion, and money into their classes. Spreading their effort even more is harmful to our students and their education.

Please reconsider this option.

Heather Shull
heathershull80@gmail.com
6382 Rowanberry Drive
Elkridge , Maryland 21075

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Deborah Hochkeppel <deborah_hochkeppel@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:46 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 was very dismayed to hear from our principal about the recent proposal for the changes in our school budget. I am a preschool special education teacher in the county and have been teaching for over 30 years. I have been working harder then ever on paperwork and school requirements for longer hours with larger classes and less staff. I have safety concerns for our most vulnerable students due to less staffing in our classrooms. It is extremely frustrating to want to do your very best for your students but due to budget cuts, staffing and lack of resources we are told "good enough" is ok. Well, it's NOT ok. It's NOT ok to not have the funds so all students can learn in classrooms that are not overcrowded, understaffed and less than optimal. These decisions are hurting the staff and students who are the future and foundation of our society. Please support our schools and help to put the money back in to the budget so we can do our jobs the right way. Thank you,

Debi Hochkeppel

Deborah Hochkeppel
deborah_hochkeppel@hcpss.org
4737 Yorkshire Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: More money please

From: Karen Zepp <karen_zepp@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 7:49 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: More money please

[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 band and strings teacher in a growing Title 1 school with a FARMS population of 65%. Our students deserve better. My school has 90 school instruments which are loaned out every year because my students can not afford to rent instruments, nor can they afford to obtain their own supplies for those instruments (reeds, oil, strings, etc.). I provide the students all of these items as well as a method book to use throughout the year. So rather than spending MOI money on new literature or new instruments, I am buying supplies and books for my students. Music is a vital part of Howard County's arts program and it is a very successful one. Let's continue to keep music alive in our schools and give the students the opportunity to flourish in the arts. For some, this is all they enjoy.

Karen Zepp
karen_zepp@hcpss.org
5647 Harpers Farm Rd
Columbia, Maryland 21044

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding

From: Jennifer Smith <jasmith@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:04 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,

Dear County Council members,

I feel like I cannot contact you too often about how crucial funding is to HCPSS. Why do I care so much, when I don't even reside in Howard County?

I teach in Howard County, so I know first hand what is needed. It's important that people on the "outside" listen to the people who are "inside". The additional funding that we educators are begging and pleading for is to address the needs of ALL the students in Howard County. According to the World Population Report, Howard County had an estimated population 321,113 and an estimated growth rate of 1.31% in the past year.

(<http://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/md/howard-county-population/>)

An increasing population, not only brings more students into our schools, creating the ever present problem of overcrowded classrooms that are less than optimal for learning. It makes as much sense as a family of 8 living in a studio apartment, in order to save money.

This increased population also brings with it students who struggle with mental illness, learning disabilities, and homelessness. I am well aware that Howard County would like to believe that there is no issue with poverty within it's borders. Ignoring and underfunding do not make these difficulties disappear.

I am pleading with you to provide the additional funding we need for additional general and special education teachers. We also need money for additional programs and supports for our

students and parents. As you move ahead, without funding our schools, you are leaving so many behind.

Sincerely,
Jennifer A. Smith

Jennifer Smith
jasmith@hcpss.org
Kilimanjaro Rd
Columbia, Maryland 21045

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Alex Borleis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:07 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,

County Council,

My name is Alex Borleis. I am an Art and Photography teacher at Long Reach High School. I am writing to you today in regards to the raising of classroom caps to 35 students as well as cuts to teacher personnel across the county. I am aware that you are most likely receiving numerous emails from others in the county who will be voicing the same concerns in regards to the budget for the upcoming school year. I recognize that many of the things I state here you will probably read a hundred times over but it is my hope that my personal plea might join these other voices in swaying your decision to one that benefits the county and the students as a whole.

Being an elective teacher, and one that teaches Art I which often defaults for many students to being the Fine Art credit requirement, my Art I classrooms are full, all 32 seats occupied by a student. At LRHS, this means a careful inventory and distribution of materials to ensure we can make it through the school year completing all assignments. When materials run out it means either denying the opportunity to work with something new and exciting or paying out of pocket and refiguring my budget for the month (art materials are not cheap). It means fitting 5 to a table on stools shoved in tight spaces instead of the standard 4. It means not getting to check in with every student every class and potentially missing the quiet student who needs the help but gets overlooked due to their louder and attention-grabbing classmate. It means staying well past contract time to help the students after school you didn't get a chance to help

during class. It means taking home boxes of student work to grade late into the evening on top of being a grad student and trying to take care of any errands needed in my personal life.

This is only a fraction of what it's like having 32 teenagers in a classroom. In my case, from all four grade levels, all with different temperaments, and different levels of maturity. While adding 3 more students doesn't seem like much, it's another 3 students to grade, to budget MOI for, to find physical space for, to teach and help grow.

If Howard County truly prides itself on its education- says its high standards produce prepared and contributing members of society, shortchanging its students by upping class sizes and cutting teachers is not the way to keep that standard. As it stands, Howard County will have no right whatsoever to call itself a great county to learn in.

Alex Borleis

Alex Borleis

alexborleis@gmail.com

2042 Shore Rd

Dundalk, Maryland 21222

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: In support for continued funding of teachers

From: Jonathan Velsey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:16 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: In support for continued funding of teachers

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

Opal Jones,

I would like to add my voice in support of the needs of our students in the Howard County Public School System. I am fortunate to teach in a school where teachers and staff routinely go the extra mile to plan engaging lessons and provide a caring environment in which students can learn. The biggest threat to this is large class sizes, which make it impossible for teachers to make much needed personal connections with all our students. We must be able to hire enough teachers, counselors and other support staff, so our students' social and emotional needs can be met.

In addition, Howard County must continue to fund its fine arts programs by ensuring we have enough teachers to cover positions at all schools. Studies have shown that the arts positively impact student learning and help students develop by allowing them to see themselves as creative individuals, experimenters and risk-takers. Howard County is seen by many in our state as providing an exceptional arts education to its students. May we continue to do so by putting the needs of our students first and increasing the funding of our school system to ensure a quality education of tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan W. Velsey
Orchestra Teacher, Waterloo Elementary School

Jonathan Velsey
jvelsey@gmail.com
8303 Haddon Drive
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: How are the children?

From: Jessica Preston <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:30 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: How are the children?

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

Opal Jones,

I beg you to honestly answer the question.. How are the children? I can sadly assure you that the answer is not good.. in fact.. horrible. The children, OUR FUTURE, are not ok.

Jessica Preston
jjcm163@gmail.com
10163 High Ridge Road
Laurel , Maryland 20723

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Equity

From: Unjung Shin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:30 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Equity

[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 Unjung Shin and I am an ESOL teacher. We have high needs of ELLs in hcpss and one of my concerns is that students may not adjust well when they return to larger classes. Additionally, the academic and language gains achieve in the smaller classes. On behalf of my ESOL families and ELLs, I need to advocate their voices and their needs because good education with equity is their goal, life, and American dream. Isn't HCPSS moto equity? Larger classes can't handle differentiated instructions nor meet the needs of diverse students. Please consider this decision on behalf of hcpss students.

Sincerely,
Unjung Shin

Unjung Shin
unjungshin@gmail.com
10749 folkestone way
Woodstock , Maryland 21163

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget for Howard county schools

From: Finda Merchant <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:30 PM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget 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.]

Council Members ,

Approving a budget that would support smaller class sizes is imperative to the proper education of all students. Teachers and paras would be able to spend quality time with the students ensuring that all material is taught properly that all students are grasping the material and no child is left to struggle on their own. Teachers and parents are able to establish a good working relationship and teachers are not overwhelmed and can perform to their best ability.

Finda Merchant
faithful.maisha@gmail.com
3963 Ballet Way
Burtonsville, Maryland 20866

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Erin Sloan <erin_sloan@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:32 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,
Erin Sloan, Kindergarten Teacher

Erin Sloan
erin_sloan@hcpss.org
5940 Waterloo Road
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:34 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: \$\$\$@&*%\$#@

From: Phillip Preston <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:37 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: \$\$\$@&*%\$#@

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

Opal Jones,

The subject of this letter says it all. There are no words to describe the unfair treatment that this decision will have on our students. Our kids. Our community. This has to change. Teachers hate their jobs bc of the WRONG REASONS!!

Phillip Preston
prestonlandscapingllc@gmail.com
10163 high ridge rd
Laurel , Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:34 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Staffing Concerns

From: Laurie Buckland <laurie_buckland@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:37 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Staffing Concerns

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

Opal Jones,

I am a special education teacher at Longfellow Elementary School in Columbia. I have taught at Longfellow for ten years and have loved being a Howard County employee. I was shocked this morning to hear the news that our small school could potentially lose 3 general education teachers. Based on the proposal, we are slotted to have two third grade classes, with 60 students currently in second grade. This puts those teachers at 30 students PER class. We have 7 students who receive special education services in this grade, two of which have significant needs. It is unrealistic for a teacher to be able to meet the needs of all of these students in a class size of 30. At Longfellow, many of our students see school as a safe place and thrive on the relationships that their teachers build with them. Increasing class sizes is not the answer to the budget issues and cutting staffing is a horrible idea. There must be some other way to make up for the deficits in the budget. Teachers are the ones day in and day out that are providing instruction and impacting the lives of the children of HCPSS. It is ridiculous to think that this is the only solution, and to be honest it's not fair. Teachers are getting burnt out as it is, cutting staffing and making larger class sizes is going to lead to additional burn out, stressed teachers and staff, and less instructional time for teachers to meet the individual needs of the students in their classes. People move to Howard County because of how excellent our schools are. Please consider other options than cutting our staffing and increasing class sizes.

Laurie Buckland
laurie_buckland@hcpss.org
906 Langley Rd
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21060

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Rebekah McCoy <rebekah.playingindirt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Teacher Budgets

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

Hello,

I have recently heard about the possible budget shortfall and the surplussing of 300 teachers plus the increase in class sizes. As a mother of two young sons, this is unacceptable. Howard county has some of the largest taxes in Maryland yet we cannot properly fund our schools? Teachers and jeopardizing our students are not the way to fix this. I am not a financial guru and not sure where the budget is going, however i would be more than happy to pay more in taxes so that we can retain teachers and have smaller class sizes.

Further there is so much construction and increasing the population of Howard county, shouldn't that necessitate another school to help with the overcrowding? Money needs to be spent smarter and not on the administrators or politicians.

Please for the sake of our children, do not get rid of teachers or increase class sizes. Those are not good solutions to this problem.

Rebekah McCoy
9362 Rock Ripple Lane
Laurel, MD 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:13 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Christine Stavrou <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:38 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 invest in our children by not increasing class sizes in Howard County. As an educator and parent, I strongly believe that increasing class size negatively impacts our children's academic, social and emotional growth. I understand that we can't fund everything, but raising class sizes should not be considered. Thank you.

Christine Stavrou

Christine Stavrou
cmstavrou1@hotmail.com
10017 Fox Den Road
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:13 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Stephanie Gable <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:38 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,

Please do not raise classroom sizes. It would be doing all children a disservice.

Stephanie Gable
sslego1@gmail.com
723 Longview ave
Westminster , Maryland 21157

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:12 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: Melinda Roch <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:47 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,

Dear Councilor,

I'm writing you in regards to the proposed class size increases. As a parent of 3 children who are currently enrolled in or entering Howard County schools, I urge you to not increase class sizes.

I've seen first hand what increases do to students and teachers and there is no upside. My son was entering third grade when the last increase happened. That was by far his worst year in elementary school. Not only was the teacher overextended, but my son lost some of the attention needed during a crucial time in his education. We are still dealing with the ramifications into high school and have had to look for outside help.

My daughter has also had issues in class due to lack of paraeducators. There are students in every school who need extra attention. Not having extra support can cause disturbances in class. This effects the entire class, not just the student who needs assistance. When you only have 1 teacher to 30 students, there is no way to make sure you are meeting the needs of every student. Teachers need support every day and the board cannot expect parents to pick up the slack where trained individuals are needed.

Please know that any savings gained will be met by increased turnover, decreased scores and ultimately lead to a failing school district. None of us want to see that happen.

As a homeowner, I also have a financial stake in the success of our schools. A failing school district will have a detrimental effect on housing values throughout the county. This will lead to even more budget cuts due to decreased tax revenue.

I hope that you take this into consideration and make the right decision. Class sizes are already too high and resources are stretched to the breaking point.

Thank you,
Melinda Roch

Melinda Roch
melinda.roch@hotmail.com
4024 Arjay Cir
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School funding

From: Danielle Regester <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:49 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 ask that you please reconsider increasing class sizes and surplussing teacher especially at the lower grade levels. There is already a strain with the levels we have in place now. We can not keep stressing teachers and students and impacting student learning. Our teachers do so much to support the children for little pay , they don't deserve to have to keep pushing themselves to a breaking point. Principals are already putting in so many hours a week to keep things going. Please don't strain their resources even further. No matter what education should be the top priority. Our kids safety is something that also needs to be addressed. Will there be enough oversight especially at the younger grades.

People move here for the schools. We have built houses everywhere to the detriment of our environment and event people's need for green space. We have overcrowded some schools beyond what should ever be acceptable in the name of greed and complete disrespect of our community. If you destroy the schools with overcrowding and lack of proper resources, people will no longer come here. The big development money will dry up if people stop wanting their kids to come to Howard County Schools.

Danielle Regester
danielle.regester@gmail.com
3670 Daisy Road
Woodbine, Maryland 21797

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: No more Budget cuts

From: Savannah Butka <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 8:59 PM
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,

No more budget cuts!

Savannah Butka
savannahbutka@yahoo.com
4 Dundee Court
Middle River, Maryland 21220

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Increasing Class Sizes

From: June Kauffman <June_Kauffman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:00 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS 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,

Esteemed County Council Members,

As a teacher in HCPSS, I am alarmed to hear of the possibility of increasing class sizes yet again in order to account for a budget deficit.

It is alarming because our students deserve better. They deserve teachers who are not exhausted. They deserve teachers who are not focused so much on behavior issues that they cannot teach a lesson. Our students deserve to have teachers who were not up all night grading too many papers.

We do not have enough room in the classrooms for more desks! There are not enough working computers for every student. There are not enough hours in each day for teachers to get all the planning and preparation done to teach well.

Visit a secondary school that has 33 students in a room and you will see what we are facing. Please reconsider the increase in class size for 2019-20.

Sincerely,

June Kauffman

June Kauffman

June_Kauffman@hcpss.org

9355 Cabot Court

Laurel, MD 20723, Maryland 20723

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:05 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Regarding Increase in Student RatioAt School

From: Kripa Ailiani <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:06 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Regarding Increase in Student RatioAt 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

Kindly note we moved to Howard county neighborhood only because it is the best county for school in the nation . Now state government got more funding and county also got increased funding . This is not going to help if we are downsizing support staff and increasing student ratio . This will hit property prices and future collection of revenue Howard county . As quality of education determine such house prices . Parents will be compelled to move out of Howard county or send kids to private school.

Please let us know what is the plan to resolve the issue.

Kripa Ailiani
kripaailiani@gmail.com
8813 stonehouse drive
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: REBECCA VANDENBERGE <torintysmom@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:07 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,

I am writing to request your action in increasing the 2019-2020 operating budget for the Howard County Public School System. It was brought to my attention today that four of my colleagues will be surplussed to different schools as a result of the budget cuts proposed by HCPSS. I'm concerned about my ability to achieve adequate instruction for my students with an increase in class sizes (numbers will be increased to 33 students in a classroom in the elementary grades). In addition, I'm concerned about how increased class sizes will impact safety and well-being of our students due to changes in ratio of supervision.

You will likely be hearing from many of my colleagues in the upcoming days and weeks as this issue is of MAJOR concern to both staff and parents. The impact of this decision could have monumental effects on learning, safety and student well-being and I request that you consider the large number of students, staff and families who will be negatively impacted. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Vandenberg
Grade 4 Instructional Team Leader
Dayton Oaks Elementary School

REBECCA VANDENBERGE
torintysmom@comcast.net
3070 TERRA MARIA WAY
ELLICOTT CITY, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School system resources

From: Bhavana Patel <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:22 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: School system resources

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

Opal Jones,

Dear sir/Madam,

As a growing and diverse community in howard county. Especially observing during volunteering constantly with school system around year in county school population os growing rapidly. New houses are building with that being said more traffic, more roads and more classroom and quality staff are vital part of growing community needs. Ultimately that is our future, our children who are in school today will be leaders of tomorrow. We are all part of the process of development. We should all come together regardless of color, race 9or nationality, lets celebrate humanity and civility among our community , county and nation.

