

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 6

Resolution No. 63-2020

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION setting forth the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget for the Howard County Board of Education.

Introduced and read first time May 4, 2020.

By order

Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Read for a second time at a public hearing on May 18, 2020.

By order

Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn , by the County Council on May 27, 2020.

Certified By

Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, the County Executive has proposed a Fiscal Year 2021 general fund
2 expense budget for the Board of Education containing:

3	County funding of	\$620,300,000
4	State funding of	\$282,654,203
5	Federal funding of	\$410,000
6	Other funding of	\$7,573,507
7	Total general fund expense budget of \$910,937,710; and	

8
9 **WHEREAS**, all restricted funds included in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the Board of
10 Education total \$341,276,926; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, debt service for the Board of Education is paid directly by the County
13 government and for Fiscal Year 2021 totals \$52,328,909; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, OPEB for the Board of Education beyond PAYGO amount is paid directly
16 by the County government and for Fiscal Year 2021 totals \$7,958,723; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, the major categories set forth in this resolution are the same categories
19 contained in the Board of Education’s budget request to the County; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the proposed funding by category fully funds the Board of Education’s
22 budget request in Instruction Salaries and Wages, Instruction Textbooks/Supplies, and Other
23 Instructional Costs, but not in other categories due to funding constraints from the COVID-19
24 pandemic and recession.

25
26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
27 Maryland this 27th day of May, 2020 that the Fiscal Year 2021 budget of the Board of
28 Education is divided into major categories as attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2021**

General Fund Budget	\$910,937,710
Administration	13,578,591
Mid-Level Administration	64,089,827
Instruction Salaries and Wages	370,553,367
Instructional Textbooks/Supplies	9,023,193
Other Instructional Costs	4,151,692
Special Education	120,805,585
Student Personnel Services	3,982,752
Student Health Services	9,302,729
Student Transportation	42,801,337
Operation of Plant and Equipment	42,167,830
Maintenance of Plant	26,703,528
Fixed Charges	195,558,711
Community Services	7,289,364
Capital Outlay	929,204
Restricted Funds	\$341,276,926
School Construction	92,652,000
Food and Nutrition	16,545,406
Print Services	1,606,347
Information & Network Technology Services	14,184,998
Health	173,202,400
Worker's Compensation	2,617,775
Grants	40,000,000
Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant	253,000
Jim Rouse Theater	215,000
Other Expenses Paid by County	\$60,287,632
Debt Service	52,328,909
OPEB	7,958,723
Total General Fund, Restricted Funds and Other Expense Budget	\$1,312,502,268



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

I, Kathleen Hetherington, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard Community College to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

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

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

Printed Name: Kathleen Hetherington

Signature: _____

Date: 4/15/20

Organization: Howard Community College

Organization Address: Columbia, MD 21044

Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: Seven Board Members

Name of Chair/President: Feli Sola-Carter/Kathleen Hetherington

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



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

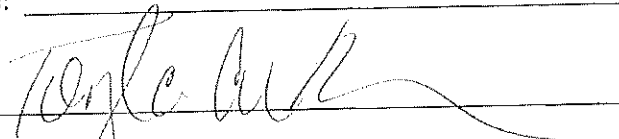
I, Tonya Aikens, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Library System Board of Trustees to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding FY2021 Capital Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Tonya Aikens

Signature: 

Date: April 16, 2021

Organization: Howard County Library System

Organization Address: 9411 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 7

Name of Chair/President: Anne Markus

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



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

I, Jonathan Edelson, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Oakland Mills Community Association to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Capital Improvement Plan to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Jonathan L. Edelson

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: April 16, 2020

Organization: Oakland Mills Community Association

Organization Address: 5851 Robert Oliver Place

Columbia, MD 21045

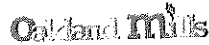
Number of Members: ~10,000

Name of Chair/President: Jonathan Edelson

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



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.



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

I, Lisa May, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)
Howard County Association of REALTORS^o to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)
County Council regarding FY 2021 Capital Budget to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)
support for / opposition to request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Lisa V. May

Signature: *Lisa V. May*

Date: 4/14/2020

Organization: HCAR

Organization Address: 8600 Snowden River Parkway, Suite 104
Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 2,000

Name of Chair/President: Lisa Wissel, President

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa May <lisavm78@vt.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:43 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCAR Comments on FY 2021 Capital Budget
Attachments: HCAR Comments on FY21 Capital Budget.pdf

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

Good morning Council Members,

Attached you will find comments from the Howard County Association of REALTORS on the proposed Capital Budget, which will be heard tomorrow evening. If you have any questions which we can answer before that time, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for all of the work you are doing on behalf of Howard County during this challenging time.

Best,
Lisa May
HCAR



Main 410 715 1437
Fax 410-715-1489
Web www.hcar.org

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Deb Jung, Chairperson
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: Howard County Capital Budget and Transfer Tax Rate

Chairperson Jung and Members of the Council,

The Howard County Association of REALTORS® (HCAR) writes to offer our comments on the proposed FY 2021 Capital Budget and the suggested real estate transfer tax increase. At this time, HCAR must express our concern with the amount of the proposed increase, the impacts on housing affordability, and its timing given current economic conditions.

This Increase Places Howard out of Step with Similar Jurisdictions

A 0.5% increase in the real estate transfer tax exceeds what HCAR believes is reasonable. Unlike other County fees, such as the recently increased school facilities surcharge on new construction, our transfer tax has kept pace with that of surrounding jurisdictions. The November 2019 Sage Policy Group report on real estate transaction taxes, which HCAR previously provided to the Council and Administration, noted that Howard County's existing transfer taxes produced the second-highest out of pocket cost of any jurisdiction in Maryland due to our high housing costs. If this increase were approved, Howard County would charge the highest dollar amount on real estate transactions anywhere in the state, exceeding that of even Montgomery County.

Further, this increase would put our total transaction tax percentage above that of comparable jurisdictions. Currently, Anne Arundel County charges a total of 1.7% in total taxes on real estate sales, with Montgomery charging 1.89% and Prince George's charging 1.95%. Howard County would jump ahead of all these Counties, moving to a total of 2.0% in local taxes and fees.

The only local jurisdictions in Maryland who charge a full 1.5% in transfer taxes are the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County. HCAR must point out that those jurisdictions have housing prices which are a fraction of Howard's at \$140,000 and \$250,000 respectively. As a result, the costs to their home buyers remain thousands of dollars below those of Howard's buyers.



Main 410-715-1437
Fax 410-715-1489
Web www.hcar.org

The proposed increase also conflicts with advice given by the County's own budget advisory group. The most recent recommendation from the Howard County Spending Affordability Committee regarding real estate transaction taxes suggested amounts lower than 0.5%. Though the FY 2021 Committee did not elaborate on real estate tax increases, the FY 2020 report specifically noted that "the County's [transfer] tax rate is on par with most of the jurisdictions in the state." That group outlined just a 0.1% increase to the transfer tax and a 0.25% increase to the recordation tax, both of which are charged on home sales. Even taken together, those amounts are less than just the transfer tax increase proposed in this budget.

Finally, there are those who have argued that since the County's transaction tax rates have not been changed in many years they should be adjusted upward. HCAR could be sympathetic to that argument had the housing prices on which those taxes were levied remained stagnant. They have not. In 1999, Howard County's median home sales price was just under \$174,000; as of February 2020, it now stands at \$430,000. That has resulted in an increase in local transaction taxes from \$2,600 up to \$6,450 over that same time period, without changing the rate charged.

Housing Affordability will Decline Further

As noted above, Howard County's housing costs are significant. We now trail Montgomery County by just a few thousand dollars for the most expensive housing prices in the state. As a result, it takes both a significant income and a significant amount of savings to contemplate homeownership in Howard.

When thinking about the issue of affordability, it is tempting to focus solely on the cost of the home itself without considering other taxes and fees. However, this does not provide the complete picture. Often, buyers are currently paying rents which are comparable to what their ultimate mortgage payment would be. What is missing, and where many lower-income and first-time buyers need assistance, is with their required closing costs and down payment.

Unlike purchase prices which can be financed over the life of a mortgage, transfer taxes and other fees are due upfront at the settlement table, making them a particularly difficult hurdle for those who are not using equity from a prior sale. Once the existing local transfer tax, local recordation tax, state transfer tax and this transfer tax increase are charged on a median price home sale, nearly \$11,000 in taxation alone would be owed by the buyer and seller.

