

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephanie Mummert <skmummert@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS operating budget concerns for 2021

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

Good afternoon Howard County Council,

I know your first public budget meeting begins soon. I'm sorry I haven't written sooner. Life in semi-quarantine has been interesting and requires a lot more balancing of my existing resources of time and attention and spread them in many more directions.

The county council and the county executive face a similar problem of spreading fewer resources in so many more directions, many of them unimaginable back in February. You are going to have to find a way to do more with less regarding both the operating and capital budgets for 2021.

I have listened to Dr Holly Sun's update to the impact of covid 19 on the operating budget regarding the revenue losses and new expenditures. The impacts on the loss in revenue and increased costs will be incredibly challenging.

I sincerely smart decision making in support for HCPSS. I recognize that we definitely can't fully fund the superintendent's budget that was sent before the coronavirus pandemic upended all of our daily lives. However, please focus on priorities in the operating budget and those have to provide full focus and support for educators and their academic programs. If the last month has shown us anything, it has emphasized how crucial our educators are to the success of our students, their parents and the school system as a whole. We are floundering in this period of preparation and their absence in our students' lives has been felt very keenly. Support them. Do not endorse a budget that includes reduction in teacher positions or increases in class sizes. These educators are going to be more important than ever as we navigate education after this crisis.

I'm sorry to say, but in these difficult economic times, the extras that we enjoy in this county, like a robust support staff in HQ, home office of the school system should be where belt tightening should occur.

We don't always agree, but I have faith in all of you to make difficult decisions in these uncertain economic times. Just, please, as you contemplate the operating budget for HCPSS think of the teachers first.

Thank you so much,
Stephanie Mummert
District 3

Sayers, Margery

From: Charles Scudder <cescudder@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 2:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Talbott Springs rebuild

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

I'm including the text of Jonathan Edelson's testimony here, because I can't come up with better reasons than he provides. But to rephrase - this battle for equity for the older schools has been going on since at least the late 1980's when our children attended TSES. It's preposterous that the county continues to 'warehouse' those who most need the benefits of an up-to-date facility. Oakland Mills schools do an incredible job considering what the staffs have to work with, but it's time to even the playing field a bit, as the county continues to propose, and not push its neediest students to the back of the line again. Please build the new school!

Chuck and Laurie Scudder
Co-Presidents, Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Howard County
9556 Wandering Way
Columbia, MD 21045

In support of funding the complete rebuild of Talbott Springs Elementary School

Good evening, my name is Jonathan Edelson, I am the Chairman of the Oakland Mills Community Association, and I am speaking on its behalf. We thank the County executive and those throughout the school system and the community who have continued to support the complete rebuild of Talbott Springs Elementary School. We are very pleased to see Talbott Springs included in the County Executive's Capital Improvement Plan and strongly encourage you to support this as a top capital priority for Howard County.

In the current Talbott Springs building, children and teachers are exposed to mold, failing systems, inadequate classrooms, and overcrowding on a daily basis. If our county is serious about equity and providing top-quality education to all children, this must be funded now. Except for additions to bring the facility up to minimum standards, Talbott Springs is largely the same as it was when it opened nearly 50 years ago. Its core systems are original, and it continues to use an outdated, noisy, and distracting open classroom environment because the building as currently constructed cannot accommodate construction of full walls. Additionally, two full grades are housed outside the main building, and with no other new capacity on the horizon for this part of the county, the larger Talbott Springs is the only hope to relieve overcrowding in an area that is otherwise built out with no new residential development planned.

I could go on, but the story of Talbott Springs has been told many times by not just our community association, but by its PTA, its staff, and concerned members of our community. After years of delay and false starts, this testimony will be short and sweet – please build Talbott Springs Elementary School now.

Sayers, Margery

From: Colleen Sarich <cbsarich@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Hammond High School renovations

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

Please continue to keep the Hammond High School renovations in the budget.

Thank you,
Colleen Sarich
7325 Little Bird Path, Columbia
Cbsarich@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Marc Steinberg & Jennifer Goldberg <steinberggoldberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Hammond High School renovation & addition (E1024)

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

Dear members of the Howard County Council:

We write to urge you to include the full Hammond High School renovation and addition project (E1024) as proposed by County Executive Ball in the FY 2021 Capital Budget.