Thank you !

Bhavana Patel
bpatel2555@gmail.com
8801 stonehouse dr
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Cuts

From: Emilie Fredrick <Emilie_Fredrick@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:23 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Cuts

[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 nation where relationship building and mental health are of the utmost importance, we must not believe that cutting positions and raising class sizes is the answer. I am a proud HOCO teacher and parent, however the proposed cuts are absolutely appalling. As an educator, a class size of 33 makes it incredibly difficult to meet the needs of so many diverse learners and to keep a safe, harmonious learning environment. As a parent, I can not imagine my sweet sons learning in an environment where the teachers are stressed and stretched too thin. This is not a "world class" school system if this is the future.

Emilie Fredrick
EMILIE_FREDRICK@hcpss.org
7075 Montgomery Road
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Size

From: Soo Hong <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:30 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,

It is "already" too many students per class at our school.

Soo Hong
chungsooyoun@yahoo.com
2140 Harrow Dr.
Woodstock, Maryland 21163

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:03 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: No Budget Cuts to HCPSS

From: Jennifer Davis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:37 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: No Budget Cuts to 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 Council Members,

I understand there are some hard decisions that have to be made due to a surprising budget deficit; however, we should never shortchange our children or the very hard-working teachers and faculty that help to shape our children's minds and try to provide a safe and nurturing environment each day.

I am a parent to an HCPSS student and do not support budget cuts to the school system that would adversely affect my daughter's learning. This also includes cutting teachers whereby classroom sizes would increase.

Thank you,

Jennifer Davis

Jennifer Davis
jennifer011982@gmail.com
2907 Normandy Dr
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-3328

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:03 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for HCPSS

From: Janet Yingling <janet_yingling@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:42 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 have been a paraeducator for HCPSS for 17 years. It is extremely disheartening to learn that the council is not providing the funds necessary to sustain the school system at its current level. Howard County is considered one of the best school systems not only in Maryland, but also in the country. That is a prime reason people choose to move to Howard County. My daughter is a 2013 graduate of HCPSS and went on to graduate from UMD with two degrees. I definitely attribute her success to the excellent education she received here. By not funding the needs of the school system, you are putting our children at risk. Higher class sizes and less staff will seriously jeopardize our students' success. Please make our children a priority and allot the necessary funds so that we can continue to provide a top notch education to the students.

Thank you,
Janet Yingling

Janet Yingling
janet_yingling@hcpss.org
11988 Frederick Rd
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:02 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Concern re: increased class size

From: Kelly Gleason <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:51 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Concern re: 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,

Kristen Coombs and other Howard County Board members,

I was deeply concerned to learn of the proposal to increase class sizes in Howard County Public Schools. Student teacher ratio has a significant impact on learning outcomes, sense of community, and certainly a teacher's ability to manage a classroom. My family moved to Howard County because of the schools and the outstanding quality of the education - impacted significantly by class size. I am preparing to send my son to kindergarten in the fall. I attended the Road To kindergarten program this winter and enthusiastically registered him with the understanding that he was going to be in a reasonably sized classroom with a teacher that would be attentive to his personal needs while balancing that with others in the class. This proposal will hurt our students and put added strain on our teachers. There has got to be a better solution to whatever budget issues we are facing.

While the proposal is concerning, I also find it very concerning that this is being pushed forward without communicating to parents and the community- we enroll our kids with a certain understanding of their experience and a great level of trust.

This feels like a huge violation of our trust, and I am suddenly very anxious about putting my kids in your care.

I do hope you'll reconsider before making such a drastic and destructive change.

Kelly Gleason

Kelly Gleason

gleasonkp@gmail.com

11424 lager blvd

Fulton , Maryland 20759

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:02 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Requesting not to reduce school funding

From: Swetha Sadashivappa <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:54 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Requesting not to reduce 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,

For a school system that is called "world-class", "one of the Nation's best" and in a county where we pay high property taxes, this is incomprehensible to know that officials are being working on reducing the school funding. Our students will suffer. Our teachers and staff will be expected to do more with less. Hence, I hereby request to not reduce the school budget and instead take action to increase the school budget.

Swetha Sadashivappa
Shomis2018@gmail.com
2445 Valley View Way
Owings mills, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:02 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please start charging developers more fees

From: JR Rao <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:56 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please start charging developers more fees

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

Opal Jones,

We are probably the county that charges the least amount of fees from home builders for building schools. We can charge much more. the result would be slightly higher homes that would be financed in any case, better funded capital projects and show commitment of parents towards schools.

JR Rao
jrrao2001@yahoo.com
7241 Preservation Ct
Fulton, Maryland 20759

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Keep Howard County Schools #1

From: Ray Grabowski <rgrabowski@erac.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:59 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Keep Howard County Schools #1

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

Opal Jones,

Why would you steal from our children and teachers? Give the schools the necessary resources to be the best they can be. Don't cut the budget and steal from our children. Make the housing developments that keep building in our communities pay more instead of getting tax breaks. Is the County Council taking a cut in salaries with a budget crisis? Most likely NOT, instead steal from innocent children and teachers. Do the moral thing and fund tomorrow's future by fully funding the education budget.

Ray Grabowski
rgrabowski@erac.com
8584 Dark Hawk Cir
Columbia , Maryland 21045

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increased class size is not the answer

From: Natalie Meyers <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 9:59 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increased class size is not the answer

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

Opal Jones,

I know the budget is never an easy thing to talk about. Making the class roster bigger shouldn't be the solution. As a teacher and a parent of two elementary kids, I know for a fact that's it the children that will suffer. Mental health for students, staff and parents will suffer. And in the end quality education will suffer as well. Howard County is the place to be! Great schools, great libraries and all around great resources. But if increasing class sizes is the best solution, then Howard County will slowly lose that appeal and no longer be the best of the best.

I am a late transplant to the county but I fell in love with the communities right away. I am proud to be from Howard County and I hope a solution is reached where the answer isn't packing more students into a classroom like sardines. If it were possible, I would forgo my raise this year and put the children first.

Larger class sizes mean larger reading groups, less one on one interactions and relationship building and more concern for injuries in a crowded classroom. Teachers will have less time to communicate with parents and form bonds to create positive partnerships. Educators, and other school staff will burn out resulting in more time off and turnovers. We don't want to lose teachers to neighboring counties because they are overloaded and over crowded in their own classrooms.

I hope that you consider other options before making the final decision to increase class sizes. I cringe at the thought of packing more desks into a classroom. These primary kids may be little but these little guys need to be able to move without fear of bumping into one another. Also do

you know how loud 5-7 years old can get?! You may need to factor in Advil or Tylenol into the budget.

Natalie Meyers

natalie.a.meyers@gmail.com

9059 Billow Row

Columbia, Maryland 21045

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS education budget

From: Amit Singh <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:00 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS 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,

We need a balanced budget especially when it comes to the future of our nation. Kids need quality education and a compromise here would only hurt the future. Howard county is an example for the nation and to maintain this position, please do not allow budget cuts for the HCPSS for the upcoming school year.

Amit Singh
amit_singh10@hotmail.com
River Ridge trl
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Request for Small size class

From: shabiha yasmin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:03 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Request for Small size class

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

Opal Jones,

Its is extremely important to have small size classes for academic and social benefits of our children. Thanks.

shabiha yasmin
yasmin.balt@gmail.com
8342 governor grayson way, Ellicott city
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:01 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Room Sizes and Class Teachers

From: Smitha Bodepudi <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:07 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class Room Sizes and Class Teachers

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

Opal Jones,

Dear County Members

I am a resident of Hoco and my son is in 2nd grade with the younger one getting into school system next year. Like all parents around when we moved to Hoco we have been always told HOCO schools are best in the country and the emphasis the county places on education is par to none. Slowly we are realizing though sometimes its true it's not always is. Year to year noticing the crunch to school resources with more enrollments, big class sizes with student to teacher ratio getting smaller. The teachers are working very hard but trying to teach big classrooms decreases sometimes the individual attention each kid needs and deserves. Elementary education and focus plays a vital role on each kids individual progress and will have long terms impacts. Please do the needful and increase the budget for schools and primarily focus on education needs meaning not increase the class room sizes and more importantly not cut down teachers but increase their strength). As the saying says - An investment in education pays the best interests for future generations. . I would implore the county members who promised best resources when getting elected that primarily includes best education to kids and not to make budget cuts at expense of them. You will be impacting every family living here in Hoco.

Thank You

Regards

Smitha Bodepudi

Smitha Bodepudi

smitha.bodepudi@gmail.com

9809 Morning Choice Court

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:00 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS BUDGET

From: Nhon Pagan <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:32 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 school classes size is way to big. The class should only have between 20 - 25 students maximum per class. I am oposing against cutting numbers of teachers and increasing numbers of students in each class.

Nhon Pagan

Nhon Pagan
nhonpagan@gmail.com
10324 Winners Circle Way
Laurel, Maryland 20723

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 3:00 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Reduction of teachers

From: Sherri Morstein <morsteins@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:42 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Reduction of teachers

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

Opal Jones,

Increase in class size reduces the time dedicated to individual instruction.

Too many distractions in a bigger class.

Making learning experience less efficient.

The teachers will be over burdened.

Communication with each individual student will be compromised.

You will be losing great teachers who benefit the school and children.

Sherri Morstein
morsteins@comcast.net
9059 Early April Way
Columbia, Maryland 21046

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Size

From: Kim Garrison <j.garrison52@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:08 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,

Good evening. We are so disappointed to hear about the plan to increase class sizes. As it is, we feel teachers are stretched thin and not all children are getting the attention and education they deserve. Those on either end of the curve seem to get the bulk of our efforts (those with special needs or delays and those who are considered GT), while those who are performing on grade level often "coast" and "fall through the cracks". Increasing class size and letting teachers go will only widen this gap between students. And I can only imagine the stress it will add for our teachers who are already overly stretched. I'm not sure how a teacher can adequately control, let alone teach, a group of 26 five year olds! Or even 33 nine year olds!?!? It's completely asinine. Please reconsider! Between the overdevelopment in our county, our redistricting woes, and now increasing class sizes, Howard County is positioned for anything BUT greatness. I pray our leaders find a way to slow down development in the county, expand the size and capacity of our current schools to accommodate all of the development that's sadly already been allowed, AND find a way to keep class sizes static, if not REDUCE the size of our classes! We personally have three children - in preschool, elementary, and middle school. We greatly appreciate your reconsideration on this proposal to increase class sizes. Thank you.

Kim Garrison
j.garrison52@verizon.net

6465 Sundown Trail
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:54 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size - budget issues

From: Kanwal Awan <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:08 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class size - budget issues

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

Opal Jones,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter to strongly oppose any idea of increasing the class size at schools. The class size is already too big for quality of education needed for our children. This will adversely affect our children and our county at large. No matter what the class size should be not be more than 20 children. The funds need to be allocated to assure best education for our children.

Sincerely,
Kanwal Awan

Kanwal Awan
k.s.awan@gmail.com
11213 Terrace Lane
Fulton , Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please, increase school budget allocation

From: Puru Vonteru <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:14 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please, increase school budget allocation

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

Opal Jones,

Please, increase school budget allocation

Puru Vonteru
vonteru@gmail.com
Vineyard springsway
Ellicott city, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:53 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School Budget / class sizes

From: Steve Weathersbee <steve.weathersbee@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:20 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: Mrs. Hahn <carol_hahn@hcpss.org>
Subject: School Budget / class sizes

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

Councilman Jones,

I am a constituent of yours, and was just made aware of some news that troubles me greatly.

It is my understanding that a shortfall in school budgets has led to a very significant increase in class sizes for next school year. This leads me to several questions:

1. Is this information accurate?
2. If so, do you support this increase?

My daughter is in second grade at Bellows Spring Elementary, and we love the school. I attribute much of this to a wonderful staff, but also smaller class sizes and a fantastic teacher student ratio.

We moved to Howard County three years ago, and our primary draw was the school system. We have been thrilled so far, and I'm extremely concerned that these changes will diminish the level of education offered county wide, but at Bellows Spring specifically.

I wanted to make you aware of my concerns, and emphasize this will be a deciding factor for my vote each and every election.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Steven Weathersbee
443-622-7854

--

-Steve Weathersbee 443.622.7854 Sent from Gmail Mobile

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Danny Mackey; BoE Email
Cc: CouncilMail; Rafiu Ighile; Stephanie Ennels
Subject: RE: [External] FY2020 HCPSS Operating Budget
Attachments: HCPSS_BOE_FY2020-OperatingBudget.pdf

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

Dear Mr. Mackey:

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

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: Danny Mackey <daniel.b.mackey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:25 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>
Cc: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] FY2020 HCPSS Operating Budget

Chair Ellis and Members of the Board,

Please read the attached letter regarding the importance of maintaining a dedication to classroom learning in adjustment and adoption of the FY2020 operating budget. I urge you to begin shrinking administrative budgets before increasing class sizes and surplussing educators.

Thank you.

In Service,
Danny Mackey

Daniel Mackey
4273 Coattail Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042



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

May 3rd, 2019

Chair Ellis and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

Two years ago around this time I was in front of the Board of Education demanding that they honor negotiated agreements with the Howard County Education Association. I argued then that it is unjust to hold educator salaries hostage, that educators have enough on their plate and should not have to worry that their elected officials will not honor their agreements.

Now, I write you to ensure you honor something even more important to our educators than their salary: their positions themselves and the negative student, systemic, and personal outcomes that will come from recent discussions surrounding surplussing educators and increasing class sizes. I said then, "shrink the Central Office before you shrink our teachers' paychecks." I implore you now: shrink the Central Office before you shrink our teaching staff. Increase the burden on our administrators before you increase the burden on our educators.

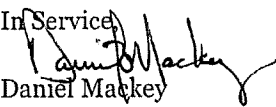
It is consistently agreed upon in our community that the people of Howard County value smaller class sizes, the benefit of which is supported by research. Considering the campaign positions of each member of the Board of Education elected since 2016 I believe it is fair to say that the people of Howard County also value a smaller, more effective, and less burdensome Central Office bureaucracy.

I heard recently from a dedicated, impressive, top-notch first year teacher who is petrified of losing her job due to Howard County's inability to fund teaching positions. The great personal toll mass surpluses will have on educators who have invested in our community is just one piece of the puzzle. We already lose talented individuals to surrounding jurisdictions due to delayed hiring practices. How many more will forgo employment with our school system with the knowledge that their position may be felled just as their career is beginning to take root?

As stated in a previous letter, the budgetary process gives each of you the opportunity to make difficult decisions, show real courage in priority setting, and set our school system up for an equitable year to come. The heart of the Howard County Public School System is in its name: 'schools.' Begin your dialogue on budget cuts in Central Office, particularly at midlevel administration and rapidly-growing executive offices. Prioritize classroom positions and student learning in the FY2020 budget.

Thank you.

In Service



Daniel Mackey
Education Advocate

Graduate of Wilde Lake High School, 2012

Candidate for Howard County Board of Education, 2018

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase school budget

From: Lauren Katz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:21 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase 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,

The fact that overcrowding is a fact in Howard county and the problem is always ignored should not distract what needs to be done. In a wealthy county such as this overcrowding and lay-off are Unacceptable. Back pedaling and delays and ignoring the needs of all students forces the wrong choose to be made. Students needs must be met by our elected officials. Therefore, solutions must be made and implemented now not in 2022 or 2030 or the best school system won't be Howard County anymore

Lauren Katz
laurenjane7660@gmail.com
Kindler
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Failing Howard County's Citizens

From: Glenn Cline <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:28 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Failing Howard County's Citizens

[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 informed today that the county council did not approve the full budget request for Howard County Public Schools, resulting in an anticipated substantial increase in class sizes for 2019-20. I am shocked and dismayed at the Council's poor choice and failure to protect Howard County citizens. Well funded and high achieving public schools are one of the primary reasons that people choose to live in Howard County, but your actions are jeopardizing our strong school system. I do not support your actions. The school system should be fully funded, and if you choose not to do that, my votes will go elsewhere in the next election.

Glenn Cline
gac272003@yahoo.com
8112 Westside Boulevard
Fulton , Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Our children's schools

From: Stephanie Fan <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:35 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Our children's schools

[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 goes to Veterans Elementary. Please prioritize our children's futures by providing additional funding and resources to our schools. The alternative is ever increasing class sizes and an ever decreasing quality of education that our children rely upon to prepare them for the future.