We must also mention that this increase comes on top of other actions taken by the County which negatively impact housing affordability. Reducing school capacity percentages under APFO, proposed increases to new construction wait times, reductions in setbacks and lot yields in new developments, and significant increases to school construction impact fees have all contributed to reductions in housing inventory and higher home costs. HCAR questions how many more of these actions our County's buyers can absorb before homeownership is placed completely out of reach.



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Fax 410-715-1489
Web www.hcar.org

Current Economic Conditions Complicate Revenues and Impacts

As with most sectors of the economy, the real estate market is currently experiencing an uncertain future. Up until just a few weeks ago, Howard County was experiencing strong housing demand which was expected to continue throughout 2020. The spread of COVID-19 has changed that forecast.

The most recent update from Bright MLS, which includes information on Howard County listing activity, shows a 39.1% decrease in active listings and a 31% decrease in pending sales. Whether this is a short-term pause in housing market activity or part of a larger downward trend is too early to tell. But the significant change in these numbers is enough to give us pause on both the ability of the housing market to absorb this increase and the wisdom of relying on this revenue source to issue nearly \$20M in County bonds based upon its anticipated revenues.

In addition, this increase has the potential to most affect those already undergoing financial hardship. We have all heard of the rapidly growing number of unemployment claims and worker furloughs in Maryland. There will also be those who are facing medical conditions, whether related to the pandemic or not. While REALTORS® and others are promoting programs to assist those individuals in remaining in their homes during the length of the current emergency, there will inevitably be those who must sell due to financial or medical issues. Under this increase, those sellers will pay more at the settlement table, and have fewer resources with which to begin their economic or physical recovery.

HCAR is sympathetic to both the capital needs of our County and to the limited number of funding options available to the Council and Administration to fund those needs. However, our members have a unique window into the experiences of Howard County's home buyers and how our housing prices and transaction costs impact their ability to achieve the goal of homeownership. Before the Council adopts the FY 2021 budget, we ask that you consider whether these individuals will be able to afford yet another real estate transaction tax, and if our real estate market will continue to produce the same level of County revenue given the challenging times in which we find ourselves.

If we can be of further assistance to the County on this or another issue, we will be happy to provide it. Thank you for your consideration of our comments on the FY 2021 budget.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wissel, President
Howard County Association of REALTORS®

CL63-2020

Sayers, Margery

From: Lisa Schlossnagle <lisabmrss@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 4:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: budget testimony - education
Attachments: Council Budget Testimony 5May2020.pdf

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

Good afternoon,

My budget testimony is attached.

All the best,
Lisa Schlossnagle
Fulton, MD

HOWARD COUNTY FY21 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY

Lisa Schlossnagle

May 5, 2020

Many have said that our public school system is the great economic driver of our county and that it's functioning is vital to the high quality of life we enjoy here.

Not only do our schools provide Blue Ribbon-level learning communities, but they serve as first responders to a variety of human needs in our county. Schools provide critical nutrition to tens of thousands of children through one or two meals every day. Teachers and other school staff notice when children experience mental and physical illness, be that impaired vision or infection or depression. They observe students struggling with poverty and its manifestations such as transportation problems or food insecurity or homelessness. School staff marshal school and county resources to assist the families overcome the challenge at hand.

It seems to me that all of the difficult budget decisions you must make for this cycle have to be viewed through the prism of meeting human needs, including safety and security. These needs for safety and security go beyond protecting our physical bodies from imminent harm. They include emotional security, financial security, and overall health and wellbeing. We cannot learn or work without these needs met well enough.

Mental health services are among the key ways we will meet our students' needs for safety and security, especially so in the coming year. Invest in this.

Special education services are also key to meeting our students' needs, both those students receiving those services directly and those in general education. ought to be funded at federal compliance level. They are barely there right now, flat funding will cause them to fall below compliance, and then we will be in a double-bind of not sufficiently keeping children safe and ready to learn and having financial penalties and costs in terms of federal penalties and individual lawsuits.

Continue to fund early intervention services as robustly as you can, because prevention is less expensive over time than remediation. For our community college and library system, fund them sufficiently so they can continue to meet the educational needs of all in our county, especially the needs of adults seeking new credentials for employment.

Finally, the County Executive's budget proposal relies on raising rates on two revenue streams. Approve those increases to the recordation and transfer taxes, please.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jackie <jacquelyndebella@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 8:33 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: 2020-2021 budget

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

Dear Dr. Ball and County Council Members,

I am concerned about the current lack of funding for the school system . My husband and I have been residents of Howard County since 1997. We both work in the county and have two elementary aged children .

I would like to share the direct impact your lack of funding had on our children. Last year, I sat at the budget meeting in May. I listened to Mr. Martirano and the BOE review each line item of the budget. Curriculum and services which were needs not wants were drastically cut back. The elementary budget took the biggest hit losing paraeducators , half of the technology time , special education , and reading and math support. Research has shown that earlier intervention is critical and yet the elementary level was the biggest cut. Middle school lost reading and math support. High school was not impacted.

My son has autism and epilepsy. He has an IEP. When he started 3rd grade this year, members of his special education team were no longer there. He was struggling . This led to incidents such as leaving the classroom for up to two hours. He became combative and had to be placed in an isolation room. I was notified by the school that they were thinking about calling the mobile crisis unit. My son has had an IEP since he was 4 in Howard County . He would be labeled a success story until this year. The lack of special education funding impacted his level of support and what the school could realistically do with the staffing they had. My husband and I have spent thousands of dollars on an autism specialist , a behavior therapist , medicine , and an epilepsy behavior specialist at Kennedy Krieger to ensure our son could be calm and successful at school.

My daughter has had limited technology education as the preschool she attended did not offer computers . Last year was the first year she was exposed technology. She had an hour of technology once a week. Then the school system cut all the classes in half. In first grade, 30 minutes was barely enough time to log in and do one activity . When I observed my son's class, it even took some 3rd graders 30 minutes to log in with assistance . Now that we are home for distance learning, my first grader did not have the technology training to do most activities online. She requires a lot of support due to her lack of experience . In addition, her grade did have a paraeducator. First and second grade had to share the same person . This put additional stress on the teachers to do a lot of prep work for learning and stuffing the Thursday folders instead of teaching .

I understand we are in a global pandemic with the Covid -19 situation . Our students will need the support of the teachers and staff more than ever to survive . We can not cut the curriculum and staffing in our schools. If staffing cuts are made , we lose the experience those teachers and paraeducators have. We lost the paraeducator who had been with my son since kindergarten . She kept him calm and focused every day. He loved school. No one this year was able to recreate that for him and he had incident after incident .

Dr. Ben Carson states " The choices we make are long lasting and life changing ". You have the opportunity to impact the future in a positive way . Please fully fund the budget and rewrite history . Give our students the full curriculum again. Provide appropriate support staff. Enable the board of education to truly do what is needed for our students .

When the school buildings are open, our students will need every staff member and all the pieces of the curriculum. They have lost enough already.

Thank you for your kind consideration to the needs of our students .

Sincerely ,
Jacquelyn DeBella

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Zo Tum Hmung <zotumhmung@cianusa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Cc: CouncilMail; Tim Siemens
Subject: My written testimony ATTACHED
Attachments: Written Testimony byZTHmung 5-6-20.pdf

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

Dear Ms. Sayers,

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony for the FY2021 Operational Budget FY2021 Public Hearing - Education today, May 6 at 6:30pm or the record..Attached please find it. Thanks again for your assistance.

All the best,

--

Zo Tum Hmung
Executive Director
CIANUSA - Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA
9900 Washington Blvd, Suite 1
Laurel, MD 20723
Tel: 443-936-8616
Email: zotumhmung@cianusa.org
www.cianusa.org

Written Testimony by Zo Tum Hmung, Executive Director

Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA

Operating Budget FY2021 Public Hearing- Education (HCPSS), Howard County Council
6:30 PM, May 6, 2020 (*zotumhmung@cianusa.org*)

Honorable Council Chairperson Jung:

I am Zo Tum Hmung, Executive Director of Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA (CIANUSA). On behalf of the Chin community in Howard County, I am submitting this written testimony urging the Council to consider a Chin Liaison position for the FY2021 Operational Budget. The role of the Liaison at Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is to facilitate communication and understanding across cultures and education systems between teachers and school officials and Chin families.