This project is much needed and long overdue. We are parents of a current and a future Hammond student and we are delighted to be a part of such a warm and culturally and socioeconomically diverse community. But when we visit other county high schools, it is obvious that Hammond's physical condition and facilities are far inferior to those at other Howard County high schools. The school building is deficient in such basic areas as ADA compliance, electrical systems, and windows for daylight, and lacks instructional necessities such as adequate science labs, a modern auditorium, and common areas for students to work together. The result is a deep inequity that is obvious to every Hammond student and family.

The renovation of Hammond High has been repeatedly postponed for most of the past decade. The Hammond community has advocated for the project, only to be told to wait while other projects moved forward. It is hard to imagine if Hammond served more affluent neighborhoods that these repairs would have been delayed so long.

We are deeply appreciative that this year the Board of Education, Superintendent Martirano, and County Executive Ball have all provided strong support for the project and brought it to this point. We also thank the members of the County Council and of the Howard County Annapolis delegation who have expressed support as well. Please approve the County Executive's request for \$21.506 million for Hammond High School renovations and addition.

Sincerely yours,

Marc Steinberg & Jennifer Goldberg
7526 Summer Leave Lane
Columbia, MD 21046

SteinbergGoldberg@gmail.com
410-381-2186

Sayers, Margery

From: Sandy Cederbaum <manager@oaklandmills.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: 'jledelson@oaklandmills.org'
Subject: Testimony for Council Hearing on FY21 Education Budget from Oakland Mills
Attachments: OMCA Testimony County Council FY21 Capital Budget - Education_4_16_2020.pdf

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

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of the residents of Howard County, especially such trying times.

Attached is testimony in support of the complete rebuild of Talbott Springs ES submitted by the Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact OMCA Board Chair Jonathan Edelson, jledelson.omca@gmail.com or me if you have any questions. Mr. Edelson has signed up to virtually testify.

Stay well.
Sandy Cederbaum

Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager

Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn ~ 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045
Office: 410-730-4610
fax: 410-730-4620

<http://oaklandmills.org> – follow link on right of web homepage to JOIN OUR LISTSERV

Visit us on Facebook at **Oakland Mills Village** and **The Other Barn**

"The information transmitted is intended only for the person to which it is addressed and may contain proprietary or privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, dissemination or other use of or action taken in reliance on this information by a person other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this information in error, please contact the sender and delete the information. Thank you for your cooperation."



Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045
410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org



April 14, 2020

Testimony from Oakland Mills Community Association
FOR: County Council FY 21 Capital Budget Hearing - Education

In support of funding the complete rebuild of Talbott Springs Elementary School

Good evening, my name is Jonathan Edelson, I am the Chairman of the Oakland Mills Community Association, and I am speaking on its behalf. We thank the County executive and those throughout the school system and the community who have continued to support the complete rebuild of Talbott Springs Elementary School. We are very pleased to see Talbott Springs included in the County Executive's Capital Improvement Plan and strongly encourage you to support this as a top capital priority for Howard County.

In the current Talbott Springs building, children and teachers are exposed to mold, failing systems, inadequate classrooms, and overcrowding on a daily basis. If our county is serious about equity and providing top-quality education to all children, this must be funded now. Except for additions to bring the facility up to minimum standards, Talbott Springs is largely the same as it was when it opened nearly 50 years ago. Its core systems are original, and it continues to use an outdated, noisy, and distracting open classroom environment because the building as currently constructed cannot accommodate construction of full walls. Additionally, two full grades are housed outside the main building, and with no other new capacity on the horizon for this part of the county, the larger Talbott Springs is the only hope to relieve overcrowding in an area that is otherwise built out with no new residential development planned.

I could go on, but the story of Talbott Springs has been told many times by not just our community association, but by its PTA, its staff, and concerned members of our community. After years of delay and false starts, this testimony will be short and sweet – please build Talbott Springs Elementary School now.

Sayers, Margery

From: Carrie A. Slaysman <Carrie_Slaysman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jahantab Siddiqui; Brian W. Bassett
Subject: Written Testimony - April 16 2020 Capital Budget Testimony
Attachments: Martirano FY21 Capital Budget Testimony.pdf

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

Attached please find written testimony submitted on behalf of Dr. Michael J. Martirano for the 2021 Capital Budget Public Hearing scheduled on April 16.

Thank you.