Stephanie Fan
stephanie_fan@hotmail.com
Spring Showers Way
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:48 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Students' social and emotional well-being.

From: Natalia Goraj <natalia_goraj@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:40 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Students' social and emotional 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,

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,

Natalia Goraj
3rd Grade Paraeducator
Waterloo Elementary

Natalia Goraj
natalia_goraj@hcpss.org

8417 West Grove Rd.
Ellicott City, Md 21043

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding our schools

From: Mary Armstrong <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:23 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding 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'm sure you'd agree that the Howard County Public School System is provides a world class education to residents and is one reason families move here. I'm very concerned that if class sizes are increased due to lack of funding, the quality of education is going to suffer substantially. I teach first graders and it is best practice to be able to work with small groups of 6 or 7 in guided reading. When we have more than 20-21 students in kindergarten or 1st grade, the instructional time for those reading groups is decreased. It may not seem like much, but instructional minutes add up and over the year, students are the ones who pay with lost opportunity to learn.

Please picture the kids squeezing around those horseshoe tables, and sharing books, because that is what will happen if we don't get the funds and have to increase class sizes. Students deserve to go to school and work with the teacher in reading groups every day, and teachers need class sizes to stay where they are to do that.

Thank you for considering the effects of funding on real kids in real classrooms as you make the difficult decisions about allocation of funds.

Respectfully,
Mary Armstrong

Mary Armstrong
mary.armstrong31112@gmail.com

12486 Lime Kiln Road
Fulton , Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: On the edge again. Why?!

From: Lindsey Miller <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 11:33 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: On the edge again. Why?!

[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 world language teacher and alumna of HCPSS. Last year, I watched as numerous students and families cried at the departure of beloved teachers - like my colleague who teaches German- and language programs due to budget restraints. We rallied and we're able to make clear the significance of our program/classes to our community. The world language department was hit hard last year in staffing as a means to deal with shortfalls in the budget. We have yet to recover completely as many of us have to start building our programs from scratch. The nature of our content area leaves us in several unique situations whenever budgeting must overcome its obstacles. First, our class sizes are less co distant than most and that problem would only become worse if class sizes were raised. A class of 34 students unfamiliar with a subject, with an increasing number of them needing more individualized instruction, is a recipe for disaster. Second, higher class sizes (or relatedly/consequently staffing reductions) create a problem that happens to so very many language teachers. We typically are forced to take on classes outside of our certification to accommodate the needs of the building and to fill our contracted scheduling loads when our courses are cut due to numbers. Raising class sizes by one or two students is enough to take a 5- class teaching schedule down to 4 or sometimes 3 classes. I am currently teaching outside of my content area for the second time for this kind of reason. How can we call ourselves one of the best school systems when we continue to make unnecessary sacrifices to too-vital areas? Students should not have to learn to cope with an environment too packed to be conducive to instruction from teachers lacking the experience, resources, and supports proven to foster success. In

classes like that, I have seen far too many students left behind because they could not get what they needed from their school. While an extra body in a room seems like it would fix more problems than it would cause, the reality is quite the opposite. We are already tipping a delicate social balance that is the classroom environment. Tipping it further for what can only be called a temporary fix to larger community issues (such as uncontrolled development, need for redistricting, restructuring/elimination of redundant central positions, etc) is ludicrous. Please help create a lasting solution that doesn't come at the cost of the troops on the ground, the instructional staff of our schools. We have shown up time and time again to get what is deserved for our students because we know what this school system can be, what it once was. We need the county to do the same.

Lindsey Miller
ldhunter2@gmail.com
6931 Bugledrum way
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Jennifer Wong <jennifer_wong@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:51 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,

The message is clear. Students are not as important to invest in next year. I mean, that must be it. Since our calls for help in reducing the already brimming class sizes are being answered with the opposite resolution of increasing class sizes at all levels. Since our requests for more hires to help with the rising discipline issues is being met with the resolution of reducing the current number of teachers per school managing those behaviors. Please hear our plea as teachers and as parents. Kids will not excel with the plan you are proposing. Our kids matter and should be given the attention they deserve to learn.

Jennifer Wong
jennifer_wong@hcpss.org
8305 Elko Dr.
8305 Elko Dr., Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: World Class School System

From: Kristen Tacka <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 5:20 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: World Class School System

[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 proud of working in HCPSS. I am blessed to have my son attend school in Howard County. I believe we have the best teachers, a great curriculum, good policies in place, and a worthy mission. However, many of our schools are heavily, or over-populated and I feel the strain at my own school, Elkridge Elementary. We already struggle with meeting so many students needs simply because we don't have enough staff to attend to our students in the way they deserve. Each year we have hope that we will get staff increases and more resources. We are devastated to hear that we are being decreased 6 teaching positions and increasing class size. We claim to be a world class system, but class size and a lack of staff will only decrease the quality of education our abundant population of students receive.

This is an unacceptable budget cut. I am concerned about my son's quality of education in HS. Will his teachers have time to address his needs? For example when he needs extra help with staying organized or has a clarifying question. He is a hard worker and for third quarter he had a 3.93 cumulative GPA. He is in three GT level classes and determined to do well. He also is diagnosed with ADHD and requires some extra attention from his teachers at times. If there are too many students in a class it makes it challenging for teachers to address every student's needs.

Please offer a different solution to our budget problem.

Sincerely,

Kristen Tacka

HCPSS Teacher

HCPSS Mother

Kristen Tacka

kris09171975@hotmail.com

6804 Ducketts Lane

Elkridge , Maryland 21075

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:40 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class sizes

From: VAANI VOHRA <VOHRAS12340@GMAIL.COM>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 6:50 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,

The council needs to get practical! Its little kids we are talking about!

How can you gamble with already dwindling child care and attention from teachers in schools?

The county is slowly becoming so irresponsible despite the funds you have.... Despite the huge taxes we pay!

VAANI VOHRA
VOHRAS12340@GMAIL.COM
12340 PREAKNESS CIRCLE LN
CLARKSVILLE, Maryland 21029

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:39 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please do not increase classroom sizes!

From: Christine Fritz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 6:54 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please do not increase 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,

Children learn best in smaller classrooms. It is very difficult to fit more children in classrooms originally designed to accommodate fewer children. Sometimes there is barely enough room for all the desks! These children need space in their classrooms to move around and learn in action! They need a little space for a quiet reading nook, a small bookcase, carpet time, and classroom manipulatives. I have seen first hand that it is so difficult for the teachers to adequately manage class behavior and teach appropriately when there are too many children in the classroom. Please consider keeping the current classroom sizes or reducing the classroom capacity! Thank you for your consideration!

Christine Fritz
christinecfritz@yahoo.com
3652 Cragsmoor Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Amy Rigney <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 7:00 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 consider our children as individuals as you make your decisions on class sizes for the upcoming school year. My daughter is in middle school and already doesn't see how one more body could fit in some of her classrooms. My son is in elementary school, and his teachers already struggle to support the number of exuberant kids they teach all day... my son being one of them. He struggles every day to be on his best behavior, and the more kids you crowd into a room makes it harder and harder. Please think of other options, including redistricting. We are moving further away from having the best schools to something more like having the best kid factories - please make this stop. Thank you.

Amy Rigney
amyclaire612@hotmail.com
3814 Paul Mill Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class size

From: Gail Zitnay <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 7:06 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Class size

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

Opal Jones,

I taught for Howard County for 38 years. Class size has always been a bright spot in our county. It means everything to a student to have the proper attention from their teacher. It means success. And with so much to accomplish, class size must not increase!! Please keep it as a priority!!

Gail Zitnay
gailzitnay@hotmail.com
10345 Maypole Way
Columbia , Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increasing class sizes

From: Jessica Slater <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 7:12 AM
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,

Good morning,

I'm writing to express my deep concern for increasing the class sizes in our schools. My child attends Hollifield Station Elementary, where just last year we had around 100 or so children enroll just before the start of the year. Obviously, these children weren't even factored into these calculations. When choosing to move to this county (and pay the extremely high taxes that come long with that), many of us feel as though things are moving in the wrong direction. Our children deserve better. All children deserve better. This increase in class sizes will not only hurt or children even more, but will make it that much harder for our teachers, who are already stretched too thin.

I urge you to reconsider. Get it together, and figure out a way to correct this issue and do what is best for our children and our teachers.

Jessica Slater
jessica714@gmail.com
2820 Brian Ct
Ellicott City , Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Concern with increased class size

From: Terra Bufkin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:07 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Concern with 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,

As a parent of an incoming kindergartener I am appalled and scared by the news that teachers will be cut and class size will be increasing. My husband and I moved to Howard county because of the prospect of having children learn and grow in the Howard county school system and are shocked to hear that something as important as class size will be compromised. Although we are not educators, based on our experience and schooling, my husband and I strongly feel that giving teachers a manageable amount of students to focus on and attend to is imperative in the learning of all students in the class; 26+ students is just pushing unreasonable and unrealistic, leading to burnout of teachers and disinterest/behavioral difficulties in students. PLEASE reconsider this decision!!

Terra Bufkin
tmbufkin@gmail.com
4626 Smokey Wreath way
Ellicott City , Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Forreste Colson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:11 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,

Hello,

I am writing about the current budget needs of the Howard County Public School System. One of the biggest problems I face every day as a teacher in this county is not being able to give enough time and personal attention to my students. With 30 students in each homeroom, 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. Research has shown that smaller class sizes lead to more personalized attention for students which leads to higher academic achievement. I know the Howard County Council cares about the quality of the education its schools are offering. Families move here from around the state because of the wonderful reputation our schools have for excellence. Please continue to uphold the quality of our schools by fully funding them. The future of this county is its children. Please give them the best chance you can by increasing 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,
Forreste Colson

Art Teacher
Waterloo and Talbott Springs Elementary Schools

Forreste Colson
fholde1@gmail.com
261 Pittston Cir
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Schools today

From: Paula Shown <kathy_shown@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:12 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Schools today

[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 use to be one of the best. I'm not sure how long we can keep that title. We are over crowded, our classrooms have behaviors that stop us from teaching. The cafeteria has doubled in size with two grades having to eat at the same time, which is over 300 students. We can only pray they won't have an emergency while eating their lunch. When we don't have the money to give to the school system it effects everything from the top (teaching) to not being able to get ahead of some serious behaviors. We need funding for smaller class size and more staff. Thank you,
Paula Shown

Paula Shown
kathy_shown@hcpss.org
3079 Mullineaux Lane
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Classroom overcrowding

From: Audrey Harris <audreywalkerharris@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:15 AM
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,

It pained me to hear that Howard County Schools will be losing possibly good teachers to save money. The old adage, "you get what you pay for". You pay for less teachers, You get overcrowded classes, overwhelmed teachers, frustrated parents and under performing students who will not doubt get lost because the classes are/will be overcrowded. Please reconsider your direction to destroy our schools and communities by doing anything that will threaten the positive character of HCPS. We are a better community because of the value we place on each and every student. We must not become like some of the surrounding counties or city school systems that lag behind in some of the most critical areas in educating and producing some of the States/Countries brightest and well rounded. We haven't by any means arrived but we are on a path leading to excellence. Let's keep moving forward and not backwards.

Audrey Harris
audreywalkerharris@msn.com
11512 Jamestown Ct
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding is Inadequate

From: Katherine Copanic <kate@copanic.net>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:20 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding is Inadequate

[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 serious concerns as both a parent of students in the county and as a middle school teacher in the county.

One of my children has dyslexia and larger class sizes are the last thing that she needs. My other daughter is a "handful" and in need of redirection. The larger the class size, the harder it is for students to be monitored, redirected, assisted, and identified with learning difficulties.

As a middle school teacher of related arts, we already have to deal with large classes, often with many students requiring accommodations, without any paraeducators or special educators to assist. I can't even imagine how my students will be further underserved with larger class sizes.

Our administrators are trying to spin this as a net-neutral situation because we were supposed to get 3 new teaching positions next year and now we're likely not getting any. However, if we are getting that many new students that would have warranted 3 new positions, having no new teachers is going to mean bad class sizes. TechEd classes only have 30 laptops (assuming all are in working order any given day). Increased class sizes will mean students having to share or take turns on computers for a technology class. I have had to do this in the past when the computer carts were in old/bad order and it did not serve the students well. I am assuming this will also end up with another year in cut accounts for materials of instruction. It gets harder

each and every year for me to do any building projects with my students as funds continue to be cut.

We can't expect to continue as a great school system without the resources and supports necessary.

Please reconsider the budget and funding for the school system.

-Katherine Copanic
5008 Ravenhill Row
Columbia, MD 21044

Katherine Copanic
kate@copanic.net
5008 Ravenhill Row
Columbia, Maryland 21044

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Vote to fund HCPSS

From: Avery McClelland <avery_mcclelland@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:24 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 2:32 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Needs

From: Courtney Howe <courtney_howe@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:25 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,

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,
Courtney Howe

Courtney Howe
courtney_howe@hcpss.org
8125 Old Stockbridge
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: CLASS SIZES

From: Kris Kalinock <kalinock6@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:54 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,

Kris Kalinock

Kindergarten Instructional Team Leader

Centennial Lane Elementary School

Kris Kalinock

kalinock6@msn.com

188 Riverview Trl

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS class size increases

From: Elizabeth Panageotou <elizabeth_panageotou@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS class size increases

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

Opal Jones,

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,

Beth Panageotou

Centennial Lane Elementary School

Sources:

<https://nepc.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/publications/Mathis%20RBOPM-9%20Class%20Size.pdf>

<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/campaign-releases-internal-poll-showing-tight-race-for-howard-county-executive/23603213>

Elizabeth Panageotou
elizabeth_panageotou@hcpss.org
10015 Carrigan Dr
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS class size increase

From: Jill Blaise <jill_blaise@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:04 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS 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,

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,
Jill Blaise

Jill Blaise
jill_blaise@hcpss.org
3825 Centennial Lane
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:30 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Like Deja Vu All Over Again

From: Benjamin Schmitt <bdschmitt@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 2:17 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Like Deja Vu All Over Again

[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...

I'm in my 21st year as an elementary art teacher in the HCPSS. I would love to say that I enjoy my job as much as I used to, but that wouldn't be the truth. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoy the students and am thankful for a job. However, it's just not the same.

Teaching has turned into the movie Groundhog Day. It may not be the same day over and over again, but it's the same second semester each year. A budget is presented by the Superintendent, then worked on by the Board. That is followed by a similar process within the county government. In my 21 years, I cannot remember when all entities agreed on money or priorities. And when that happens, money is supposed to be cut, and the first things on the block are the foot soldiers and their materials.

To be a political pawn each year is exhausting. It's bad enough that on a national level, teachers (and education overall) are demonized almost daily. We're told we have it great by having the Summer off, and have cushy benefits. I've never had a Summer off from working. I've worked side jobs each Summer, have attended graduate school, written curriculum for the county/state, and have even attended workshops sponsored by National Endowment for the Humanities to improve my methods and practice. In that entire time, I've never had a vacation as I can't afford one. Because to live in Howard County, so that my children can attend the same school system I work so hard for, I have to take a financial hit on a daily basis.

Furthermore, both of my children have a heart condition, and my wife left the school system, and stayed at home for ten years to monitor their health and well-being. For those ten years, I worked two jobs during the school school year, not even counting the Summer.

At school, I'm as frugal as I can be. I worry constantly about my materials budget being cut. Therefore, I'm always on the lookout for grants and donations. I've become accustomed to working on my own classroom furniture as that budget and the gentleman that work for carpentry have been consistently cut over the years. I worry about the mold growing under the counters surrounding my sink, because simple fixes are used instead of looking at the actual issues. I've dealt with sprinkling children in my primary classes, so that my 1st and 2nd grade classes are already at 28-30 students. This is done because my staffing is based on different ratios than classroom teachers. Thus, if class sizes rise, related arts staffing in the county will be cut, but I'll still have the same schedule as always, albeit with more students in each class.

As much as I may have grown up in a neighboring county, I've made Howard County my home. I've raised a family here, and continue to do so. I purchased a townhome here as well. It would be nice to be treated as a professional, as though I'm also a taxpayer and resident. It would be nice to feel wanted and appreciated throughout the year. It would be nice to not have to fight for respect on a national level, and for funding on a local level on a yearly basis. It would be nice not to have to rally and wear red, in order to bring attention to the needs of students and the profession. It would be nice to have students and teachers not seen as dollar signs and pawns in a useless, yearly game of chess.