Approximately, 400 Chin students are studying in the HCPSS from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Chin people are an ethnic nationality from Burma. Many of our families have been resettled as refugees in the United States, having fled ethnic and religious persecution. A sizeable number of us now make Howard County, Maryland our home.

On February 4, 2019, I submitted written testimony before the Board of Education requesting a Chin Liaison position for the FY2020 Operating Budget. On April 25, 2019, CIANUSA Board Chairman Rev. Tim Siemens testified before the Board of Education again. We have been meeting with the former Council Chair, other Council members and staff including your staff explaining our need. We are hopeful, but the Council has not yet considered our request. This evening at 6:30pm, Board Chairman Rev. Tim Siemens will testify before you to request your consideration this liaison position at HCPSS.

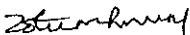
Here are the reasons why we need the Liaison position at HCPSS.

1. The education system and the culture in Burma is different than here in Howard County.
2. Most of the Chin parents did not complete high school level in Burma
3. Most of the Chin parents are not fluent in English.
4. Many Chin students received free and reduced meal services (FARMS).
5. Both parents are working and doing a pass off between one working day shift while the other parent works night shift.
6. We face challenges especially recently with distance learning due to COVID-19.

There is one Chin liaison whose positive impact demonstrates the importance of this work. However, she cannot serve over 400 students and families by herself. We understand that there may be other immigrant communities within Howard County who also would like a liaison position. While respecting the many challenges facing other communities, we believe that our need for a liaison for our Chin refugee community is very important.

I respectfully make this request for your consideration. Thank you.

Yours truly,


Zo Tum Hmung



Good evening, Chair Jung and County Council members. My name is Linda Leslie and I am a resident of Columbia. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Wilde Lake High School Parent Teacher Student Association in support of the FY 2021 education operating budget.

The Wilde Lake PTSA is dedicated to helping every student at the Lake reach their fullest potential. At Wilde Lake we take that charge very seriously. As a community, we recognize that there are many paths to success and we are dedicated to supporting all of them. We are working hard to have every Wilde Lake graduate find their path after high school, and we are hoping that at some point this year our current Seniors will walk off the stage at Merriweather with an acceptance letter for college or an apprenticeship, an offer for a well-paying job, or enlistment in the military. Clearly, strong academic and non-academic programming is necessary to achieve these goals.

Here in Howard County, the community rightfully places a strong emphasis on academic programs and at Wilde Lake, we benefit from strong GT and AP classes. All of our students, both diploma-bound and non-diploma bound, have an academic path and program while in high school. However, at the Lake we also recognize that a traditional, four-year degree is not the only post-secondary path for every child and that academic access challenges still exist for many across our county. This is where non-academic programming plays a critical role.

Unfortunately, there is a perception by some in Howard County that certain groups don't value education as much as others. At Wilde Lake we know, however, that a good education is important to all our families, regardless of race, national origin, or socio-economic status. The issue we see is that some families don't fully understand how to access resources to help their kids get what they need to succeed educationally. These families need interventions like the

Black Student Achievement Program, our Hispanic liaison, and our school-based health and mental health staff to help access resources in a way that isn't judging them.

We are proud of the support we are able to provide students who need it, and we are working to expand that support. Wilde Lake staff and families have been at the forefront of efforts like Columbia Community Care to help ensure families have food during the COVID-19 crisis. Beyond today's crisis, we have seen firsthand the benefits of the BSAP, an effective Hispanic liaison resource, and school-based health, mental health, and social work resources. For example, Wilde Lake is one of 30 schools benefitting from the mental health pilot program currently in progress through the partnership of HCPSS and the Horizon Foundation. While some in Howard County are calling these programs unproven, we know they are making a difference in the lives of our kids every day. It is essential that programs such as these be protected.

In tight budget times, the loud voices in the room get even louder advocating for the programs and policies that benefit their families and schools. We appreciate that many of those testifying are simply community members concerned about the welfare of their children and neighborhoods, but we want to help ensure that the loudest voices in the room don't drown out the needs of your neediest constituents.

The reality of our current situation is that the needs of the student population have changed significantly since our high schoolers started their education journey. Special education needs have skyrocketed and poverty rates have soared – even here in Howard County. And while our education budget has increased, we are still woefully understaffed in areas like special education and health and mental health services. Clearly, we need to re-examine our assumptions about how school funding should work and what our budgeting priorities be.

The Howard County Public School System's Strategic Call to Action defines Equity as "providing the access, opportunities and supports needed to help students, families and staff reach their full potential by removing barriers to success that individuals face. It does not mean equal or giving everyone the same thing."

The Wilde Lake High School PTSA believes that an equity lens must be applied to the County's decision making process in budgeting. Budgeting with an equity lens will help us address educational disparities across socio-economic, racial, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, and religious groups.

What do we want you to do? We ask that you support a budget where each student receives the support they need to reach their full potential, and where each student, regardless of their school assignment, is treated equitably. We want you to work day and night as advocates for our children, putting them – all of them - as your first priority. Most of all, we are asking you to provide strong leadership in in budgeting for the solutions we need without compromising our principles to the demands of special interests.

We are extremely concerned that the budget presented by the County Executive will require severe cuts to critical services for our neediest students, including increases in class size and reduction or cancellation of special programs like the mental health pilot. We urge you to reconsider the funding request and increase it if possible. Our PTSA recognizes that finding the money to support the education budget will not be easy, especially in these times, but if we are truly a community that places education above all else, we will find a way to meet this challenge. Let us show our kids that we have the courage to rise above the divisiveness that is currently affecting every aspect of our lives, and fulfill the promise of educational equity in Howard County.

Thank you.

Linda Leslie

Wilde Lake High School Parent Teach Student Association

2019-2020 President

Written Testimony by Zo Tum Hmung, Executive Director

Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA

Operating Budget FY2021 Public Hearing- Education (HCPSS), Howard County Council
6:30 PM, May 6, 2020 (zotumhmung@cianusa.org)

Honorable Council Chairperson Jung:

I am Zo Tum Hmung, Executive Director of Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA (CIANUSA). On behalf of the Chin community in Howard County, I am submitting this written testimony urging the Council to consider a Chin Liaison position for the FY2021 Operational Budget. The role of the Liaison at Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is to facilitate communication and understanding across cultures and education systems between teachers and school officials and Chin families.

Approximately, 400 Chin students are studying in the HCPSS from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Chin people are an ethnic nationality from Burma. Many of our families have been resettled as refugees in the United States, having fled ethnic and religious persecution. A sizeable number of us now make Howard County, Maryland our home.

On February 4, 2019, I submitted written testimony before the Board of Education requesting a Chin Liaison position for the FY2020 Operating Budget. On April 25, 2019, CIANUSA Board Chairman Rev. Tim Siemens testified before the Board of Education again. We have been meeting with the former Council Chair, other Council members and staff including your staff explaining our need. We are hopeful, but the Council has not yet considered our request. This evening at 6:30pm, Board Chairman Rev. Tim Siemens will testify before you to request your consideration this liaison position at HCPSS.

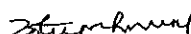
Here are the reasons why we need the Liaison position at HCPSS.

1. The education system and the culture in Burma is different than here in Howard County.
2. Most of the Chin parents did not complete high school level in Burma
3. Most of the Chin parents are not fluent in English.
4. Many Chin students received free and reduced meal services (FARMS).
5. Both parents are working and doing a pass off between one working day shift while the other parent works night shift.
6. We face challenges especially recently with distance learning due to COVID-19.

There is one Chin liaison whose positive impact demonstrates the importance of this work. However, she cannot serve over 400 students and families by herself. We understand that there may be other immigrant communities within Howard County who also would like a liaison position. While respecting the many challenges facing other communities, we believe that our need for a liaison for our Chin refugee community is very important.

I respectfully make this request for your consideration. Thank you.