Carrie A. Slaysman
Executive Assistant



Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-313-6814
carrie_slaysman@hcpss.org

**Superintendent Testimony - FY2021 Capital Budget
Howard County Executive Budget Hearing – April 16, 2020**

Good evening Chair Jung and members of the Howard County Council. I am Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent of the Howard County Public School System.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally support the FY2021 Capital Budget that was advanced by the County Executive. This is a tremendous step forward to keep the Howard County Public School System's major priority projects moving forward. These projects are critical to alleviate the rapidly growing student enrollment in Howard County and complete renovations and maintenance that will keep our buildings safe and secure for students, staff and the community.

Equity was at the foundation of the school system's Capital Budget planning, which was intrinsically linked with the Operating Budget, redistricting process and our goal to eliminate the Health Fund deficit, with all components working together to fulfill the goals and priorities of our Strategic Call to Action. My Capital Budget request that was advanced by the Board of Education and County Executive adds improvements and capacity where they are most urgently needed to relieve crowded schools and ensure the equitable allocation of instructional resources. It provides for the facilities that are essential to allow consistent delivery of high quality instructional programming in every Howard County school, so that every student may reach their full potential in the classroom and beyond. It reflects the priorities of our school system and our community for supporting our children and maintaining excellence in instruction by leading with equity.

It is imperative that the construction of High School #13, scheduled to open in fall of 2023, continues as scheduled. This school will help relieve the considerable crowding experienced in our eastern high schools. The renovation and addition to Hammond High School will provide additional seats in that growing part of the county and address building concerns that have been delayed too many times. Finally, the replacement of Talbott Springs Elementary School is long overdue and will replace an aging elementary school with a new modern, energy efficient facility, which will be less costly to construct and maintain over the life of the building in comparison to a school renovation/addition. When completed, the school will add approximately 160 seats, and provide facilities to accommodate

many essential resources and services to support students and families in one of Howard County's most disadvantaged communities.

This year's capital budget is a critical building block that will require subsequent funding commitments over the next several years to ensure that these projects will be funded through completion.

I want to thank County Executive Ball and Senator Guy Guzzone for working with us to help ensure that the Board's requested capital budget priorities move forward. Additionally, I greatly appreciate the work of the Board of Education and County Council to ensure that the needs of the school system and our students and staff are met. Without this state-county-school system collaboration, moving three major construction projects while maintaining our systemic renovation priorities would not have been possible.

Michael Martirano, Ed.D
Superintendent, Howard County Public School System

Sayers, Margery

From: Beverley Meyers <kings@villageofkc.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:41 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin B
Subject: Capital Budget Funding for Hammond High School Renovation
Attachments: Letter to Howard County Council and Calvin Ball Howard County Executive Capital Budget Hammond High Renovation delay.docx

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

Please find attached our testimony and letter of support to fully fund the Hammond High School renovation as part of the Capital Budget.

Beverley Meyers
Village Manager
Kings Contrivance Community Association
(410) 381 9600
<http://villageofkc.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/KingsContrivance/>
<https://twitter.com/VillageofKC>



Kings Contrivance Community Association

Amherst House 7251 Eden Brook Drive, Columbia, Maryland 21046

(410) 381-9600 kings@VillageofKC.org

April 13, 2020

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Re: Capital Budget for Hammond High Renovations

Dear County Council members,

Please see below our letter to County Executive, Calvin Ball and the Howard County Board of Education regarding funding for Hammond High School's renovation. We urge you to fully fund this project for our residents. We have sent letters of support for this project several times and this project continues to be a high priority for our community.

Sincerely,

Barbara N. Seely
Chair, Kings Contrivance Village Board

Cc: Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive

December 9, 2019

Howard County Executive, Calvin Ball
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City MD 21043

Dear Calvin,

Please see below our letter to the Howard County Board of Education regarding funding for Hammond High School's renovation. We urge you to fund this project for our residents.

Thank you.

Barbara N. Seely
Chair, Kings Contrivance Village Board

September 19, 2019

Board of Education
Howard County Public School System
10910 Route 108
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Attn: Budget Testimony

Dear Board of Education Members:

The Kings Contrivance Village Board understands the challenge of managing a budget and how it impacts resident's lives. Our community is focused around our one high school that the children of our village attend. Hammond High School brings our community together in many ways. Our residents are closely connected to the school and some have grown up here as children and are now sending their own children to the school. We value the experience our children have and Hammond is a great place to grow. It is difficult to see how our aging building is being handled.

We recently met with the engineers hired to create plans for the renovations at Hammond that have been proposed. The plans added spaces to the school that other schools already have and would expand the ability to serve our residents. It would also add 200 seat capacity to our school which is now part of the School Board's redistricting plan. We were pleased to see that Hammond was finally going to get its renovation both inside and outside the building.