I know money is tight. My budget has been tight since high school. However, the majority of folks move to this county for the school system. And, I understand the system already receives a majority of the county's revenues. Therefore, for the future, revenues in the county need to increase. Since development has remained at an all-time high for years, it's time for developers to assist in this endeavor. Please support such increases. And in the meantime, please replace any funding remotely possible in the school system budget. Students and teachers shouldn't always be bearing the pain of mismanagement and poor decision-making. That needs to start at the county government level, and also at the administrative level of the school system, where I feel performance audits need to be done to see what administrative staff are absolutely necessary.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for allowing me the time to voice these concerns. Feel free to reach me at any time, if you have further questions or clarifications based on what I've written above. And thank you for serving the citizens of Howard County.

Benjamin Schmitt

bdschmitt@verizon.net

7817 Whistling Pines Ct.

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-6952

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:34 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Karen Kalivoda <karen_kalivoda@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:47 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,

Good Morning:

I am writing as a music teacher of 30 years in Howard County. Although I am currently in my "twilight" teaching years, I see the overall quality of staff morale, student learning, & teachers ability to do their daily tasks with integrity & joy as declining.

Think about this scenario: If I am to teach a 2nd grade for example for 30 minutes, twice a week with 25 students, 6 sprinkled students & 3 regional students, & 7 of those 25 with IEP &/or 504 needs, how does that exactly look to you?? This is my challenge & the challenge of many others. Factor in behavior problems & disruptions. Please hear our call for HELP!!

Smaller class sizes w/additional staffing would certainly be a start to improving the overall problem. Please consider increasing the budget to meet the needs of the students in Howard County.

Sincerely,
Karen Kalivoda

Karen Kalivoda
karen_kalivoda@hcpss.org
7890 Mayfair Circle
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Hello

From: Amanda Pincheira <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:59 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Hello

[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 educator with HCPSS for 19 years. I am writing to ask you not to increase class sizes for many reasons.

First and foremost I can not provide the quality instruction to my students that they have been receiving. I will no longer be able to have the strong, individual connections with students since I will no longer have the time to check in and talk with each student.

I have limited space, supplies and time. Increasing class size will constrict all of those things and the students will suffer.

Howard County is on the best districts in the country and I have been proud to work here. Putting me in a position where I have to choose between my integrity as an educator and knowing what my students need puts me in an unfair position.

Let me do what I do best. Teach children with the best possible education I can give them. Help me do this by limiting class size and giving me the support I need from you.

Amanda Pincheira
apincheira78@gmail.com

119 Glenmore Ave
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget/Increased Class Sizes

From: Ann Finneran <panda324@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 9:07 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget/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,

Hello-

I am writing this to request further funding of the school budget to avoid increasing class sizes and teacher surpluses.

Currently our class sizes are at a maximum level. There are issues now with lack of positive instruction, one on one interactions and behavioral issues - all mostly due to large class sizes. If sizes of classes go up even more, parents will be forced to hire tutors in order for children to keep up with the rigorous curriculum in Howard County. We should not have to pay out of pocket for tutoring when that instruction should be given during the day in a classroom.

Many of us have moved to Howard County just for the excellent rated school system. We could easily have moved somewhere else with a lower mortgage in order to afford a private school. I know if class sizes keep going up, many families will be considering doing just this. Please fund the budget in order to prevent this travesty for our children. They deserve better. We deserve better.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Ann Finneran

10714 Moosberger Court

Columbia, MD 21044

Ann Finneran
panda324@verizon.net
10714 Moosberger Court
Columbia , Maryland 21044

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: We need smaller student to teacher ratios

From: Mary DeGrazia <mdegrazia@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 9:09 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: We need smaller student to teacher ratios

[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,

According to my child's experience in Howard County Public Schools, we need smaller class sizes, not larger, to facilitate learning. Larger class sizes make it difficult for teachers to connect individually with students and for teachers to maintain control in their classes. My daughter could not concentrate on learning in her larger classes due to more frequent disruptions from students and teachers needing to stop teaching to address the frequent disruptions. For the sake of our students - our future - please do not increase class sizes in Howard County, MD.

Thank you!

Mary DeGrazia
mdegrazia@msn.com
8235 Styers Ct
Laurel, Maryland 20723

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:33 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget Needs

From: Jess Breedlove <Jessica_Breedlove@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 9:18 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 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,
Jess Breedlove

Jess Breedlove
Jessica_Breedlove@hcpss.org
9405 Falling Waters Ct
Laurel, Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:32 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: School funding

From: Ann-Marie Goforth <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 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,

Good morning,

I am sending this letter in the hope that you are able to fully support our schools in Howard County. I have a vested interest in this because of my two children that attend school here, as well as the fact that I work in the HCPSS. I have seen firsthand how small class sizes help students be their best and do their best. Shy children are not lost in the shuffle and are better able to build relationships with peers and educators. Struggling students are able to receive more attention by instructors. The support they receive is so beneficial and adjustments can be made to make sure their needs are met. Also concerning to me is our goal of closing the achievement gap. With larger class sizes, I foresee the gap getting larger and not smaller. Compounded by the unfortunate cut of the Reading Recovery program, first graders will be at an even bigger disadvantage. That program was the only intervention that supported the lowest readers in a one on one setting with a trained teacher. I'm asking you to please do your best to fund our schools for the children. They deserve the best we can give them every day. Thank you for your time.

Very sincerely,
Ann-Marie Goforth

Ann-Marie Goforth
amalvino@yahoo.com

10863 Olde Woods Way
Columbia , Maryland 21044

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget

From: Michelle Susco <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 9:50 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,

Please increase the budget, not decrease the budget. The students need supplies. Its sad that in a top notch education system, teachers still have to supply so many supplies for themselves and their students. Also, principals and assistant principals are being pulled from managing to school to do things like monitor lunches and recesses. Their expertise and time are better used elsewhere in the school. Please consider these items when considering the budget.

Michelle Susco
michelle.susco@gmail.com
5442 Fallriver Row Court
Columbia, Maryland 21044

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Respected Council members

From: Urmila Murali <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 9:59 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Respected Council members

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

Opal Jones,

It has come to my attention that the HCPSS budgets are being slashed which will directly affect our children studying in this school system. Our children need every bit of attention at school and any change impacting the number of children in each class is not acceptable. I would implore you to consider other alternatives that do not affect the future of these children.

From a concerned mother.

Urmila Murali.

Urmila Murali
umurali15@gmail.com
2821 Burrows Lanw
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Think of the kids

From: Martha Benitez <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 10:06 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Think of the kids

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

Opal Jones,

This will have a detrimental impact on our HCPSS students. How sad that those in charge of our budget are not putting the children first. These large class sizes and Related Arts cuts are unacceptable. Period. Find the money somewhere else!

Martha Benitez
losbeltran4@yahoo.com
6722 second morning ct
Columbia , Maryland 21045

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Class Sizes

From: Danielle Sigamoni <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 10:15 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 purchased a home with the intention of putting my daughter into a great school system. However, I haven't had that experience in the few years she's attend public school here in Howard county. It will now only get worse with the budget/teacher cuts. The already over populated schools will now have larger class sizes and this is EXTREMELY disappointing. Please reconsider this move. We need the OPPOSITE to happen. We need to build more schools and decrease class sizes.

Danielle Sigamoni
dsigamoni@yahoo.com
6518 Overheart lane
Columbia, Maryland 21045

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase Funding to Howard County Schools

From: Jennifer Markwood <jennifer_markwood@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 10:26 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 1:26 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Additional Funding Request

From: Rebecca Akinmurele <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 10:45 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
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.]

Opal Jones,

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,

Rebecca Akinmurele
akinmurele@gmail.com
10405 Glen Spring Lane
Bowie, Maryland 20720

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:26 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increased class sizes

From: Melissa Chambers <mchambers28@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:37 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: Increased class sizes

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

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

I am writing to voice my concern over the proposed increased class sizes at Triadelphia Ridge Elementary school next school year.

I understand that budgets must be kept, but I am strongly opposed to sacrificing the quality of our children's education to do so. Fewer teachers and more students in each classroom will negatively impact the daily learning experience of each child at our school.

Many families, including my own, chose to live in Howard County in large part because of the superior school system offered here. Please show your continued commitment to maintaining this level of excellence by keeping the current teacher-to-student ratio in our county.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melissa Chambers
12841 Folly Quarter Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Current proposed budget concerns

From: Stephanie Pazornik <stephanie_pazornik@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:05 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Current proposed budget concerns

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

Opal Jones,

I am 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. As class sizes currently stand, there is a struggle for 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. If the budget passes as it is currently proposed, it would gravely impact our abilities provide meaningful, thoughtful, and instructionally sound teaching on a daily basis. Please take this into consideration in the coming weeks and do what is right for our school system.

Stephanie Pazornik
stephanie_pazornik@hcpss.org
2 Johnsborough Court
Reisterstown, Maryland 21136

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increase In Class Sizes

From: Lauren Meyer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:08 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Increase In 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 voice my concern about the proposal to increase class sizes in the county due to a budget shortfall. I am very concerned about larger class sizes as large class sizes have a negative impact on students' ability to learn and succeed, and on teachers' ability to teach. Large classes burn out good teachers and affect teacher decisions about whether to continue working at a school. Every time a good teacher leaves the county forfeits its investment in hiring and training that person. Howard County has some of the best schools in the state and the country and I know we all want it to remain that way. I feel if class sizes are increased the children and teachers will all suffer and Howard County will no longer be a place families want to live. Please work with the other county and state officials to find another solution to the budget shortfall.

Lauren Meyer
laurenameyer@gmail.com
7612 Spring Ave
Fulton, Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:23 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Increased class sizes

From: Beth Magen <bmagen@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:15 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,

Howard County has prided itself and become a highly desired place to raise a family in large part because of our quality school system. Increasing class sizes decreases the quality of our education system, period. The education quality and OUR CHILDREN are already suffering with over capacity schools and over crowded classrooms. Class sizes are too large as it is. Increasing class sizes is unacceptable. We pay a lot of money in property taxes to live in HoCo and our children deserve A quality education with reasonable class sizes and adequate resources, in terms of school facilities, teachers and support staff, and other education resources. The children of our county should be top priority, above unnecessary buildings and new courthouses.

Beth Magen
bmagen@comcast.net
7127 Rivers Edge Road
Columbia , Maryland 21044

■

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:23 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Crisis Social Worker

From: Naomi Haberman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:15 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Crisis Social Worker

[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.

I am a crisis social worker in a regional ED program and it is extremely challenging to teach coping skills and truly get to know my students if they are packed tightly into classrooms.

Thank you for your consideration,

Naomi Haberman, LCSW-C, DBT-C
Waterloo ES

Naomi Haberman

naomihaberman@gmail.com

5467 Tilted Stone

COLUMBIA, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:23 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget and class sizes

From: Michelle Cohen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:17 PM
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,

I am concerned about the raising the number of students per class. In this county, I expect a high quality education for my child such as it has been known to provide. Increasing the number of students per class places extra burdens on the teacher: more work, more time spent management of student behavior which means less time to focus on academics and individual attention to students.

Please maintain or reduce class sizes not increase and keep Howard County a top notch school system!

Michelle Cohen
therapybeagles@gmail.com
10714 cleos ct
Columbia, Maryland Md

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:38 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

From: Jessica Felix <jessica_felix@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 11:11 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,

Hello,

I am writing about the current budget needs of the Howard County Public School System. As a proud graduate of HCPSS (Long Reach- 2005) and currently a school psychologist within the county, I have experienced the strong school system as both a student and an employee. One of the biggest problems 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. As a school psychologist, I see these struggles daily with increased referrals to special education to "get students the support they need" as they are unable to differentiate and provide the necessary interventions to support students given the increased class sizes. While providing consultation and requesting data to help develop appropriate interventions, teachers struggle with being able to provide this necessary data when they have inappropriate class sizes. Teachers are spread way too thin by increasing their demands, increasing their students, and decreasing their supports (paraeducators, student assistants, school psychologists, school counselors, other related service providers, special education staff, etc). With growing concerns about students' social and emotional well-being, we must have decreased class sizes and properly staff other positions so that students are able to have the supports that they need. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) recommend one school psychologist to every 500-700 students. We are operating significantly above this ratio, which decreases our ability to provide support and services so desperately

needed within the school setting. In addition, the school counselor's national association has recommended ratios for their positions as well. However, per COMAR only the middle and high school levels are staffed in accordance with these recommended ratios. The biggest ways to enable staff to impact students' social and emotional well-being are to have less students in all classes, have appropriate staffing of school psychologists and school counselors, and hire appropriate numbers of special education staff members. The only way to make this possible is to increase funding to hire more teachers, school counselors, school psychologists, and special education teachers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Felix

Jessica Felix

jessica_felix@hcpss.org

5407 Sykesville Road

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

▪

Sayers, Margery

From: Debra Schwarzl <debra_schwarzl@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Extreme Concerns

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

Council Members ,

To whom this may concern,

Please read my concerns with a heart ready for change.

I teach my class of 30 students each day how to be a citizen in the world.

I teach my class of 30 students each day how to handle tough situations with friends and family members.

I teach my class of 30 students each day how to put on a Band-Aid.

I teach my class of 30 students each day how to speak to a peer when they disagree.

I teach my class of 30 students each day how to avoid strangers on the internet.

I teach my class of 30 students each day how to properly use a computer and type.

I teach my class of 30 students each day how to clean up after themselves.

I teach my class of 30 students each day how to tie their shoes.

On top of all this, I teach my class of 30 students each day, mathematics, writing, reading, health, social studies, and science.

On top of all this, I teach my class of 30 students each day, differentiated instruction for all learners.

On top of all this, I teach my class of 30 students each day, varied instructions based on comprehension and abilities.

On top of all this, I prepare for math whole group instruction and math small group which as a county demand we are required to use the instructional models provided, which in return, is 15 students each due to the model being a two group model.

On top of all this, I prepare for social-emotional learning, which is not only preparing them to self-regulate but also handle difficult situations in the future with peers and/or friends.

On top of all this, I prepare for whole group writing and find time in my week to complete writing conferences with all 30 students.

On top of all this, I prepare for whole group reading. Furthermore, I prepare for individualized

small group reading instruction based on reading assessments that I administer four times a year to 30 students.

On top of all this, I plan social studies activities, meaningful science experiments, and important health lessons.

I value and respect your job as a county councilman. I value and respect your duties and demands.

I'd like you to value mine.

Not only my profession but the students' right to free and appropriate education.

I encourage you to come in my classroom, a distinguished teacher, for a day and teach a lesson that I plan for you. I encourage you to understand the importance of passing an appropriate budget to support our future.

Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss this further. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,

Debra Schwarzl

Debra_Schwarzl@hcpss.org

Debra Schwarzl

debra_schwarzl@hcpss.org

7075 Montgomery Rd

Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Danny Mackey <daniel.b.mackey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:25 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: FY2020 HCPSS Operating Budget
Attachments: HCPSS_BOE_FY2020-OperatingBudget.pdf

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

Chair Ellis and Members of the Board,

Please read the attached letter regarding the importance of maintaining a dedication to classroom learning in adjustment and adoption of the FY2020 operating budget. I urge you to begin shrinking administrative budgets before increasing class sizes and surplussing educators.

Thank you.

In Service,
Danny Mackey

Daniel Mackey
4273 Coattail Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042



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

May 3rd, 2019

Chair Ellis and Members of the Howard County Board of Education,

Two years ago around this time I was in front of the Board of Education demanding that they honor negotiated agreements with the Howard County Education Association. I argued then that it is unjust to hold educator salaries hostage, that educators have enough on their plate and should not have to worry that their elected officials will not honor their agreements.

Now, I write you to ensure you honor something even more important to our educators than their salary: their positions themselves and the negative student, systemic, and personal outcomes that will come from recent discussions surrounding surplussing educators and increasing class sizes. I said then, "shrink the Central Office before you shrink our teachers' paychecks." I implore you now: shrink the Central Office before you shrink our teaching staff. Increase the burden on our administrators before you increase the burden on our educators.


It is consistently agreed upon in our community that the people of Howard County value smaller class sizes, the benefit of which is supported by research. Considering the campaign positions of each member of the Board of Education elected since 2016 I believe it is fair to say that the people of Howard County also value a smaller, more effective, and less burdensome Central Office bureaucracy.

I heard recently from a dedicated, impressive, top-notch first year teacher who is petrified of losing her job due to Howard County's inability to fund teaching positions. The great personal toll mass surpluses will have on educators who have invested in our community is just one piece of the puzzle. We already lose talented individuals to surrounding jurisdictions due to delayed hiring practices. How many more will forgo employment with our school system with the knowledge that their position may felled just as their career is beginning to take root?