Yours truly,


Zo Tum Hmung

Sayers, Margery

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: HCPSS Budget - Schools Receiving State Aid Are Ineligible for Parochial Busing
Attachments: Hurewitz - HCPSS Operating Budget - Schools Receiving State Aid Are Ineligible for Parochial Busing.pdf

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

Dear Council,

Attached please find my HCPSS Budget Testimony: **IN VIOLATION OF STATE LAW, HOWARD COUNTY HAS FOR DECADES BEEN UNLAWFULLY PROVIDING PAROCHIAL BUSING TO SCHOOLS WHICH ARE RECEIVING STATE AID WITH FUNDS FROM TAXES LEVIED ON REAL PROPERTY.** The memorandum has numerous hyperlinks for the referenced sources and background materials. Please let me know if you have any problems with the links or would like additional information.

I plan to testify during the Operating Budget for Education this evening.

Sincerely,

Joel Hurewitz

**IN VIOLATION OF STATE LAW, HOWARD COUNTY HAS FOR
DECADES BEEN UNLAWFULLY PROVIDING PAROCHIAL BUSING
TO SCHOOLS WHICH ARE RECEIVING STATE AID
WITH FUNDS FROM TAXES LEVIED ON REAL PROPERTY**

**Joel Hurewitz
May 6, 2020**

Like the return of cycadids, a renewed discussion of parochial busing by the Howard County Board of Education seems to occur every decade or so. (See for example [here](#) and [here](#)). Most recently, as it discussed the FY21 budget in February 2020, the Board discussed the parochial busing and first removed it from the budget on one day, only to reverse direction and restore it to the budget two days later.¹ In response to questions raised by the Board, Superintendent Martirano provided a [February 27, 2020 memorandum to the Board](#), in which he detailed the legal and procedural history of the parochial busing. The Superintendent's memorandum includes the 1943 State law as provided in Sections 9.100 and 9.101 of the Howard County Code. It provides statistics, routes, and costs of the buses provided to the five schools: Bethel Christian Academy, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Resurrection/St. Paul School, St. Augustine School, and St. Louis School. Furthermore, it provides the history of how the busing shifted to a separate bus system for the parochial schools in the 1970s.

Yet, as has apparently been the case for decades, the discussion by the Board and the Superintendent's memorandum both failed to discuss two other legal requirements found in the State law which is codified in the Howard County Code: (1) the requirement that the Council appropriate to the Board of Education "from any funds received by said Howard County for any general County purpose and not derived from any tax levied on real property" and (2) more importantly that the schools are "not receiving State aid." Ironically, while the Superintendent noted "The primary distinction between the ordinances is that under 9.101, the Board of Education has the discretion to establish new bus routes for the transportation to and from school of children attending schools **not receiving State aid**" the memorandum did not include (and there apparently has never been) a specific discussion of the "not receiving State aid" clause (emphasis added). Though it appears in the County Code three times, the failure to follow or even note the actual significance of the no State aid prerequisite is particularly significant. However, now that the Administration, County Council, and Board of Education have been made aware of these deficiencies, the FY2021 Budget must be brought into compliance with the requirements of the Howard County Code.

Part I: Funds Not Derived From Any Tax Levied On Real Property

The [HCPSS budget](#) separates the parochial busing expenditures into Category 14 for Maryland State Board of Education purposes. However, the FY21 Board of Education Budget in CR63-2020 commingles the parochial busing with the one General Fund Budget item for Student Transportation of \$42.8 million.

¹ Thanks to Board of Education member Chao Wu for posting the parochial busing issue on his blog which brought my attention to this topic.

FY 2020

Board of Education's Requested Operating Budget

Howard County Public School System

	Budget FY 2016	Actual FY 2016	Budget FY 2017	Actual FY 2017	Budget FY 2018	Actual FY 2018	Revised Approved FY 2019	Superintendent Proposed FY 2020	Board Requested FY 2020
<i>State Category 09</i>									
Salaries and Wages									
Salaries	\$ 1,286,528	\$ 1,255,692	\$ 1,375,883	\$ 1,334,926	\$ 1,423,629	\$ 1,397,684	\$ 1,497,773	\$ 1,856,749	\$ 1,795,543
Wages-Overtime						3,473			
Wages-Temporary Help	71,360	74,559	88,800	89,854	20,030	57,396	33,280	33,920	33,920
Subtotal	1,357,888	1,330,251	1,464,683	1,424,780	1,443,703	1,458,552	1,531,058	1,890,668	1,829,463
<i>Contracted Services</i>									
Trans-Bus Contracts	34,071,616	33,158,349	34,284,104	33,471,245	33,978,491	34,695,221	36,294,300	33,133,445	33,133,445
Trans-Driver Training	15,000	22,257	15,000	14,257	15,000	3,868	15,000	15,000	15,000
Trans-Inspections	68,270	66,704	71,870	63,531	73,780	69,658	73,780	73,769	73,769
Trans-Private Carrier	80,500	119,970	80,500	104,308	80,500	90,570	135,156	112,500	112,500
Insurance-School Buses	468,510	450,420							
Contracted-Labor	61,000	40,593	35,400	16,719	4,919	19,150	34,919	34,919	34,919
Maintenance-Software									400,000
Maintenance-Vehicles	35,000	26,634	76,770	54,777	76,770	65,676	76,770	76,770	76,770
Subtotal	34,799,896	33,884,916	34,563,614	33,749,837	34,229,460	34,944,144	36,629,925	33,446,403	33,846,403
<i>Supplies and Materials</i>									
Supplies-General	27,450	49,197	27,450	47,498	18,715	13,891	19,340	21,000	21,000
Technology-Software						7,250			
Subtotal	27,450	49,197	27,450	47,498	18,715	21,141	19,340	21,000	21,000
<i>Other Charges</i>									
Travel-Conferences	4,500	4,349	5,000	1,711		1,386			
Travel-Mileage	2,904	1,869	2,000	512	2,000	399	2,000	2,000	2,000
Dues & Subscriptions		100		414		488		500	500
Subtotal	7,404	6,318	7,000	2,637	2,000	2,274	2,000	4,500	4,500
<i>State Category 14</i>									
<i>Contracted Services</i>									
Insurance-School Buses	6,490								
Trans-Inspections	1,150								
Trans-Bus Contracts	594,170	693,899	595,323	733,659	703,473	788,108	1,170	761	761
Subtotal	601,810	698,899	595,323	733,659	703,613	788,108	741,224	797,654	797,654
Program 6801 Total	\$ 36,794,448	\$ 35,969,581	\$ 36,658,100	\$ 35,958,411	\$ 36,403,527	\$ 37,214,219	\$ 38,924,747	\$ 41,160,366	\$ 41,499,186

**BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2021**

General Fund Budget	\$910,937,710
Administration	13,578,591
Mid-Level Administration	64,089,827
Instruction Salaries and Wages	370,553,367
Instructional Textbooks/Supplies	9,023,193
Other Instructional Costs	4,151,692
Special Education	120,805,585
Student Personnel Services	3,982,752
Student Health Services	9,302,729
Student Transportation	42,801,337
Operation of Plant and Equipment	42,167,830
Maintenance of Plant	26,703,528
Fixed Charges	195,558,711
Community Services	7,289,364
Capital Outlay	929,204
Restricted Funds	\$341,276,926
School Construction	92,652,000
Food and Nutrition	16,545,406
Print Services	1,606,347
Information & Network Technology Services	14,184,998
Health	173,202,400
Worker's Compensation	2,617,775
Grants	40,000,000
Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant	253,000
Jim Rouse Theater	215,000
Other Expenses Paid by County	\$60,287,632
Debt Service	52,328,909
OPEB	7,958,723
Total General Fund, Restricted Funds and Other Expense Budget	\$1,312,502,268

The requirement that the parochial busing funds not be levied on real property implies that a restricted fund is required in the budget—similar to the enumerated Restricted Funds in CR63. The restricted source of the funds would presumably be from the tax levied on income; however, this is not being restricted, and there is little evidence that this has been done in past decades. (See for example CR39-1970, CR87-1981, and CR54-2001). In fact, until being personally informed about Section 9.101 in February 2020, the County's Budget Administrator and the Deputy Administrator admitted that were totally unaware of the existence of the provision in the County Code.

Furthermore, the real property prohibition becomes more evident when the Howard County Code is compared to the substantially identical provision in the Montgomery County Code which differs however by having no restrictions on the source of the parochial funding. Thus, like the expenditures from monies from the transfer tax, it is imperative that the funding come from the legal and proper source.