We are now very distressed to see that Hammond's renovation plans are once again being delayed in the proposed Capital Budget. Our community has waited long enough. In 2011 the renovation plans were to begin in 2015 and completed in 2018 according to the budget. In 2016 it was delayed to begin in 2017 with completion in 2021. In the current approved budget the work is scheduled to begin next summer and be completed in 2023. Design work is already underway. We cannot wait until 2026 which is in the proposed Capital Budget for FY2021. We urge you to continue with the

plans for a 2023 completion. Hammond should not be delayed over and over again. We have already waited long and patiently.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara N. Seely
Chair, Kings Contrivance Village Board

Cc: Howard County Council

Sayers, Margery

From: Leigh Roberts <lar@brventures.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: budget

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

Hello,

A short note to again ask for your support to fully fund the proposed @21.506 million for the Hammond High Renovation project. This project is necessary for the safety and equity of the students, faculty and staff of Hammond High.

Thank you,
Leigh Roberts
Blue Sea Drive

Sayers, Margery

From: Sarah Richardson Fahrendorf <sarahbeth@alumni.virginia.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Rigby, Christiana
Subject: I support funding for renovation of Hammond HS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am strongly in favor of funding the renovations to Hammond High School. This project is long overdue. It is the high school where my children may attend, it's the high school where some of their friends will attend, and it is a high school where SOMEONE's children will attend, and the project is vital. Thank you.

Sarah Fahrendorf
10723 Twin Overlook Place
Laurel MD 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Ressler <Laura_Ressler@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 1:05 PM
To: superintendent@hcpss.org; BoE Email; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Thank you for a new TSES!!

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

Dear Dr. Ball, Dr. Martirano, and the respected members of the Howard County Council and Board of Education,

I want to take a moment out of all our daily preparation to go online with instruction in the immediate future to say THANK YOU for working so hard, each of you on your own and together to bring a new building for Talbott Springs ES into reality in the near future!

We asked, and you listened. This means so much to all of us, especially now that things are so uncertain simply in what will happen one day to the next, that we have these bright glimmers of hope to look forward to down the road. I'm looking forward to being there as this project takes shape before us, and seeing you all again in person as this really hard time is put behind us.

And that's it. It is so nice to not be asking but to be thanking. I am so proud to be a Howard Countian, I thank you all for your leadership and collaboration, and I thank you all for making it possible for this wonderful community I call my adopted home to have the school facility it deserves.

My very best wishes to you all and your families,
Laurie Ressler

Laurie Ressler
Library Media Specialist
Staff Advisory Committee Chairperson
HCEA Building Representative
Talbott Springs Elementary School
410-313-6915

"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." --Nelson Mandela

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Arbaugh <lisaarbaugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2020 10:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School Funding

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

Members of the County Council,

I have lived in Howard County for over 25 years. My children attended Howard County public schools, and I am a teacher in a Howard County high school. I, like you, care deeply for our community. I am writing to urge you to prioritize public education in this county and to approve our school board's budget request without any further cuts to staffing. My perspective comes from being a community stakeholder, a parent and a teacher.

Like so many other families, we moved to Howard County because we wanted our children to have a good education. As a high school teacher, I want the same thing for all of my students. However, we would be kidding ourselves if we did not acknowledge that significant inequities exist in this county. We can mitigate these inequities when we make prudent budget decisions. Amid what will surely be some short-term financial stress due to the pandemic, I urge you to consider the invaluable long-term effects of maintaining a high quality and equitable public education in our community.

This year's staffing cuts are one more step in the wrong direction for our students. K-12 classrooms are not like college lecture halls. K-12 teachers are most effective when we know our students as individuals, when we know their learning needs, and when we can have time for each student. I want to have time to answer every student's questions. I want to give all students a chance to participate during class. But with each additional student in a classroom these opportunities diminish. Raising class size is not the direction in which we should be moving, especially after the loss of educational time our students have experienced. And most concerning, raising class sizes is fundamentally inequitable, as children on the lower end of the socio-economic spectrum are far less likely to have access to tutors and other outside educational resources to compensate for their larger class size.

I urge you to make funding for our schools — especially for staffing— among your highest budget priorities. It would be truly shortsighted to underfund investments in our schools and our children, despite (and perhaps because of) the impacts of pandemic crisis and its aftermath. Today's high school students are tomorrow's workforce.

Thank you.
Elizabeth Arbaugh
District 1