As stated in a previous letter, the budgetary process gives each of you the opportunity to make difficult decisions, show real courage in priority setting, and set our school system up for an equitable year to come. The heart of the Howard County Public School System is in its name: 'schools.' Begin your dialogue on budget cuts in Central Office, particularly at midlevel administration and rapidly-growing executive offices. Prioritize classroom positions and student learning in the FY2020 budget.

Thank you.

In Service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Mackey', written over the printed name.

Daniel Mackey
Education Advocate

Graduate of Wilde Lake High School, 2012

Candidate for Howard County Board of Education, 2018

Sayers, Margery

From: Kimberly Gregory <kimberly_gregory@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Is it best for our kids?

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

Council Members ,

To whom it may concern,

When I applied to the county two years ago, I did so because of the reputation for excellence and the support given for teachers. In my first two years as a teacher, I have seen this support and this excellence firsthand. I now fear that this reputation will be tarnished as my ability to support students will be negatively impacted by growing class sizes and less support staff. I hope to serve as a teacher in this county for many years to come as I love my profession more than anything. With that being said, I cannot love my job and my work if I leave everyday tired and worn down. The research suggests that new teachers are being burned out within their first 5 years of teaching, so I ask you, are you willing to lose hundreds of new teachers because of this decision? I invite you to come out to my school and support me for a day in the classroom. I urge you to think about how this decision will impact the principals, teachers, support staff, families, but most importantly the students. Will we still be a world-renowned system even if we can't even teach our kids with all the proper tools and resources? I thank you for your thoughtful consideration!

Kimberly Gregory
kimberly_gregory@hcpss.org
7336 Eden Brook Drive, 1017
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget needs

From: Heather Newman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 11:38 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,

Dear Council,

I am an educator at Bollman Bridge. Please think of the students when you are deciding the budget.

Our staff gasped with disbelief when we saw the class size numbers. Please remember why the current caps are in place--to provide a safe environment to support engagement and optimal learning of all students. A third grade class at 33, for example, is not an environment that ensures quality and safety. There would be too many groups or groups that are too big to meet with the teacher for reading or math groups. Our classrooms are too small to comfortably and safely hold that many desks and kids.

The teachers were grateful that they were recognized for the great work they do when you increased their salary to a fair pay. But if you choose to pass the budget, you are adding more responsibility, and are not showing us that you value what we have been doing, and are asking us to teach in an environment that does not adequately support learning and safety of students.

Please, please, please we ask you to reconsider the increased class size proposal. This year we suffered from staffing too low to allow me my non-duty planning time. Four out of 5 of my afternoon planning times were spent with students to ensure their safety. unfortunately I am

not alone in this. So many other teachers stepped in to help out when they should have been eating lunch or planning at school instead of adding more planning time at home. Thank you for considering this letter.

Heather Newman

Heather Newman

heathernewman32@gmail.com

1253 linden ave

halethorpe, Maryland 21227

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:02 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for Our Schools

From: Christine Machado <christine_machado@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:01 PM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for Our Schools

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

Opal Jones,

I am writing you to express my concerns over the lack of funding for HCPSS. As an experienced educator, I can tell you the proposed changes to class sizes will have an EXTREMELY detrimental effect on both students and teachers. While it may seem that "only" adding 2 students to each upper elementary classroom would not make a big difference, I can tell you it will. Our resources (materials, time, etc.) are already depleted, and this will worsen the problem. The amount of time that it takes to grade, plan, write report cards, provide interventions, and prepare small group lessons is already dwindling, causing many teachers to spend their valuable time at home doing work for their classrooms. Increasing class sizes will make this problem even worse. HCPSS prides itself on small group instruction and interventions. With 33 students in a class, this becomes nearly impossible. Students will not receive the individualized attention and instruction that they deserve. Please consider this as you make finalization to the budget for our school system. Thank you for your time.

Christine Machado
christine_machado@hcpss.org
11575 Frederick Rd.
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:02 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Detrimental Budget Cuts

From: Lindsay Powell <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 11:59 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Detrimental 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 Councilmen,

I am writing as the best friend of one of your teachers. I watched through college, her master's program, student teaching and finally getting her own class. However, a year after getting her dream job of teaching Spanish to kindergarteners, the language program was cut and she was surplussed. I watched the stress of having to worry about what would happen in the next year and the sadness from her students who would no longer learn Spanish. After that year, she was luckily found another position, however, as a second grade teacher this time. I have never seen someone strive so hard to provide the best experience possible for these students. Working constantly to ensure that she could provide what these students needed even though she had never done it before. These teachers are working tirelessly to provide the best education to their students even though your decisions are contributing to a tough situation. Increasing class sizes can only further stress the teacher and degrade the experience of the students. As someone getting ready to start a family, this is not the kind of environment where I would want to send my children. A county that doesn't value the importance of what these teachers are doing and the incredible time and effort that they put into this position. These teachers are truly incredible, and yes they will continue to strive even if you continue to make their situation more difficult, but why further degrade the situation of both the teacher and the student? Please reconsider these budget cuts and give these children, our future, the education that they deserve.

Thank you,
Lindsay Powell

Lindsay Powell
lindsayerin3393@gmail.com
2445 Holly Avenue, Apt 558
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 11:58 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget needs/Class sizes

From: Darlene Ekop <darlene_ekop@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 11:54 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Budget needs/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 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,

Darlene Ekop
darlene_ekop@hcpss.org
6920 Scarlet Oak Drive
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Barbara Krupiarz -GOC- <barbara.krupiarz1@maryland.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 10:28 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org
Subject: HCPSS salaries

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

My apologies to all.

I believe I had removed duplicates in the spreadsheets. However, teachers were listed as teaching multiple grades and multiple courses. Once I pulled those out, the differences in salaries per year was only \$800,000 for teachers and \$500,000 for nonteachers.



Barbara Krupiarz
Deputy Director
Office of Education Accountability
Governor's Office for Children
[100 Community Place](#)
[Crownsville, Maryland 21032](#)
barbara.krupiarz1@maryland.gov
410.697.9247 (office)

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...Please consider the environment before printing this email

Sayers, Margery

From: Barbara Krupiarz -GOC- <barbara.krupiarz1@maryland.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 10:02 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org
Subject: HCPSS salaries

[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 pulled information from the MPIA database from HCPSS. After removing duplicate entries in the two spreadsheet that list all HCPSS salaries in 2017 (November) and 2018 (September), the following information is for all salaries over \$100,000:

2017
1,007 employees
total - \$115,570,186

2018
1,266 employees
total - \$141,581,924

difference - 259 more employees making > \$100K and an additional \$26,011,738 salary costs



Barbara Krupiarz
Deputy Director
Office of Education Accountability
Governor's Office for Children
[100 Community Place](#)
[Crownsville, Maryland 21032](#)
barbara.krupiarz1@maryland.gov
410.697.9247 (office)

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...Please consider the environment before printing this email

Sayers, Margery

From: Rebecca Carter <rebeccacarter83@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:10 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth
Subject: Vote to fully fund the school boards budget request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Dear elected official,

I am a voting district 1 voting constituent who recently moved to Howard county specifically due to the strength of the school system. As a practicing pediatrician, I see first hand the ill effects of an over crowded school system. Please vote against any budgetary efforts that would result in increased classroom sizes in favor of protecting our children and their education.

Thank you,
Rebecca Carter, MD

HCPSS
CR68-2019

Sayers, Margery

From: Nastasha Knight <nastasha_knight@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:15 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: High Needs

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

Christiana Rigby,

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: Mandy Crawley <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:14 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
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.]

Christiana Rigby,

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,

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: Megan Hodgins <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 9:02 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS budget

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

Christiana Rigby,

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Suzanne Ludicke <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:51 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS budget

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

Christiana Rigby,

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: Mary Ann McCue <mary_ann_mccue@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:49 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS Budget

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

Christiana Rigby,

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: Marisa Kavka <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:51 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Budget

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

Christiana Rigby,

As a staff member and as a parent in hcpss 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: Lorna Walls <lorna_walls@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 8:57 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
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.]

Christiana Rigby,

I am a parent of students attending public schools in Howard County and a Paraeducator in the county also. I am urging that HCPSS receives the funding necessary to run our schools effectively. As a parent, I have had children in this school system for 15 years. I am have been lucky that my children have mostly had smaller class sizes which has helped with their education. Being a Paraeducator, I see first hand how larger class sizes effects learning. Every class that I have assisted in has children who learn on different levels. My major concern is that the children who are not the top nor the bottom will suffer. It is too much to ask one teacher to educate 33 students who have a variety of learning abilities. My fear is that we will start to see more children fail. I hope that the future of our children will be put first and the additional funding will be granted. Thank you!

Lorna Walls
lorna_walls@hcpss.org
10114 Silver Twine
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Danielle McGee <Danielle_McGee@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 5:10 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Additional public school funds request

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

Christiana Rigby,

I work in one of the BEST county's for public education for our students. However, the lack of staffing and funds all go towards the number one goal of teachers and service providers- to give our children the BEST education they DESERVE! Please help us with extra funding to continue in our fight to provide our kids the appropriate education they NEED to thrive and change the world!

Danielle McGee
Danielle_McGee@hcpss.org
11940 Scaggsville Rd
Clarksville, Maryland 20759

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 7:02 PM
To: Karah Palmer; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Rafiu Ighile; Sandra Austin
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. Palmer:

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.

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: Karah Palmer <knpalmer.palmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:26 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

Greetings,

As a Howard County resident and alumnus of Howard County Public Schools, I want to ensure Howard County children have access to high quality education.

I am writing to express my support for increased funding from the Council. Increased funding should support development of Black and Hispanic student achievement programs, expansion of mental health services and training, and additional staff positions in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the children of HCPSS.

Sincerely,
Karah Palmer

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 7:02 PM
To: Charles Koplik; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Rafiu Ighile; Sandra Austin
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 Mr. Koplik:

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.

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: Charles Koplik <cmkoplik@alum.mit.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 3:33 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Equity in HCPSS Operating Budget

Hi,

I am a member of Temple Isaiah of Fulton, Maryland and have a grandchild in the HCPSS. Please ensure that there is adequate funding for equity in the HCPSS operating budget. Specifically, ensure funding for expansion of critical mental health services. There are literally lives at stake here.

Second, provide funding for Black Student Achievement and Hispanic Liaisons to support students and families and staff positions in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office to further implement the work. I recently participated with hundreds in the Howard County Courageous Conversations on Race & Religious Bias, and my subgroup (and others) was very focused on the public schools and the increasing and significant gaps present.

Finally, the development of a mandatory anti-bias curriculum was also seen as an urgent priority, by our religiously and racially diverse group. As a Jew, this strikes me as particularly necessary as the explosion of hate crimes and religious and racial intolerance make early education a critical need.

Chuck Koplik
617-571-8602

Sayers, Margery

From: Charles Koplik <cmkoplik@alum.mit.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 3:33 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.]

Hi,

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Second, provide funding for Black Student Achievement and Hispanic Liaisons to support students and families and staff positions in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office to further implement the work. I recently participated with hundreds in the Howard County Courageous Conversations on Race & Religious Bias, and my subgroup (and others) was very focused on the public schools and the increasing and significant gaps present.

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Chuck Koplik
617-571-8602

Sayers, Margery

From: Karah Palmer <knpalmer.palmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:26 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.]

Greetings,

As a Howard County resident and alumnus of Howard County Public Schools, I want to ensure Howard County children have access to high quality education.

I am writing to express my support for increased funding from the Council. Increased funding should support development of Black and Hispanic student achievement programs, expansion of mental health services and training, and additional staff positions in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the children of HCPSS.

Sincerely,
Karah Palmer

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 6:41 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: General Ed Students w/issues

From: Joel Trumper <joel_trumper@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 6:35 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: General Ed Students w/issues

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

Christiana Rigby,

Our mission as a school system is great. To achieve these goals, additional support staff are direly needed to aide seriously disruptive Gen Ed students. We need a behavior specialist and a team of dedicated assistants to transform our dysfunctional school climate. It is dysfunctional. I may be giving you a dose of unwanted truth... but this is the reality of whats going on in our "world class" Howard County school system.

There are lots of able-minded kids happily jumping around throwing erasers, knocking books off racks, calling out to interrupt lessons because admin says "don't send them to me," and too many are acting this way for one teacher to handle.

Come on! Either hire a behavior specialist for schools in need, or get guidance counselors and school psychologists to do more than have lunch bunches and write IEP's.

Joel Trumper
joel_trumper@hcpss.org
6575 Twilight Glow Dr
Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 5:47 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: opal jones

From: Deborah Costley <debbie_costley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: opal jones

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

Christiana Rigby,

I am writing to ask for continued support of full funding for the HCPSS staff. As a paraeducator our salaries are among the lowest . Having lived in Howard County all my life it is a constant struggle to make ends meet. For example even though I live in HUD housing my bring home is far less than my monthly rent.

I have to split checks in half to make rent but always end up with late fees because rent is due by the 5th. Very often I work with other staff who work multiple jobs but based on my age and some health issues that is not possible.

Deborah Costley
debbie_costley@hcpss.org
3294 Corporate Court
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: increased revenue for our schools

From: Georgianne Mcneirney-Rewalt <georgianne_mcneirney-rewalt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 2:21 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: increased revenue for our schools

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

Christiana Rigby,

Howard County is a sought after school system .Our students are tour top priority. Increased revenue is needed to keep our school system vibrant .

Georgianne Mcneirney-Rewalt
georgianne_mcneirney-rewalt@hcpss.org
9101 Montpelier Drive
Laurel, Maryland 20708

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding for Education

From: Judy Brubaker <judy_brubaker@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Funding for Education

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

Christiana Rigby,

Hello,

I want to express what I see as a need as a teacher and resident of Howard County. Our schools need the proposed budget fully funded to try to gain back what we have lost over the years. I have been a teacher here for over 30 years and a resident for over 10. The quality of education that my daughter is now receiving is lower than prior years. Many students' basic needs are not being met. We need more resources such as school nurses, social workers, counselors, special educators, one-to-one workers, and teachers. Class sizes need to be reduced to provide a better education. Materials need to be provided. Students often come to school needing pencils, paper, and organizational materials. Curricular materials need to be provided as well so teacher's have more time to provide instruction for students rather than running around finding materials and spending hours at the copier.

Teacher's also need to feel valued. By funding teacher salaries, medical coverage, building maintenance, and materials, you are sending a message that teacher's needs are being heard and are valued.

Please fund the budget for this coming year and in the future.

Sincerely,

Judy Brubaker

Judy Brubaker

judy_brubaker@hcpss.org

4550 Vinter Way
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Programs eliminated due to budget

From: Jill Reynolds <jill_reynolds@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:15 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Programs eliminated due to budget

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

Christiana Rigby,

As you may be aware, a recent decision by Stephanie Milligan, Coordinator of Elementary Language Arts, to “re-purpose” Reading Recovery teachers and eliminate Reading Recovery, a twenty-year tradition in Howard County, was approved.

The result of such a decision is now impacting all Title 1 schools, where Reading Recovery is implemented. For the 2019-2020 school year, all Reading Recovery positions will be changed into a .5 Reading Specialist position. Due to the cut in Reading Recovery, my 1.0 position (.5 Reading Recovery and .5 Reading Specialist) will turn into a .5 Reading Specialist position. My principal, Derek Anderson, informed me on February 21, I no longer have a full time position at Longfellow Elementary due to this change. Longfellow will be short a .5 reading position. This is a reduction in staffing from the previous years. Cutting the reading positions at Longfellow means fewer students, who are reading below grade level, will receive additional support. School-wide 71 students at Longfellow Elementary are currently receiving additional reading instruction. This number includes some kindergarten and Special Education students.

Ms. Milligan stated she wanted to increase reading positions across the county. The repercussion of such a decision is decreasing support in the Title 1 schools, who have the most in need students. I agree students who need additional support throughout the county should receive help, but should that come at the expense of the neediest students? It doesn't seem logical. Reading Recovery is mandated to serve the lowest achieving first grade

students. What does seem clear is the need for more Reading Specialists while maintaining Reading Recovery in Title 1 schools.