Therefore, now that the Administration and Council are aware of the legal requirement that the parochial busing not be paid from funds from taxes on real property, this deficiency must be corrected in CR63-2020. In fact, it is extremely disappointing that the Administration did not make this correction in the legislation. In a telephone conversation with the Deputy County Auditor in March just

prior to the COVID-19 closings, it was conveyed that discussions were occurring within the Administration and that changes would be made to the Budget for FY21.

Part II: Schools Not Receiving State Aid

Section 9.100 begins by stating that the provision applies only to students attending parochial schools “which do not receive State aid.” Section 9.101 states twice more that the law only applies to “schools not receiving State aid.” Section 9.101 places the responsibility for the proper appropriation of funds on the County Council; it is the Council that has apparently for decades shirked its responsibility to inquire whether the parochial schools were eligible. As a practicality, it is the Board of Education that should be inquiring whether the schools are receiving State aid and certifying this information to the Council. Instead, decades of negligent application of the law has resulted in a de facto don’t ask, don’t tell policy between the Council and the Board of Education. This is partly confirmed in the response to a Maryland Public Information Act request that the Board of Education has no records regarding the State aid, if any, that are received by the parochial schools.

It is unclear what State aid was available to parochial schools when the law was passed in 1943. Yet, similar “not receiving State aid” language was used in eight of the nine known public local laws for private and parochial busing. A 1958 United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare report listed all of the Maryland counties with special legislation for pupil transportation. As seen, these county laws were passed between 1937 and 1955.²

BASIC DATA ON RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS—MARYLAND

73

MARYLAND (Continued)

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dent of schools is
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na 86, 279 and 280
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McDonogh School for
Academy and Mary-
d, which receive some

UCATION (art. 77,

rd of education shall
fice of the State super-
ivate educational asso-
institutions to report
1st day of August, as
d study on such forma-
ation may provide.

(art. 77, ch. 21).

duty of the principal

tions of the State board of education and the
provisions of sections 95, 96, and 97 of this
article, all teachers in the public schools of
the State.

Pupil Transportation

Compiler's note: Special legislation has been
passed by the general assembly directing boards
of education in particular counties to provide
certain transportation for children attending
schools that do not receive State aid. These
counties are:

Baltimore County—Laws of Maryland, 1937,
ch. 185.

Anne Arundel County—Laws of Maryland,
1939, ch. 762.

St. Mary's County—Laws of Maryland, 1939,
ch. 140.

Frederick County—Laws of Maryland, 1941,
ch. 422.

Howard County—Laws of Maryland, 1943, ch.
648.

Montgomery County—Laws of Maryland, 1945,
ch. 577.

Calvert County—Laws of Maryland, extraordi-
nary session, 1948, ch. 11.

Harford County—Laws of Maryland, 1955, ch.
112.

Talbot County—Laws of Maryland, 1955, ch.
403.

them will teach school within the State for
not less than 2 years. The general assembly
at the 1956 session passed an act to award
additional scholarships in education. Certain
provisions of this act are reproduced in this
section because of the responsibilities delegated
to the State department of education.

LAWS OF MARYLAND OF 1956 (ch. 127,
art. 77).

SCHOLARSHIPS IN EDUCATION.

Sec. 274A. (a). The general assembly of Mary-
land declares there is a wide and continuing need
for new and additional teachers in the public
school system of this State, that these needs have
not been fully met and without a new and fresh
approach may not be satisfactorily solved, and
that the scholarships in education herein provided
will attract additional young people to the teach-
ing profession and thus aid in the solution of a
pressing and serious problem facing the people
of this State.

(b). In addition to any other scholarships that
may be awarded or provided for under other
provisions of this article (77), there shall be a
program for scholarships in education under the
provisions of this section. Eligible institutions
shall be those private colleges whose teacher
training curricula are approved by the State de-

² The historical record and misunderstanding by the Board of Education must also be corrected. While the commonly accepted supposition that the Howard County law was enacted in response to gasoline and/or rubber rationing during World War II, the enactment of similar laws for Baltimore, Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, and Frederick Counties prior to the war, shows that the genesis for public local laws for private and parochial busing was not in response to wartime shortages. Furthermore, the public local laws for Calvert, Harford, and Talbot Counties were enacted after World War II.

“State aid” is currently defined in State law as “a contribution, grant, or subsidy of money from the State Treasury.” State Finance and Procurement Code Ann. Section 7-402(a)(3). And it is specifically applicable to private church schools which would qualify as “social organizations” which “means n association or corporation that is operated for a charitable, cultural, **educational**, historical, humane, industrial, medical, or military purpose.” *Id.* (a)(2) (emphasis added). There are four programs at issue here regarding the Howard County parochial busing: the Aid to Non-Public Schools Program (Non-public Textbook and Technology Program), the James E. “Ed” DeGrange Nonpublic Schools Program (Nonpublic Aging Schools Program), the Nonpublic School Security Improvements Program, and the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program (BOOST Scholarships). These State aid programs are appropriated each year by the General Assembly as part of the annual budget bill.

Non-public Textbook and Technology Program

The Non-public Textbook and Technology Program began in 2001 and is funded with money from the Cigarette Restitution Fund from the 1998 Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement. The Textbook Program is the gateway program for determining eligibility for the other three school programs.

A Maryland Public Information Act request with the Maryland State Board of Education was pending at the time of the COVID-19 closures. With the State buildings closed, the documents have not yet been transmitted. Yet, the public information officer states that they were able to locate documents for the Howard County parochial schools for every year of the program except for 2013. It is of course yet to be seen exactly what this means or the relevance of the documents. However, if they schools did in fact begin to receive textbook and technology monies in 2001 or 2002, then the schools have been ineligible for the parochial busing that they have been receiving for nearly two decades.

Nonpublic Aging Schools Program

The Nonpublic Aging Schools Program was established in 2014. It provides grants to make renovations and improvements to nonpublic school buildings. All of the parochial schools received monies during each year of the program except for St. Augustine in 2016 and 2018. In addition, Bethel Christian Academy did not receive grants in FY2019 and FY2020 apparently after being removed by MSDE from the program which will be discussed further below.

FY2014 Nonpublic Aging School Program

	B	C	D	E
	Advance Link Numb	OrgNm - Organization Name	SY12-13 Enrlmt	Adjusted Max Grant Allocation
22	09-13-5930	Atholton Adventist Academy	215	\$ 7,525
37	09-13-5948	Bethel Christian Academy	310	\$ 10,850
57	09-13-6101	Celebration Christian Academy	128	\$ 5,000
59	09-13-4617	Central Presbyterian Church Preschool	144	\$ 5,040
60	09-13-6007	Chapelgate Christian Academy	371	\$ 12,985
64	09-13-5977	Columbia Academy	224	\$ 7,840
65	09-13-8073	Columbia Academy	100	\$ 5,000
66	09-13-5978	Columbia Academy Preschool at Thunderhill	120	\$ 5,000
67	09-13-3887	Columbia Academy At Kendall Ridge	80	\$ 5,000
68	09-13-1538	Columbia Academy At Maple Lawn	80	\$ 5,000
95	09-13-9132	Glenwood Country Day School	60	\$ 5,000
97	09-13-6051	Goddard School - Columbia Pkwy.	335	\$ 11,725
101	09-13-6012	Goddard School - Marlottsville	143	\$ 5,005
103	09-13-6041	Goddard School - Columbia	66	\$ 5,000
215	09-13-1302	Our Lady of Perpetual Help School	223	\$ 7,805
228	09-13-1308	Resurrection Saint Paul School	513	\$ 17,955
243	09-13-1233	St. Augustine School	261	\$ 9,135
283	09-13-1308	St. Louis School	500	\$ 17,500

Source: Email with screenshot provided by School Facilities Architect Supervisor for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