Thank you,

Jill Reynolds

Reading Recovery teacher/ Reading Specialist

Jill Reynolds

jill_reynolds@hcpss.org

3606 Woodbine Road

Woodbine, Maryland 21797

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:28 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: For the safety of our students and staff

From: Cindy Wren <CINDY_WREN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 3:25 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: For the safety of our students and staff

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

Christiana Rigby,

Hello,

I'm writing to you today with concerns about our staff and students. Howard County is known for it's wonderful Special Education programs. However, if the funding is not available for the programs and staff to run the programs, we will be in crisis. In order for the staff to teach, we must have the funding for additional staffing. This is not just a staff issue, but a safety issue. Please look at the program as a whole and support us with more funding for these programs.

Sincerely,

Cindy Wren

Cindy Wren

CINDY_WREN@hcpss.org

8113 Morning Breeze Drive
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 2:08 PM
To: patricia.lins@yahoo.com; CouncilMail
Cc: BoE Email; Louise Green
Subject: RE: [External] Latin American Council - LAC Testimonies this week on HCPSS Budget

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

Dear Ms. Silva:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. All testimony has been posted in BoardDocs, and the Board appreciates your valuable input. Once again, thank you for contacting the Board.

Kind regards,

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

From: patricia.lins@yahoo.com <patricia.lins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 6:46 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Louise Green <lgpathiaf@gmail.com>
Subject: [External] Latin American Council - LAC Testimonies this week on HCPSS Budget

Hello, members of Howard County Council, and Board of Education:

Please consider the experience of LAC and our testimonies to the Board of Education Public Hearing on April 25th, for the work sessions Monday, April 29th, on Public Education. Find below attachments with our testimonies.

LAC supports Equity measures to close the growing achievement gap among minority student groups in our school system.

Thanks in advance,

Patricia Silva
LAC Co-President

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Louise Green; BoE Email
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: [External] Teen Interfaith Testimony 2/Mental Health

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

Dear Rev. Green:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. We have received your email with the student's anonymous testimony. However, only testimony with a full name is accepted.

Sincerely,

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

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

From: Louise Green <lgpathiaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 5:10 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>
Cc: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Teen Interfaith Testimony 2/Mental Health

This comes from an Atholton HS student who wishes to remain anonymous, as written testimony for mental health services.

Thank you,
Rev. Louise Green
PATH

Sayers, Margery

From: Aimee Kandelman <aimee_kandelman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 1:21 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
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.]

Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Council:

I am writing to advocate for the increasing budgetary needs of the school system. This is my 16th year in HCPSS, and I have been commuting so that I can work here. However, what I observe is so distressing that I fear I may have to leave and I observe good people around me leave every year. One of the hallmarks of this school system was the class sizes ratio. Each year that class sizes increase and special ed staffing decreases (or at least, is not increased), I see our behavior data increase as well as the stress levels of staff. This is detrimental to student learning and untenable for staff.

The amount of time needed to stay in compliance on special education paperwork could be a full time job in and of itself, but teachers must teach! So not all things get done in a timely manner and that is also detrimental. The stress of not being able to keep up on a daily basis takes it toll. On paper, many salary levels appear to look good, but when you look at the hourly wage after factoring in all the overtime, the pay is actually not satisfactory, not to mention the deductions for out of pocket expenses to supplement instructional and behavioral initiatives.

Lastly, I am concerned about increasing safety concerns, not just resulting from inadequate staffing to address student needs, but also deferred maintenance of buildings that is sorely needed.

There are many priorities in the county, the school system is but one, but the education and safety of our children is absolutely paramount - and will only create additional problems if not adequately addressed.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and all the work that you do!

Aimee Kandelman

aimee_kandelman@hcpss.org

6907 Meadowlake Road

New Market, Maryland 21774

Sayers, Margery

From: Steven Lewis <steven_lewis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 1:09 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
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.]

Christiana Rigby,

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for funding the HCEA negotiated agreement. I am writing to you in regards to the lack of overall funds that leaves gaps in several high need areas such as: additional staffing in special & general education, professional training, behavioral supports, and equity initiatives. We need your support to meet the needs of all our student's in the HCPSS.

Sincerely,

Steven Lewis

Sixth Grade SS Teacher

Mount View Middle School

Steven Lewis

steven_lewis@hcpss.org

7638-A Stony Creek Lane

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Deborah Vo <deborah_vo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 12:50 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
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.]

Christiana Rigby,

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: Beth Goodman <BETH_GOODMAN@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 12:44 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
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.]

Christiana Rigby,

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: Brian Donoughe <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 12:08 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: budget

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

Christiana Rigby,

Please increase the money going to HCPSS students.

Thank you

Brian Donoughe
bdonoughe@gmail.com
6171 Clearsmoke Court
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Colleen Morris <cmorris@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: HCPSS Budget

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

Christiana Rigby,

Dear County Council,

Last year the 11M that the County gave to HCPSS in one time funds was directed to rising employee health care. This is a reoccurring cost and thus, we need it again this year. Please try your best to, again, provide additional funds so that our BoE does not have to cut essential supports that will hurt our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Colleen Morris

River Hill

Colleen Morris

cmorris@hcpss.org

6432 Quiet Night Ride

Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Hamdorf-Torrens <JENNIFER_HAMDORF@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:30 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: Help your teachers

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

Christiana Rigby,

Please come visit our classrooms and sit down to talk with teachers about their needs (not a panel of selected teachers, a real, true, Q&A): 1) smaller class sizes 2) Less personnel at Central Office taking away funds from classrooms 3) updated technology 4) more flexible scheduling to allow for personalized learning models such as Summit Learning Program 5) more flexible scheduling to help middle school students navigate the new world they exist in. We cannot continue to exist on the funds we have; you are asking way too much of teachers. The burnout is real and the replacements are few.

Sincerely Jen Hamdorf-Torrens

Jennifer Hamdorf-Torrens
JENNIFER_HAMDORF@hcpss.org
3 Fairfield Drive
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Sayers, Margery

From: Donna Cerbo <donna_cerbo@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:22 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana
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.]

Christiana Rigby,

Please fund our schools so we can hire additional staff and supports for our students. Thank you for the funds for the negotiated contracts.

Donna Cerbo
donna_cerbo@hcpss.org
3005 John Bernard Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Roger Thibaudeau <Roger.Thibaudeau@howard-autism.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 6:57 AM
To: BOE@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Cc: Kathleen V. Hanks; Melissa Rosenberg; loriscottrn1@yahoo.com; superintendent@hcpss.org; Terrell Savage; william_barnes@hcpss.org; Patrick Boxall; lisa wilson
Subject: Work Session on FY20 Budget
Attachments: 20190429 - HCPSS Budget Testimony 2nd Letter.pdf; 20190121 - HCPSS Budget Testimony Letter final.pdf

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

Good Morning,

Please see attached a letter from the Howard County Autism Society regarding the special education portion of the FY20 budget. Our previous January testimony to the BOE is also attached to this email.

Yours Sincerely,
Roger Thibaudeau
Chair, Education Advocacy Committee
Howard County Autism Society



April 29, 2019

To: Howard County Public School Systems (HCPSS) Board of Education (BOE)
Howard County Council
Howard County Executive

CC: Dr. Michael Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent
William Barnes, HCPSS Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Terri Savage, HCPSS Executive Director of Special Education
Lori Scott, Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Chair

From: Education Advocacy Committee – Howard County Autism Society (HCAS)

Subject: HCAS Testimony Related to HCPSS Portion of FY20 Howard County Budget

References: (1) January 21, 2019 HCAS Written Testimony on FY20 Budget to BOE

Dear HCPSS BOE Representatives, Howard County Council Members, and County Executive Dr. Ball,

On behalf of the Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) and specifically its Education Advocacy Committee, I am writing to you today ahead of the upcoming budget work session to express our concern for the adequacy of funding for special education services in the FY20 budget.

The gap between what HCPSS believes we need and what the county believes we can afford is large. \$84,000,000 large. The budget put forth by the County Executive Dr. Ball provides approximately \$605 million for the school system, which is significantly below the BOE budget request of \$689 million, and even further below Dr. Martirano's initial budget request of \$723 million in County funds. It is clear that there is a lot of work ahead to finalize a school budget. While the school team goes back to look at places to cut, I also urge county leadership to look for ways to increase the proposed school budget so that we can continue to invest in our future in Howard County.

HCAS has long been concerned about the lack of adequate staff and training to serve our students in Howard County receiving special education services. That is why we stood in strong support for the special education portion of the budget request put forth by Dr. Martirano, Dr. Savage and their staff. Our January testimony (included with this submittal) details that support, highlighting three key areas:

1. The addition of key behavioral support positions
2. The increase in staff to support our K-12 students, and
3. The apparent shift from Temporary Employee (TE) positions to Student Assistant (SA) positions.

We believed all three of these helped to address the staffing and training gaps and positioned HCPSS to better handle the growing complexities of needs of the students and work towards the best practice of meaningful inclusion.

Providing Support • Promoting Awareness • Advocating for Change

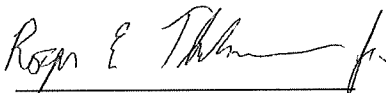
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 308 • Columbia, MD 21046
410-290-3466 • www.howard-autism.org • info@howard-autism.org

Howard County Autism Society

Since that testimony, the BOE revision cut the special education additional staffing request nearly in half and, given the County Executive proposed budget, it is inevitable that the request will be further reduced. However, we fear too many more cuts in special education will severely hamstring the ability to make the needed improvements spelled out in the special education strategic plan and stunt our opportunities for improvement. As a county, it is in our long term best interest to give these students as many opportunities as possible to become supportive members of society. We can pay for it now, or we can pay for it later with higher unemployment and higher needs for community assistance as the population ages out of school.

Make no mistake, we understand that that fiscal realities of the county revenue sources do not allow for funding of the full budget put forth by HCPSS. We understand there will need to be more cuts across the board. And we understand there are many worthy programs that deserve funding. We just ask that our most vulnerable students, who have been marginalized in past budgets under previous school leadership, be taken into special consideration as new cuts are considered.

Yours sincerely,



Roger E. Thibaudeau, Jr.
Chair, Education Advocacy Cmte
Howard County Autism Society

Melissa Rosenberg
Executive Director
Howard County Autism Society

Patrick Boxall
President, Board of Directors
Howard County Autism Society



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

January 22, 2019

To: Howard County Board of Education

CC: Dr. Michael Martirano, HCPSS Superintendent
William Barnes, HCPSS Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Terri Savage, HCPSS Executive Director of Special Education
Lori Scott, Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) Chair

From: Education Advocacy Committee – Howard County Autism Society (HCAS)

Subject: HCAS Support of HCPSS Budget Request Related to Special Education

Dear HCPSS Board of Education Representatives,

On behalf of the Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) and specifically its Education Advocacy Committee, I am writing to you today to express our strong support for the special education portion of the FY20 Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) Budget submitted by Superintendent Dr. Martirano.

As the county population grows, so too does the number of special education students being supported by HCPSS. The FY20 budget predicts 5500 students age 6-21, and over 1500 students under age 6 will be receiving special education services administered by HCPSS. For K-12, that is a 12% growth in just two years. For early intervention, that percentage is nearly 19% over the same two years. Along with sheer growth in numbers, we have also seen a rise in the complexity and diversity of needs of students across the county. When you add to that the effects of ineffective leadership and program underfunding in the previous HCPSS administration, the result is a critical shortage of resources supporting our special education students.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Dr. Martirano, Mr. Barnes, and especially to Dr. Savage and her team for working diligently to develop the budget we as a community requested; one that takes an honest look at what is required to properly support some of our more vulnerable students. This is what we have been asking for. This is what the system believes it needs to properly provide the Free and Appropriate Public Education that is an inherent right for each and every one of our students.

We would like to call your attention to three areas of the special education portion of the HCPSS budget:

1. *The addition of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and the behavioral support positions.* With increasing numbers of students, growing complexity of needs and the importance of proper behavioral interventions before escalation, it is key to get additional supports for staff. This provides key steps towards ensuring proper development of Behavior Intervention Plans

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Howard County Autism Society

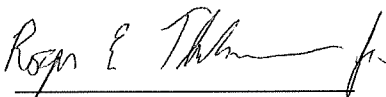
(BIPs), training of staff on the proper implementation of BIPs, and ongoing, more frequent, review of BIPs.

2. *The approximately 139 additional special education staff requested in the K-12 grades.* This number is what is required to adequately cover the students currently in the system as well as provide the proper supports to those students. If we want to include our children in their home schools and have them benefit from learning alongside their peers, then we need to ensure they are properly supported. This staffing increase request is critical to providing the needed support for Grades K and above in our schools and ensuring the best practice of meaningful inclusion that was once a hallmark of HCPSS.
3. *Included in the staffing plans both in early intervention and K-12 services appears to be a focus to move the 'TE' (temporary employee) positions to 'SA' (student assistant) positions.* While in some cases there is not a net gain in student supports, there is a long-term gain in the efficacy of those supports. We believe that by directly employing those who provide the day-to-day and hour-to-hour supports for our students we get the double-benefit of reduced turnover of staff as well as additional training opportunities that are not otherwise available with contracted services. This helps to address the areas of increased consistency and proper training that are highlighted as needs in the HCPSS Special Education Strategic plan.

Make no mistake. This budget request is a large number. However, the growth in the special education portion is an acknowledgement of the shortfalls we are facing in our current operational budget to address the gaps in resources required to give our children the proper education to which they are entitled. We also understand that this is only the beginning. With the growing staff comes the need for increased training, and we appreciate that training is a key performance indicator identified throughout the special education sections of the budget document.

Once again, we thank the HCPSS leadership for addressing the needs of our special education students in this FY20 budget request. We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts with Dr. Savage and all those at HCPSS who serve the special education community.

Yours sincerely,



Roger E. Thibaudeau, Jr.
Chair, Education Advocacy Cmte
Howard County Autism Society

Melissa Rosenberg
Executive Director
Howard County Autism Society

Patrick Boxall
President, Board of Directors
Howard County Autism Society

Sayers, Margery

From: patricia.lins@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 6:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; Louise Green
Subject: Latin American Council - LAC Testimonies this week on HCPSS Budget
Attachments: Cesar Lucero BOE April 2019.docx; ThaisMoreira_04252019 BOE.docx; Patricia Testimony April 2019 BoE Edited Dora.docx; Fiorela Testimony April 2019-2 -Edited.docx

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

Hello, members of Howard County Council, and Board of Education:

Please consider the experience of LAC and our testimonies to the Board of Education Public Hearing on April 25th, for the work sessions Monday, April 29th, on Public Education. Find below attachments with our testimonies.

LAC supports Equity measures to close the growing achievement gap among minority student groups in our school system.

Thanks in advance,

Patricia Silva
LAC Co-President

Hello, my name is Cesar Lucero. One of the biggest needs that I find are communications between school systems and parents. It can be difficult for parents to get involved with their child's life if they don't receive or understand information from schools sometimes. For example, my oldest brother, class of 2014, had little to no help from my parents when it came to finding scholarships, what colleges to go to, or knowing what kind of opportunities he could have had if he worked towards something starting his freshman year. My parent's primary language is Spanish, their English is not the best. So, when it came to check up on how my oldest brother was doing, all that they really understood was to attend parent teacher conferences, it was good enough for them at the time. Needless to say, without that much guidance, he would only preoccupy himself with the grades. As long as he made sure his grades were fine, everything was okay. Until his late junior and early senior year, he realized what he had done throughout high school wasn't much to work with when it came down to finding scholarships and other opportunities for other colleges. Even when it came down to just applying for colleges, he had to figure it out himself. Even now as the third child, things aren't that much better. However, with LAC (Latin American Counsel), my parents and I did get better understandings of what was to come later on when I would reach senior year; the colleges, scholarships, and careers. But even then, accessing all this information still isn't that feasible, but it doesn't necessarily mean the information isn't out there, but it's not always communicated or reached. If parents could have all this information from various resources easily, they could play a huge role for their child when it comes to developing their future, instead of the child trying to do it all themselves where they could feel lost or not know what actions to take.

Cesar Lucero

April 25th, 2019

Dear HCPSS BOE,

Thanks for the opportunity to share my views about the proposed budget.

I am Dr. Thais Moreira and am a resident of Howard County Maryland. My son is enrolled in the HCPSS; he is the 11th grade at Centennial High School. Like lots of parents in our school district and some of the board members, I am an immigrant. I left Brazil to attend graduate school and adopted the USA and my home country.