FY2015 Nonpublic Aging School Program

1. Name of School:	MSDE Advance Link Numb	24. Brief Narrative Description of Capital Project:	Copy of FINAL Allocation 03-03-15 (Col AY)	Reimbursement Request Date Received	Reimbursement Request Date Approved	Requested Amount Approved by MSDE
Atholton Adventist Academy	09-13-5930	Remove asbestos tiling from lo	\$ 24,100	9/17/2015	9/18/2015	\$ 24,100.00
Bethel Christian Academy	09-13-5948	We will be replacing the boiler	\$ 24,100	9/22/2015	9/23/2015	\$ 24,100.00
Celebration Christian Academy	09-13-6101	In the times in which we live, we	\$ 12,050	10/8/2015	10/8/2015	\$ 12,050.00
Chapelgate Christian Academy	09-13-6007	For the safety of our student b	\$ 12,050	5/10/2016	5/13/2016	\$ 12,050.00
Columbia Academy Elementary and M	09-13-5977	We plan to replace all hallway	\$ 12,050	12/15/2015	12/15/2015	\$ 12,050.00
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School	09-13-1302	Project Summary for Security I	\$ 24,100	12/13/2016	12/20/2016	\$ 24,100.00
Resurrection St Paul School	09-13-1308	Remove and replace all oarpe	\$ 12,050	5/26/2015	5/27/2015	\$ 12,050.00
St. Augustine School	09-13-1233	1. Roofing Component Repairs	\$ 12,050	10/3/18	10/24/18	\$ 4,987.12
St. Louis School	09-13-1308	Boiler replacement and neces	\$ 12,050	9/19/2016	9/21/2016	\$ 12,050.00
Trinity School	09-13-1310	A. Classroom lighting Replace	\$ 24,100	8/28/2015	8/31/2015	\$ 24,100.00

Source: Email with screenshot provided by School Facilities Architect Supervisor for the MSDE.

FY2016 Nonpublic Aging School Program

A	B	E	F	G	H	O	P	AF
SchoolName	Advanced LI	SchoolAddresses	SchoolCity	SchoolState	SchoolZip	Contact_First Name	Contact_Last Name	ProjectNarrative
ATHOLTON ADVENTIST ACADEMY	09-13-6930	6520 MARTIN RD	COLUMBIA	MD	21044	Marilynn	Peeke	Agreement to project, Uym - repair backdoor mechanism including installing motorized pulley system for new old door in lower grade level. We are planning to replace the remaining 11 windows which is currently serviced by a boiler and wind.
BETHEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	09-13-6946	P O BOX 408	SAVAGE	MD	20763-0416	Patricia	Weeker	The Celebration Christian Academy would like upgrade and repair some of the things in our school. Our boiler is old and needs to be replaced. The three air handlers often create trip hazards for the flooring in various hallways, various rooms and the library media center.
CELEBRATION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	09-13-6101	6080 FORELAND	COLUMBIA	MD	21046-3067	Robin	Davis	
CHAPELGATE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	09-13-6007	2600 MARRIOTT	MARRIOTT SVILL	MD	21104-6628	Laurel	Thomas	
COLUMBIA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL	09-13-6977	10350 OLD COLUMBIA	COLUMBIA	MD	21046	Mark	Etzel	
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SCHOOL	09-13-1302	4801 ELCHESTER	ELLCOTT CITY	MD	21043	Jodi	Phelan	Our Lady of Perpetual Help School requests \$35,000 in funding to make repairs. Changes to rooming and combine with FY15 funding. Our Lady of Perpetual Help School requests \$35,000 in funding to make repairs.
RESURRECTION ST PAUL SCHOOL	09-13-1308	3155 PAULSKRKE	ELLCOTT CITY	MD	21042-2655	Karen	Murphy	Put new tile in main hallway.
ST. LOUIS SCHOOL	09-13-1306	12500 CLARKSVILLE	CLARKSVILLE	MD	21029	Colleen	Craig	Boiler replacement with necessary plumbing upgrades and sprinkler system installation in boiler room.
TRINITY SCHOOL	09-13-1310	4935 ELCHESTER	ELLCOTT CITY	MD	21043	Renee	Van Schoor	The safety of our students and staff is our primary concern. Due to the location and the condition of our campus, Trinity requests

Source: Email with screenshot provided by School Facilities Architect Supervisor for the MSDE.

FY2017 Nonpublic Aging School Program

A	B	AF	AW	AX	AY	AZ
SchoolName	Advanced LI	ProjectNarrative	Total Allocation	Reim Rqst Recd	Reim Rqst Appvd	MSDE Amt Appvd
ATHOLTON ADVENTIST ACADEMY	09-13-6930	The school is now ready to move forward with the window replacements in the lower grade school wing. Security Scope change: Bathroom renovation. Replacement for a total of 7 classrooms depending upon amount granted through	\$20,000.00	12/1/2017	12/1/2017	\$ 20,000.00
BETHEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	09-13-6946	renovation and replacement of flooring - type of flooring is "vinyl plank flooring"	\$9,044.00	7/26/2017	8/17/2017	\$ 9,044.00
COLUMBIA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL - OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SCHOOL	09-13-1302	Our Lady of Perpetual Help School requests \$30,000 in funding to make important safety and security Phase 2 Remove existing 4" galvanized cold water line from water room down the hallway to the water coolers. 110' run.	\$27,132.00	11/28/2018	12/28/2018	\$ 27,132.00
RESURRECTION ST PAUL SCHOOL	09-13-1308	Our current intercom system is at least 37 years old and does not function in all of the classrooms. This is a serious	\$9,044.00	7/21/2018	7/21/2018	\$ 9,044.00
ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL	09-13-1233	Grant funds will be used to replace the original HVAC system in the 1991 building.	\$9,044.00	5/15/2019	5/17/2019	\$ 6,627.88
ST. LOUIS SCHOOL	09-13-1306	Trinity School requests support from MSDE Nonpublic Aging Schools Program for 12 replacement windows in	\$9,044.00	3/5/2018	5/17/2019	\$ 9,044.00
TRINITY SCHOOL	09-13-1310		\$25,590.00	11/3/2017	11/14/2017	\$ 25,590.00

Source: Email with screenshot provided by School Facilities Architect Supervisor for the MSDE.

FY2018 Nonpublic Aging School Program

Howard	Atholton Adventist Academy *	Doors, Interior Renovations, Structural, Other	\$ 24,240
	Bethel Christian Academy *	Plumbing System, Other	\$ 24,240
	Columbia Academy Elementary and Middle School	Interior Renovations, Mechanical Systems, Electrical System	\$ 8,080
	Our Lady of Perpetual Help School	Mechanical Systems	\$ 24,240

	Resurrection St. Paul School	Other	\$ 8,080
	St. Louis School	Mechanical Systems	\$ 8,080
	Trinity School	Other	\$ 24,240
Howard	TOTAL	7 Projects	\$ 121,200

Source: IAC Memorandum 3-16-2018

FY2019 Nonpublic Aging School Program

Howard	Columbia Academy Elementary And Middle School	Doors, Interior Renovations, Structural, Other	7,758.00
	Our Lady Of Perpetual Help School	Interior Renovations, Plumbing System	23,274.00
	Resurrection St Paul School	Interior Renovations	7,758.00
	St. Augustine School	Elevator, Roofing	7,758.00
	St. Louis School	Mechanical Systems	7,758.00
	Trinity School	Roofing, Windows	23,274.00

Source: IAC Meeting Agenda 2-12-2019

FY2020 Nonpublic Aging School Program

Howard	Our Lady of Perpetual Help School	Interior Renovations	19,071.00
	Phillips School --Laurel	Other	25,428.00
	Resurrection/St. Paul School	Interior Renovations	6,357.00
	St. Augustine School	Elevator	18,000.00
	St. Louis School	Telecommunications, Other	6,357.00

Source: IAC Meeting Agenda 4-9-2020

Nonpublic Aging Schools Safety Improvements

The Nonpublic Aging Schools Safety Improvement Program was established in Fiscal Year 2019. In FY2019 of the five parochial schools, only Our Lady of Perpetual Help School and Resurrection/St. Paul School received grants. In FY2020 the four Catholic schools all received grants for safety improvements, and Bethel Christian Academy did not receive a grant due to its disqualification by MSDE.

FY2019 Nonpublic Aging School Safety Improvements

Howard	Columbla Academy Elementary And Middle School	Doors, Telecommunications, Cameras	8,905.00
	Our Lady Of Perpetual Help School	Doors, Cameras	15,665.00
	Resurrection St Paul School	Telecommunications, Cameras	26,455.00

Source: IAC Meeting Agenda 2-12-2019

FY2020 Nonpublic Aging School Safety Improvements

Howard	Linwood School	Windows, Other	5,000.00
	Phillips School --Laurel	Other	7,820.00
	Resurrection/St. Paul School	Other	25,870.00
	St. Augustine School	Other	16,000.00
	St. Louis School	Telecommunications, Other	33,735.00
	Our Lady of Perpetual Help School	Interior Renovations	15,405.00

Source: IAC Meeting Agenda 3-12-2020

BOOST Scholarships

The BOOST Scholarship program is to allow students receiving free or reduced meals to attend nonpublic schools. Since being established in 2016, all five of the parochial schools have participated in two or more of the years of the program.

SY2016-2017

Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today

BOOST Scholarships Awarded and Accepted as of Nov. 17, 2016
By School County Location

County	School	Number of	
		Students	Award Total
	JOHN CARROLL SCHOOL - BEL AIR	6	15,400
	ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL - ABERDEEN	3	10,200
	ST. MARGARET SCHOOL - BEL AIR	7	14,200
	TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL - JOPPA	18	61,200
Harford Total		35	105,400
Howard	ATHOLTON ADVENTIST ACADEMY - COLUMBIA	1	1,400
	BETHEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - SAVAGE	19	52,600
	COLUMBIA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL - COLUMBIA	1	3,400
	RESURRECTION ST PAUL SCHOOL - ELLICOTT CITY	5	5,800
	ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL - ELKRIDGE	2	2,800
	ST. LOUIS SCHOOL - CLARKSVILLE	4	14,600
Howard Total		32	80,600

Source: Joint Chairmen's Report 2016

SY2017-2018

School County Location	School Name (per Enrollment Confirmation by the Schools)	Number of Students	Value of Awards	Percent of
				Total Award Amount
Howard County	ATHOLTON ADVENTIST ACADEMY - COLUMBIA	4	8,600	
	BETHEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - SAVAGE	20	60,600	
	CELEBRATION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - COLUMBIA	1	4,400	
	COLUMBIA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL - COLUMBIA	3	12,200	
	OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SCHOOL - ELLICOTT CITY	1	3,400	
	RESURRECTION ST PAUL SCHOOL - ELLICOTT CITY	5	7,000	
	ST. LOUIS SCHOOL - CLARKSVILLE	3	13,200	
Howard County Total		37	109,400	1.8%

Source: Joint Chairmen's Report 2017

SY2018-2019

Howard County	COLUMBIA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL - COLUMBIA	3	9,800	
	OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SCHOOL - ELLICOTT CITY	1	1,000	
	RESURRECTION ST PAUL SCHOOL - ELLICOTT CITY	4	5,600	
	ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL - ELKRIDGE	3	8,200	
	ST. LOUIS SCHOOL - CLARKSVILLE	3	13,200	
Howard County Total		14	37,800	0.60%

Source: Joint Chairmen's Report 2018

SY2019-2020

Howard County

Columbia Academy - Columbia	7	18,400
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School - Ellicott City	2	2,800
Resurrection/St. Paul School - Ellicott City	4	13,600
St. Augustine School - Elkridge	6	16,606
Tarblyah Academy - Elkridge	2	5,800

Source: Joint Chairmen's Report 2019

Bethel Christian Academy's Litigation with MSDE

Bethel Christian Academy has sued the MSDE challenging its ineligibility to participate in the State aid programs. MSDE alleges that Bethel violated the nondiscrimination provisions for the BOOST program. For purposes of eligibility for parochial busing from Howard County, whether or not the alleged discrimination occurred is not relevant; rather it is Bethel's implicit admission that the programs are State aid--the receipt of which would make them ineligible for the parochial busing.

United States District Judge Stephanie A. Gallagher discussed the relevant facts at issue here in her November 14, 2019 opinion denying MSDE's motion to dismiss Bethel's complaint: "On December 12, 2018, MSDE sent a letter (1) notifying Bethel that it was disqualified from BOOST for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years, and (2) demanding repayment of \$102,600, for the years Bethel had participated in the program." Bethel made these same factual allegations in its Complaint. ¶ 136. Bethel essentially admits that the programs are State aid as defined in Section 7-402 of the State Finance and Procurement Code. Notably, the Maryland Attorney General also recognized that the programs at issue in the Bethel litigation were State aid:

[I]t has merely enforced the General Assembly's judgment that **state aid** should not be given to institutions, regardless of the basis of their views, that discriminate in admissions against students based on their sexual orientation (and now, more broadly discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity). Schools that do not discriminate may express all the viewpoints that they wish, and schools that wish to continue to discriminate are free to do so without material aid from the state.

Defendants' Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction, p. 23 (emphasis added).

Bethel admitted that it participated in the BOOST program for two years. Complaint, ¶ 5. Furthermore, "Bethel also participated in the Nonpublic Textbook and Technology Program, and the Nonpublic Aging Schools Program, which have the same admissions nondiscrimination requirements as BOOST does." ¶ 6. Bethel admitted that it received over \$100,000 in BOOST funds for the two years it participated in the program—(also being years when Bethel received parochial busing). ¶ 9. Bethel admitted that "the State's BOOST decision also rendered Bethel ineligible for the Textbook and Technology and Aging Schools grant programs." ¶ 13.

Bethel admitted that the BOOST Program was established by the Maryland legislature in 2016 beginning in Fiscal Year 2017 and for each subsequent fiscal year. ¶60-61. Furthermore, Bethel all but admitted that it is State aid by alleging that "The BOOST Program is administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)." ¶63.

Bethel's Complaint went further with an entire section entitled "Bethel's Participation in Other MSDE Programs" admitting therein that the Nonpublic Schools Textbook and Technology Program and the two Aging Schools Programs are State programs and enumerating Bethel's participation in them:

77. MSDE operates two additional programs for nonpublic schools: the Textbook and Technology and the Aging Schools Programs.
78. The Nonpublic Schools Textbook and Technology Program purchases textbooks and computer hardware and software to loan to students at eligible nonpublic schools.
79. The Nonpublic Aging Schools Program provides funds to nonpublic schools for capital improvement projects for aging buildings.
80. Nonpublic schools must be eligible for the Textbook and Technology Program to apply for the Aging Schools Program.
81. Nonpublic schools must be eligible for the Textbook and Technology Program to apply for the BOOST Program.
82. Like BOOST, schools participating in the Textbook and Technology and Aging Schools Programs for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years had to agree not discriminate in student admissions based on sexual orientation, among other categories.
83. Like BOOST, the Textbook and Technology and Aging Schools' nondiscrimination requirements do not "require any school or institution to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with its religious or moral teachings."
84. The Textbook and Technology and Aging Schools' nondiscrimination requirements do not define sexual orientation or discrimination.
85. The Textbook and Technology and Aging Schools' nondiscrimination requirements do not require schools to adopt particular policies or policy language.
86. In the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years, the Textbook and Technology and Aging Schools' nondiscrimination requirements did not include gender identity or gender expression.
87. Bethel signed the MSDE assurances that it does not discriminate in admissions based on sexual orientation.
88. Bethel met and complied with all of MSDE's eligibility requirements to participate in the Textbook and Technology Program.
89. Bethel met and complied with all of MSDE's eligibility requirements to participate in the Aging Schools Program.
90. Bethel participated in the Textbook and Technology Program in academic years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, among others.
91. Bethel participated in the Aging Schools Program in academic years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, among others.

Complaint, p. 9-11.

Bethel further admitted that these are State programs in a subsequent section of the Complaint: "Bethel Desires to Participate in MSDE's Programs for Nonpublic Schools:"

147. Because MSDE disqualified Bethel from participating in BOOST, MSDE also disqualified Bethel from the Textbooks and Technology and Aging Schools Programs for the 2018-2019 academic year.

148. But for MSDE interpreting Bethel's statement on marriage and biological sex to constitute sexual orientation discrimination in admissions, Bethel would have been eligible to participate in BOOST, the Textbooks and Technology, and Aging Schools Programs during the 2018-2019 academic year.

149. Bethel desires to participate in all three nonpublic school programs in the future, including the 2019-2020 academic year.

Complaint p. 17-18.