Today I am here to discuss the enormous achievement gap present in our school. HCPSS does have an impressive 92 percent four year graduation rate; however, the graduation rate of Hispanic/Latino students is significantly lower. I want to remind the board members that 25 percent, of Hispanic/Latinos, dropping out of High School. Besides, of the students in English as a Second Language program, ESOL, of which Latinos/Hispanics are the majority, only a quarter finish high school. In my opinion, the BOE should be looking at this statistic with a sense of urgency to change the outcome. To borrow from the Black Life Matter movement: All students matter, all students. However, based on the BOE actions I cannot see that Latino/Hispanic students matter for you, we are invisible in this community.

The HCPSS does talk quite a lot about equity; HCPSS even has a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group. Again, I want to point out that when Dr. Martirano asked for TWO new Hispanic Achievement Liaison position in the budget he submitted to the BOE, you cut one position, there was a 50% reduction on the resources designated to help Latinos. It is not enough to talk about equity. The BOE needs to take budgetary actions which will reflect a preoccupation and commitment to decrease the achievement gap. If HCPSS believes in operating through the lens of equity, the number of resources designated to support Latino and Hispanic student's academic achievement must increase. The school cannot narrow the achievement gap without an increase in resources. To do so, you need to act. Your budget decisions cannot be made based on who is advocating the loudest but based on where resources are needed the most.

Our students have incredible potential; they are hard work, they have global awareness and, in most case, they are bilingual. My question for the BOE is what are your actions to decrease the achievement gap in the Hispanic and Latino students?

Dear Board of Education Members, Dr. Martirano, Students and Parents,

I would like to take a moment to thank our Board of Education members and Dr. Martirano for all that you do to strengthen our school community.

My name is Patricia Silva. I have been a Howard County resident for almost twelve years now. My youngest daughter is a 7th grader at Ellicott Mills Middle School. Tonight, I would like to testify as a Latino community advocate and to lay out my hopes as such.

This school year, I have been an engaged advocate and citizen of Howard County. Through volunteering in various advisory committees, I have learned that our school system is in “crises”. I have learned about the depths of the achievement gap among minority student groups and how community engagement influences accessibility to school resources.

Equity gap however is not a new concept to the Board of Education or to Howard County educators in general. In fact, equity gap is the big elephant in the room which folks from different venues hope will magically disappear if they avoid looking into its eyes. However, equity gap grows at an exponential rate, and has reached a point that people can no longer ignore it. What made it so easy then, in the past, for all of us to overlook this alarming situation?

Promoting equitable measures for our school system goes beyond the rush of “budget time”, when availability of funds, new positions justification, program cuts are discussed. Of course, all the requests you heard (and will hear) tonight are valid and genuine needs from the community. But when resources are as limited as they are now, how to prioritize it? That’s when the equity mindset should come into play, to seek the most critical needs and make efficient and measurable decisions on how to act upon them.

Many of the Latino students and their families desperately need assistance to be able to interact with their children’s teachers and school. Two more Hispanics Achievement Liaisons in our school system will be very welcomed. However, the Latino community’s needs are bigger than that. Many students are struggling with ESOL classes, as well as in English and Math classes. They need more computers, more counselors, and mental health providers. As a possible result of the achievement gap, the Latino population has the lowest rate of continuing into college after graduation. An assessment of community needs has been long overdue to identify and address equity gaps in our school system.

Times are different. The Hispanic population is one of the fastest growing minority in our country. Howard County demographics are changing. So did the face of the Board of Education after last election. In the face of all the challenges, I hope that this diverse BOE will make a bold move and be the lead on how to make a long plan to close equity gaps. To address these needs that have been neglected over the years, sacrifices will be necessary from everyone. Sacrifices which, in the long run, the entire Howard County community will benefit from.

Thank you for your time and for having this open dialog!

Patricia Silva

Dear Board of Education members and Dr. Martirano,

My name is Fiorella Camacho. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify. I have been living in Howard County for 17 years with my husband and children. We have one child who graduated from Centennial last year, my middle daughter is a Senior this year and my youngest is a 5th grader at Veterans Elementary School.

I am here tonight to speak on behalf of many Hispanic families and their children. For ten years now, I have volunteered with the Religious Education at the Saint John's Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Columbia.

This experience has given me the opportunity to interact with many families whose children attend different schools in our county. I can say that those families have lots of needs that range from getting basic information from the school system to receiving healthy lunches during the school year and Summer programs.

Many Hispanic families do not speak English. This makes communication with teachers very difficult. As a result, they do not know how to give extra support for their children to learn and get better grades. Additionally, most of the Hispanic families make a living out of low paying jobs, and to be able to afford to live in Howard County both parents must work seven days a week. That means their children are left at home alone, unsupervised or without transportation, eating unhealthy foods. Many times, childcare for Hispanic families means older siblings taking care of the younger ones.

Everyone knows that Howard County has good and competitive schools. The Hispanic youth are very smart, but they need extra help to catch up on English and Math. Private after-school courses are available in our county, but they cost too much money for the average Hispanic family. What happens to those children who cannot afford to pay for that? By the time a Hispanic teenager gets to High School chances are that he or she will have some academic deficiencies, they start to fall behind, and the next thing the parents see is their kids stressed, anxious and depressed.

I will finish by saying that Hispanic students and family's needs have not been addressed for too long. Hispanic families are hardworking people that pay their taxes. Many of them are immigrants who did not have the chance to attend college in their native countries. But they value education and dream to see their kids with a degree and a better future. It's the American Dream and we want to live it but need your help.

Fiorella Camacho.

Sayers, Margery

From: Louise Green <lgpathiaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 5:13 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Additional Teen Interfaith testimony, to BOE, cc to Council/mental health
Attachments: SKM_754e19042511400.pdf

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Respected School Board Members, Hello, my name is Ben Hult and I am a freshman at Wilde Lake High School and a member of the Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative Group working with PATH to advocate that the Board of Education earmark increased funds to expand mental health education and resources in the high schools.

Our Teen Interfaith group draws students from all over Howard County from different faiths, neighborhoods, schools and economic and social backgrounds, yet notwithstanding all our diversity, we all share the same very real concern about the increase in mental health issues affecting teens.

We have spent the past year sharing our own stories about friends, family members and many of ourselves who have experienced anxiety, mood disorders and depression. We stress about school work, grades, getting into college, social interactions, we stay after school for sports, clubs and the activities we want to join with our limited free time, then stay up late to get all our homework done, only to wake up incredibly early, very tired and lacking sleep to do this all over again. Add to it the pressures of social media and it is the perfect storm for many of us and our peers to develop mental health issues. We see it in the halls of our high schools every day.

Depression and anxiety have continued to increase among high school teens at the same time that funds and resources are being cut. The National Alliance on Mental Illness cites statistics that 1 in 5 students ages 13 to 18 have or will have a serious mental health illness; 20% live with mental health conditions with another 8-10% having anxiety disorders and behavior or conduct disorders, and many, many more cases go undocumented or are hidden by students afraid of the stigma or who just don't know where or how to find the resources.

Our guidance counselors do the best they can to help students deal with these issues, but they are already overloaded with all of the academic advising and scheduling they must do and in a school like Wilde Lake, they have the added workload of a large transient populations with students enrolling and leaving throughout the school year, coupled with students that experience housing insecurity and there are just not enough hours in their day or days in the week for them to also adequately help students that come to them with anxiety and/or depression.

We need more resources in the school and there must be resources in each school and better education and mental health checks by teachers or counselors when they see a student withdrawn or struggling.

Sayers, Margery

From: Louise Green <lgpathiaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 5:10 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Teen Interfaith Testimony 2/Mental Health
Attachments: April26TIIfinal.docx

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This comes from an Atholton HS student who wishes to remain anonymous, as written testimony for mental health services.

Thank you,
Rev. Louise Green
PATH

From a student at Atholton High School who wishes to remain anonymous

Earlier this year, I sat on the lobby of the guidance suite waiting for my friend who was talking with her guidance counselor about her friend who she believed to be suicidal. I sat in that chair gazing at the various college banners displayed around the room. On a bulletin board, my eyes roamed across the far too familiar "If you see something, say something" sign.

I scoffed--that sign hung on the obnoxiously bright butcher paper while my friend walked in teary-eyed to the office and approached the secretary, while she mustered about the courage to ask to speak to her counselor, it hung there while the secretary asked if it was really urgent, if she could come back later, her counselor was in a really important meeting, it hung there while she said yes it is urgent, it hung there as her counselor spoke with her about she shared her friends deep and troubling struggles, and it hangs there while she came out of the meeting still upset and at a loss as to what to do next, and it hung there while students are shuttled in and out for brisk and impersonal scheduling meetings, and it hangs in that room as students walk the halls overstressed, overtired, overworked, it hangs there while students feel alone and unimportant and unmotivated and small and confused and desperate.

We are letting our students down. We cannot afford to wait until it has gotten to the worst to start caring. We cannot put up posters with taglines and ask our students to compensate for the rest. For the lack of support and resources provided for mental health in our schools. We are addressing the issue in the completely wrong way. We do not neglect our physical health and hope it works out. We teach our students healthy eating habits, we sign our kids up for after-school sports and encourage playing outside, we have yearly checkups and physicals, we teach our students what substances are safe to put in our bodies, we brush our teeth, we wash our hair, we take vitamins. Why are we waiting until our students are dying?

Our mental health needs upkeep and care and love and support just like our bodies do. We have neglected our mental health for far too long and it is costing us the next generation. It is not only the students who have tragically taken their own lives, it is the students routinely forgetting their homework, always looking down in the hallways, it's the students falling asleep in class, procrastinating their way through the evening to avoid the overload of homework, it's the students scrolling and texting and tweeting and posting instead of talking, it's the students crying from stress, it's the students that resort to drugs and alcohol. There are students slipping through the cracks and if we do not act soon, it is going to be too late.

The students who are going to be the next innovators and thinkers and creators and move and shakers are breaking, we are burning out, we are falling, we are giving up, we are grasping for help and we need you. When we come to school we need to be supported and right now this comes in the form of as much funding as possible for mental health resources in the school system.

I have spent fourteen of my sixteen years in this county and I believe in Howard County, I believe in the messages shared by those in power in our community, I believe in strong public education, I believe in the meaningful relationships that I have built in this county, and I believe in the twelve years of learning and experience this school system has given me.

I believe that *you* care about us and our future before our grades and our scores. And finally, I believe that the funding implemented in this budget will have an impact. On the students. On their families. On our community. The amount of funding you choose to implement will determine what impact it will have. Thank you.

HoCo Teen Interfaith Initiative
A program of PATH

Contact:
Rev. Louise Green, Lead Organizer
Lgpathiaf@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Louise Green <lspathiaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 4:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; Rev. Tyrone Jones; Paige
Subject: PATH testimony this week on HCPSS budget
Attachments: april25BOEfinal.docx; april24CCfinal.docx; april24CCTIIfinal.docx

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

Hello members of the Howard County Council, and Board of Education:

Please find attached the statement PATH made at the Board of Education public hearing last night, April 25.. We also testified at the Council hearing Wednesday April 24, and have attached these as well.

Thank you for your hard work on the budget. We send this as you prepare for the Education Work Session Monday am.

We urge you to keep equity front and center for HCCPSS students and their families.

Rev. Paige Getty & Rev. Tyrone P. Jones, Co-Chairs of PATH

Rev. Louise Green, Lead Organizer

People Acting Together in Howard, PATH,
An Affiliate of Maryland Industrial Areas Foundation
www.pathiaf.com
www.metro-iaf.org

Testimony on HCCPSS Operating Budget

By Guy Moody, Strategy Team

People Acting Together in Howard, PATH

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Good evening. My name is Guy Moody, a Strategy Team member of *People Acting Together in Howard, PATH*. I am a 42-year resident of Columbia.

PATH is a multi-racial, multi-faith, non-partisan, citizens organization rooted in local congregations and organizations. We are broad-based—organizing more than 20,000 strong—and are allied with many other County organizations on the issues we bring before you tonight.

Organizing for equity in the HCPSS is building, across the congregations of the Howard County Clergy Alliance we sponsor, and among groups with whom we stand: The African American Community Roundtable, the NAACP, Conexiones, FIRN, Latin American Council, Jewish Community Relations Council, Dar Al-Taqwa Mosque, and many others.

We are committed to quality educational opportunities for all of the students in our county. ALL children—including with low incomes, children of color, and immigrants—should get the benefits of the best education possible. We must level the playing field, and it must start with supporting the education of our children most at risk. Their lives are impacted right now, and the choices you make will affect their futures directly.

Children of color, immigrants, and low-income families, regardless of race, are among the most vulnerable in public education. Without proper support, they are more likely to be left behind, as statistics show clearly. The graduation rate of our Hispanic students in HoCo is decreasing right now. Our children of color, immigrants, Jewish and Muslim students report frequent racism and bias. Children living in poverty are 6 times less likely to graduate.

You have tough decisions ahead, and a collective bargaining agreement to honor. We know the budget process thus far leaves you with a shortfall. We ask you to make the moral and financial decision to support the children who are at risk, or left behind, time and time again. They and their families have waited long enough.

1. The proposed \$2.7 million to support students affected by **mental health and wellness issues** is critically important. We believe you must fund at the highest level possible here. Challenges in this area impact every single student. Immigrant children and children of color are both more likely to need support. You have heard multiple testimonies about the realities: the HCPSS mental health staffing is simply not adequate, and student and family lives are being damaged, even lost, right now.

2. Allocating **\$425,000 for 3 staff positions around restorative practices and diversity, equity and inclusion work** is a crucial step, and must be maintained in your final budget. It is not optional, it is the vehicle for change. This is the foundation for creating a more just system that understands impact on students at risk.
3. PATH members and allies are once again urging immediate and steady progress on the development of a **mandatory anti-bias training and curriculum**. We don't see adequate progress here, over several years of asking! This is critical in a time of rising anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and anti-immigrant bias in Howard County and the country. We will follow up with Dr. Gilbert and Dr. Martirano for concrete next steps, and resources needed here.
4. The proposed **\$2.5 million for equity in classroom technology** is only a start. HCPSS is dangerously behind the technology curve for preparing students with a 21st century education. For example: Title 1 elementary schools, all middle schools, and high schools must advance in allotting Chromebook carts for students needing computer access. We are glad some schools have them. Now, let's make sure all our children have the same advantages.
5. Finally, the **proposed \$520,000 to support minorities, international students, and students in poverty** must be funded. At the heart of this issue is the achievement gap. If you truly believe every student deserves to succeed, then those with racial, ethnic, economic, and immigrant challenges simply must be supported to achieve equity. For example: Fund 1 additional Black Student Achievement Program Liaison and 1 Hispanic Achievement Program Liaison as a bare minimum. We state this knowing that 2 positions do not nearly meet the need.

PATH leaders know well that you face hard choices. We also know that such choices often maintain the status quo, resulting in fewer advances and opportunities for those who need them most. Now simply cannot be one of those times.

PATH member institutions and allied organizations will work *with* you to change our educational system. We must start with issues of equity for all students. We will continue working for equity for all students, and concrete line item investment—this year, next year through the elections, and beyond. We ask that the Board of Education stand with us.

Thank you, Guy Moody for the PATH Strategy Team

PATH, www.pathiaf.com

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, lgpathiaf@gmail.com

My name is Sharon Shaw.

I am a member of the Strategy Team for *People Acting Together in Howard County*, and speaking for PATH tonight.

We ask you to consider the highest level of funding possible for our school system, in order to address long-time and persistent gaps in achievement, resources, and support systems. We stand for *all* of our students and want every child to succeed. PATH addresses social justice issues for those who are most marginalized and disenfranchised. Racial and economic equity in resources is a central value around which we organize communities.

PATH member institutions are asking the County Council to implement the most visionary funding the County can designate for our public schools.

We support Superintendent Martirano's decision to clearly lay out broad areas of need in his proposed budget for 2020. After meeting the obligations of negotiated contracts, and maintaining effort where adequate, these needs exist in many key areas. His proposed budget showed the gaps. Seeing this full picture allow us to move together towards remedies over time.

In this political arena of the County budget, a range of groups apply pressure, and there is a need to cover many bases. We understand that fully. The County Executive's budget balances a lot of competing interests, yet the Council may still raise the funding level for HCPSS. We view the world as it is and want to move toward the world as it should be. In that world of disparities, equitable is not necessarily equal. **Therefore, we call for bold funding decisions that benefit the students who most need resources.**

PATH priorities are in three areas where we know HCPSS wants to provide maximum changes to meet the gaps:

Our first issue is the equitable allotment and management of Title I school resources, particular in technology upgrades.

Not all schools are equal in Howard County, this we know. Those with the most diverse populations, and centralized in Columbia, operate with fewer resources. Many students do not have personal computers in their homes, and over 500 lack permanent housing at all. They need to receive updated equipment and technology that allow teachers to engage the minds of students with innovative programs and software applications. Every student deserves to experience and receive the exemplary standard of education for which Howard County is most known.

The second area is the expansion of critical wellness and mental health services.

Our congregations want to help end the stigma on mental health care and break the silence that can isolate and imperil students and caregivers. Adverse childhood experiences are the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today. Students exposed to a high number of traumatic events come to school frightened, angry, and depressed. Sadly, almost two-thirds of these young people do not receive the mental health services they desperately need.

I am a school counselor at Wilde Lake High School, so I hear daily about this situation. A number of students in my caseload are struggling with anxiety, depression, and other forms of mental illness that hinder their ability to be successful in and out of the classroom. Not all of my students have the means or transportation to access much needed mental health services.

School-based mental health providers can be the difference between a student's being home or in a mental health facility. To address fully the mental health needs of our student population, additional counselors and school psychologists are needed in our schools, with more referral coordination as needed. We need many more health providers in place.

Our third issue is providing ongoing training in diversity, equity and inclusion policies. As congregations united across many differences, we are working against racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-immigrant bias, and economic class tensions in Howard County. We want there to be adequate money available in HCPSS to expand important work in restorative justice, provide family and student support via BSA and Hispanic liaisons, and to develop the anti-bias curriculum we have sought for several years. We support the work of Dr. Keven Gilbert's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office in HCPSS, and believe this of vital importance to the future of our schools.

PATH leaders ask that the issue of equity stays central in public school funding. We want our County Council leaders to offer bold funding decisions that are both aspirational and just, as we work together for all student.

Thank you, Sharon Shaw for the PATH Strategy Team

www.pathiaf.com

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, lgpathiaf@gmail.com

Nashrah Rahman, Vaniya Khan
County Council Public Hearing -- 4/24/2019

My name is Nashrah Rahman, I'm a sophomore at Mt Hebron High School, and in the Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative, a program of PATH.

This evening I'm going to express our concerns regarding mental health in our County. As a teen in the Howard County public school system, we are constantly dealing with stress in order to balance all of our daily activities, such as school and homework, sports, playing an instrument, family, etc. In turn, this can negatively affect our mental health as we're developing both emotionally and physically, which can lead to bigger issues such as anxiety or depression.

We need to bring more attention to these issues, as they're more serious than the school system is recognizing. HCPSS needs as much funding as possible for mental health services.

We need to take action now, to help our students who are already battling poor mental health. When students don't have resources in school they can trust, it typically leads to them either bottling up their emotions or resorting to their friends for help.

There are a few problems with this: keeping to ourselves in times when we need support will only make it harder for us, and when dealing with a friend who is struggling with their mental health, realistically there's only so much we can do for another teenager. We're already dealing with our own problems by ourselves.

This is very common because a majority of students feel they can't go to their families when it comes to issues dealing with their mental health, so schools should provide that guidance for us. Some families don't really understand the matter, or they aren't willing to provide better help for their child.

Mental health is a silent problem that is resulting in losses of loved ones for far too many of us. It is time to abandon our ignorance and take action.

Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative
A program of PATH

www.pathiaf.com

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, lgpathiaf@gmail.com

My name is Vaniya Khan, I'm a sophomore at Wilde Lake High School, and also in Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative, a program of PATH.

Teenagers can be genuinely insecure and tend overthink everything. This is factor which impacts mental health incredibly. Even though the things we think about ourselves aren't necessarily true, once we convince ourselves enough, it seems like our reality. It is very challenging to change that mentality once you have it established.

Essentially, you become your biggest hater when you're depressed. I know from my own personal experience, and I'm diagnosed with depression. Around a year ago, my best friend was suicidal, and she told nobody but me. Eventually, our friends found out but didn't do much. I felt pressured to make sure she was okay at all times, and I was constantly living in the fear that maybe I would lose her sometime soon as she wasn't receiving the help she needed.

The counselors at our school checked her wrists for any scars, which she did have, and then sent her back to class. Had we had access to better resources in school, they wouldn't have brushed off my friend's obvious self-harm. They should have at least checked up on her more often.

I felt like I was responsible for her because nobody else, even adults, were acknowledging she needed help. I felt terrible, which then resulted in my grades dropping, I lost motivation for everything, and my relationship with my family wasn't the best either.

My point isn't to call out the guidance counselors. They just aren't effective enough since there are so many students in a school and such few counselors. We need to provide better funding for the sake of our students. Mental illnesses are a tough battle to deal with, and many people deal with them their entire lives.

If we work towards offering more effective mental health resources in schools, we can make our schools a more comfortable environment for students once again. We need maximum funding to expand the resources available at HCPSS.

Thank you.

Howard County Teen Interfaith Initiative
A program of PATH

www.pathiaf.com

Contact: Rev. Louise Green, lgpathiaf@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Johnson <ljohnson@summerlearning.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 7:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Written Testimony for FY20 HCPSS Budget, Laura Johnson, parent and NAACP representative
Attachments: FY 20 Budget Written Testimony.docx

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

Good evening Councilmembers:

Please see my attached written testimony in support of the FY20 HCPSS proposed budget.

Thank you,

Laura Johnson
6924 Little Brooke Ct
Elkridge, MD 21075

Written Testimony on the
Howard County Public Schools FY20 Proposed Budget
Laura L. Johnson, NAACP Howard County Branch Education Committee Chair
6924 Little Brooke Ct
Elkridge, MD 21075
April 24, 2019

As a mom of a seventh grade son at Thomas Viaduct Middle School and the Education Chair of the NAACP Howard County Branch, I strongly support the direction and priorities of the proposed FY20 budget for Howard County Public Schools (HCPSS) as presented by Superintendent Dr. Michael Martirano and adopted at the level of \$972.7M by the Howard County Board of Education. In the midst of very significant budget challenges, the increased County funding level of \$605.2M for HCPSS as released by Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball is a major step in our community's collective, moral imperative to invest in our children and their futures.

Some media news accounts, Board of Education members and community leaders have characterized the HCPSS FY20 budget as historical – and it is; ambitious – and it is. We've heard Dr. Martirano often say, "what gets measured gets done," and we've often heard community demands to see the Return on Investment on every line item. I offer today a slightly different perspective. In the words of Nelson Mandela: "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

Why wouldn't our investment in our Howard County children be historical or ambitious if we desire to sustain and grow an education system where teaching and learning is exceptional at every level and every child thrives – not just some and where the Return on Investment (not always so cut and dry) might be evidenced by:

- Investment in training and staffing that fulfills a vision around the best student centered practices that allow every student to graduate ready to succeed in the workforce beyond high school – not just the 93 percent of graduates we proudly tout
- HCPSS as the employer of choice in the country with the boldest, brightest and most diverse educators wanting to come here
- Robust early detection, interventions and staffing supports for students with unique developmental and intellectual needs
- Welcoming school environments where hate has no place and culturally diverse curriculum and staff as well as professional development practices help all students recognize their unique contributions to society, respect our differences and understand our connectedness as part of the human race
- The smart integration and access to technology that unleashes pedagogy to meet learners at every level and to prepare them for the radical developments in automation and artificial intelligence, for example
- No child going hungry or feeling stigmatized by poverty in the halls of any Howard County Schools
- Every student and their families feeling connected and utilizing mental well-being supports and services that help them manage stressors and live a healthy life
- Investments that do what's right by our children and their learning growth like aligning with the research that supports later start times for middle and high school students
- A reduction in the deep disparities in suspensions and expulsions for students of color, often disciplined more harshly than their non-white peers for the same infractions

It is our singular focus of the NAACP Education Committee to ensure that all students and particularly, historically underserved students, are on the pathway to college or a successful career by ensuring access to great teaching, equitable resources, and a challenging curriculum. With this goal in mind, we want to also make our position and priorities known and need our leaders to be transparent, fiduciary stewards in:

- ensuring district funding (per pupil spending) is fairly allocated to support our highest need schools in our community and that our investments align with the increased student enrollment that continues to grow in its diversity
- advancing the diversity, equity and inclusion professional development efforts at the administrative level along with services/programs supported by the Black Student Achievement Program and their growing portfolio of students that require their support
- easing overcrowding and recognizing the research that supports academic and social-emotional gains associated with small class size for the early grades and disadvantaged students

It is my firm belief that our students here in Howard County will make an indelible mark in this world – through your strategic, creative and equitable investment in their educational foundation. An exceptional education in Howard County is not optional...it requires exceptional vision, exceptional leadership, exceptional creativity and exceptional sacrifices. I urge the Howard County Council to reimagine ways to bring community stakeholders together to take a hard look at more creative strategies to address its budgetary challenges and to reimagine what an exceptional community of learners and leaders can do in this world with the right investment and public will to make HCPSS a beacon for the nation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Johnson

Sayers, Margery

From: Joseph Smith <jms92405@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:17 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FY20 Capital and Operating Budget Testimony

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

I am writing to support Jonathan Edelson's testimony regarding the Capital and Operating Budget for FY20 as it pertains to Oakland Mills. I support being proactive and preparing to address the deferred maintenance for Oakland Mills Middle and High Schools. We are very pleased to be a part of the Oakland Mills Village and look forward to our children attending these schools in the coming years. Many neighbors in our Thunder Hill neighborhood take pride in their homes, their schools, and their their community. Please help our schools by getting out in front of this much needed maintenance.

Thank you,
Joe Smith & Nikki Werner

Sayers, Margery

From: David Smith <acmdas@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2019 10:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Talbot Springs Elementary School

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

I am a Howard County resident and have lived for six years near Talbot Springs Elementary. I would like to add my voice to my fellow Oakland Mills community residents in encouraging you to provide the necessary funding to move ahead with existing plans to rebuild TSES.

David Smith
6146 Commitment Court
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: GWEN MARTINSEN <gwmartins19@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 7:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Talbot Springs Elementary

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

I have lived in Oakland Mills for 15 years. A few years ago, I was attending meetings of the OM Board and was shocked at the Board's lack of ability to attain equitable improvement to facilities in OM. At that time, the TS pool needed improvements to its shower & rest rooms which the CA Board declined to fund to the extent needed and had no consideration regarding parity with other pools in the area.

It would be even more egregious and unfair to children and their families not to improve the elementary school to the extent needed and in a way comparable to improvements in other elementary schools.

This community strongly supported your election. It behooves you to pay attention to the needs of this often neglected community.

Thank you for your service and your consideration of the requests regarding improvements to TS Elementary.

Sincerely
Gwen Martinsen, Ph.D.

Sayers, Margery

From: Sheila Robinson <sheila_robinson@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 11:07 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: Support for equality extending to OM Schools

[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 want to remind you that Oakland Mills children deserve equitable treatment, which includes facilities of similar quality to those recently constructed or planned in other communities.

Sincerely,

**Sheila Robinson
9430 Wandering Way
Columbia, MD**

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 8:26 AM
To: James Schatz; CouncilMail
Cc: Harris, Michael; Bailey, Najee
Subject: RE: OAKLAND MILLS ELEMENTARY

James,

I fully support the rebuilding of TSES!

Opel Jones
Councilmember, District Two
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
ojones@howardcountymd.gov
(410) 313-2001



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From: James Schatz <jrschat@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 12:42 PM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: KATHRYN Schatz <jrschat@gmail.com>
Subject: OAKLAND MILLS ELEMENTARY

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

Dear Council,

I'm a 35 year resident of O.M. I have a vested interest in your attention to revisiting and voting for more money to go to the schools in Oakland Mills. They have been under funded and overlooked ever since I have lived here since 1979 and paid CPRA taxes.

I strongly urge you all to properly fund the much needed funds for Talbott Springs Elementary.

Sayers, Margery

From: Audrey Simmons <abmsimmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 8:56 PM
To: Jones, Opel
Cc: CouncilMail; Harris, Michael; Bailey, Najee
Subject: Re: Talbot Springs Elementary school

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

Thank you!

On Sat, Mar 30, 2019 at 9:24 AM Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Audrey,

I fully support the rebuilding of TSES!

Opel Jones

Councilmember, District Two

Howard County Council

3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

ojones@howardcountymd.gov

(410) 313-2001



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From: Audrey Simmons <abmsimmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 8:26 AM
To: CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Talbot Springs Elementary school

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

Good morning,

I am writing to ask for your total support for the rebuilding of Tallbot Sorings Elementary School. The school is over crowded and we can expect the numbers to continue to increase due to housing densities.

Sincerely,

Audrey Simmons

6528 Seapearl Ln, Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: James Schatz <jrschat@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 12:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: KATHRYN Schatz
Subject: OAKLAND MILLS ELEMENTARY

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

Dear Council,

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I strongly urge you all to properly fund the much needed funds for Talbott Springs Elementary.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 9:25 AM
To: Audrey Simmons; CouncilMail
Cc: Harris, Michael; Bailey, Najee
Subject: RE: Talbot Springs Elementary school

Audrey,

I fully support the rebuilding of TSES!

Opel Jones
Councilmember, District Two
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
ojones@howardcountymd.gov
(410) 313-2001



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Sincerely,
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6528 Seapearl Ln, Columbia MD 21045

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Sincerely,
Audrey Simmons
6528 Seapearl Ln, Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: mail@changemail.org
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 12:28 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: [BULK] 100 more people signed "boe@hcpss.org : High School #13- Why Not Here? Why Not Now? Why Not Jessup?"

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

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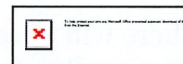


New signatures

County Council – This petition addressed to you on Change.org has new activity. See progress and respond to the campaign's supporters.

boe@hcpss.org : High School #13- Why Not Here?
Why Not Now? Why Not Jessup?

Petition by Becky McKirahan · 100 supporters



100 more people signed

[View petition activity](#)

RECENT SUPPORTERS



Audrey Owens

Jessup, MD · Mar 01, 2018

I am a Mission Road resident and teacher in the Elkridge/Jessup area. I support the building of high school #13 off Mission Road b



Francisca Sarfo

Elkridge, MD · Feb 21, 2018

I am signing because it would prevent further overcrowding in our schools, and would boost property equity in our neighborhood.



Wayne Davis

Columbia, MD · Feb 20, 2018

The Mission Road site is a safe and cost effective location for the 13th high school.



Edwina Balentine

Clarksville, MD · Feb 12, 2018

Mission Road is the right place for a new high school in Howard County.



Annalisse Daly

Columbia, MD · Feb 08, 2018

There will never be a site that is 100% ideal, but I believe that the Mission Road site is a better option overall than the proposed Elkridge site, especially in the long term. If there is one of the negative aspects of the Mission Road site that is particularly objectionable to the committee, we simply want to have that objection stated openly so that everyone can discuss pros and cons, rather than deciding against it in closed meetings. What we are really asking for is transparency in the decision making process.

[View all 100 supporters](#)

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

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

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

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

Sayers, Margery

From: mail@changemail.org
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:36 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: [BULK] 100 more people signed "Howard County State Delegation: Protect taxpayer dollars. Charge developers market-based school surcharge fees."

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

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change.org New signatures

councilmail@howardcountymd.gov – This petition addressed to you on Change.org has new activity. See progress and respond to the campaign's supporters.

Howard County State Delegation: Protect taxpayer dollars. Charge developers market-based school surcharge fees.



Petition by APFO Reform · 100 supporters

100 more people signed

[View petition activity](#)

RECENT SUPPORTERS



Kristin Johnson

Ellicott City, MD · Feb 15, 2018

No more fees in lieu of. Developers need to pay their share. Representatives need to represent their constituents, but just the ones with deep pockets.



Nancy Carlsen

Columbia, MD · Feb 14, 2018

Developers who profit from their successes in our community should take a more proportionate responsibility for their impact on our community.



Mary Antonio-Pham

Ellicott City, MD · Feb 10, 2018

It is ridiculous to continue building in areas where schools are already overpopulated and where there isn't room to build a new school.



Tiffany Gaugh

Fulton, MD · Feb 05, 2018

My feeder school is overcapacity and development needs to take a break.



Helen Murphy

Ellicott City, · Feb 05, 2018

I actually read one planner's comment that downtown Columbia should have bad traffic to make it feel more urban. Ridiculous. Developers should provide funds to mitigate the traffic problems they're causing.

[View all 100 supporters](#)

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

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

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Rigby, Christiana
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:43 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Funding

From: Jennifer Smith <jennifer_a_smith@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:07 AM
To: Rigby, Christiana <crigby@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.]

Christiana Rigby,

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