Bethel made these points regarding State aid once more in its Prayer for Relief:

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Bethel Ministries, Inc. prays for judgment as follows:

A. That this Court issue a Preliminary and Permanent Injunction to enjoin the Defendants, Defendants' officers, agents, and employees, and all other persons acting in active concert with them, from enforcing the BOOST, Textbook and Technology, and Aging Schools nondiscrimination requirements to:

- (1) Prohibit Bethel from being eligible for funding from the BOOST, Textbook and Technology, and Aging Schools Programs due to its religious beliefs;
- (2) Force Bethel to pay back the previous funding it received from the BOOST Program;
- (3) Discriminatorily target Bethel in enforcing the BOOST, Textbook and Technology, and Aging Schools Program nondiscrimination requirements;

Complaint p. 36.

Thus, if Bethel, by extension of its own arguments, receives aid from the MSDE programs, it would be ineligible to receive parochial busing. Therefore, Bethel should be estopped from arguing that these programs are not State aid as defined in Section 7-402 of the State Finance and Procurement Code for purposes of receiving parochial busing from Howard County. By extension, a similar analysis must be applied to the other four schools receiving the parochial busing.

Howard County Board of Education Considers These Programs State Aid

To be clear, the HCPSS Board of Education has shown that they consider the Nonpublic Schools Textbook Program and BOOST to be forms of State aid while objecting of the “diversion of public money for nonpublic purposes:”

In the past, the Maryland General Assembly has provided public funding of textbooks and other instructional materials for private schools through the Aid to Nonpublic Schools Program. The Maryland General Assembly also passed legislation to subsidize private funding of tuition scholarships, or private school vouchers, through an income tax credit program administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) known as the *Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers* (BOAST) and the scholarship program, *Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today* (BOOST). For FY 2019, the BOOST Program received \$7.6 million in state funding, an increase of \$1.6 million over the previous year. With total resources for education limited, this state support reduces resources available for public schools.

Source: Board of Education of Howard County Legislative Platform Approved September 6, 2018, p. 17. The same position has been expressed by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

Conclusion

The Howard County Council is obligated by the Howard County Code to make a determination of whether the applicable parochial schools are receiving State aid prior to passing a budget resolution for the Board of Education which includes the their busing. Furthermore, the County Council is obligated by the County Code to make any appropriations for parochial busing from funds not derived from any tax levied on real property.

Because Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Resurrection/St. Paul School, St. Augustine School, and St. Louis School have received State aid from two or more of the programs--Non-public Schools Textbook and Technology Program, Nonpublic Aging Schools, Nonpublic Aging Schools Safety Improvements and/or BOOST Scholarships—the schools are not eligible for parochial busing in FY2021. However, Bethel Christian Academy having been found to be ineligible for the programs by MSDE, is eligible for parochial busing in FY2021. The schools are entitled to either the State aid or the parochial busing provided by HCPSS, but not both.

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharon Kalaris <skalaris@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 1:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Operating budget
Attachments: MVMS testimony.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, testimony for the Operating budget for HCPSS. Please contact me with any questions.

Sharon Kalaris
2018 Terrapin Creek Road
Sykesville, MD 21784
240-447-8404

May 6, 2020

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing to you today regarding the budget cuts to Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). I have one daughter in middle school and one daughter in high school, in HCPSS. Last year, we transitioned from Catholic school to public school. The transition had a couple challenges, but overall, relatively seamless.

My current concern is related to the staff restructuring and lost positions at HCPSS.

As a first responder, I have seen a lot of illness and death involving the COVID and COVID related pandemic. Inside the hospitals it is eerily calm, most days. We continue to prepare for the worst and know we are only making a small difference flattening the curve. Our policies change daily, based on supplies and available staff. What was acceptable in March is so far from where we are today, and I predict will continue to get worse.

This year, all children are facing unprecedented disruption in their every day life. Social distancing will be the new normal. Schools may continue to virtual learn. Unemployment will continue to rise and families may be displaced. HCPSS should be dedicated to use their funds to continue to provide stability in the students' lives.

Watching the physiological side of the COVID is only the tip of the effects of the pandemic. In my opinion, along with economic recovery, mental illness will be the next area to address. Social isolation, anxiety, depression, fear of contracting COVID are true fears that children of HCPSS will face.

Changing staff at this time will be detrimental to the continued emotional support our children's needs. The emotional needs of Howard County children is paramount for their educational growth.

At Mount View Middle School (MVMS), my daughter's school, we are losing 3 teachers (Science, Math, Social Studies) and 1 counselor. MVMS is already limited to a RN, every other day. The staff at MVMS is very dedicated to the children within their school. They truly go above and beyond to make sure the child's needs are met. Many know my daughter because she has asthma and many days I am at school to provide her additional medicine.

During a field trip to Washington DC, her asthma exacerbated and EMS had to be called. A teacher, stayed with her until I could get down to DC and missed riding the bus back to school. Because of policy, he was not able to ride back with me. He was not my daughter's teacher, but the comfort he provided to her was amazing. I continue to see him at community events, providing support to all kids.

Another math teacher, not her current math teacher, has been helping my daughter get caught up with math. Due to the timing of her need for medication and her math class, she missed many classes and continued to fall further behind. She worked relentlessly to get her caught up and fill in some gaps she had. All because she is a teacher who is engaged in the well being of my daughter. These teachers are true examples of HCPSS finest and have helped build the MVMS community.

All I am asking from this letter is to try to continue to make cuts elsewhere in the budget. During this extreme time, the children of Howard County need stability. They need to see their favorite, trusted teachers, and their community to stay intact. The students, at all schools, have bonded with teachers and school is a safe place for many. Please, for next year, keep the current staff in their schools. Every area of our children's lives is changing and the instability will continue to increase, bringing emotional instability. Please keep the stability in staffing for the next school year.

Thank you for your time and please stay safe.

Sharon Kalaris

240-447-8404

2018 Terrapin Creek Road, Sykesville, MD 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy Grutzik <agrutzik@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 10:31 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; David W. Ramsay; superintendent@hcpss.org
Subject: Testimony for HCPSS operating budget Category 14
Attachments: HCPSS Operating Budget Category 14 testimony 5.6.2020.pdf

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

Council Members,

Attached is my testimony on HCPSS operating budget Category 14.

Thank you,

Amy Grutzik
District 5

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing to you to request that student transportation under Category 14 of the HCPSS operating budget include the total cost of "same service" school bus transportation for parochial schools in Howard County to include human capital costs. Currently, the Category 14 budget includes \$797,811 for the prorated cost of bus contracts for 19 school buses (38 bus trips with 934 bus stops) for 5 parochial schools.

Enclosed is a memorandum dated February 27, 2020 from Superintendent Martirano providing background information on the history and administration of "same service" school bus transportation for parochial school students.

This "same service" school bus transportation is funded by Howard County Government via HCPSS operating budget Category 14 – Community Services. Category 14 is not included in the calculation of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding.

Page 6, first paragraph of Dr. Martirano's enclosed memo states "It should be noted that administrative human capital costs (design the bus routes, provide customer service to schools and parents, and contract oversight to the bus contractors assigned to each school) is not charged to State Category 14."

The below chart outlines information from page 440 of FY 2021 BOE's Requested Operating Budget:

HCPSS Staff to Ratio of School Bus Routes						
Position	National Benchmark Standard	Actual FY 2017	Actual FY 2018	Actual FY 2019	Target FY 2020	Target FY 2021
Area Manager	1:50	76	76	77	79	81
Bus Router	1:70	453	453	231	237	242
Driver Trainer	1:75	227	227	231	237	242

Looking at Actual FY 2019 ratios in the above chart, it shows the staff to ratio of school bus routes are not in line with the listed National Benchmark standards. In particular, the bus router and driver trainer ratios are way out of line with the standards. The chart also shows that the FY 2020 and FY 2021 ratios are projected to get worse.

As stated on page 440 of the budget report, these ratio measures are to help in "Ensuring that each school bus route is reviewed for safety and efficiencies, drivers and attendants are receiving continuous professional learning, and student, parent and community inquiries are addressed." Our transportation department works hard to make sure our students are safe, but as these ratio numbers continue to get worse, will their efforts be sustainable?

Below is a chart showing current HCPSS transportation staffing numbers. The chart also shows that the Superintendent requested from the BOE three additional transportation staff members for FY20 budget. The BOE requested from the County an additional two transportation staff members. The final approved budget for FY20 allocated no additional transportation staff. From the ratios listed above, it is apparent that the additional transportation staff is still needed. With the budget issues HCPSS is facing, I do not expect additional staff will be funded in the FY21 budget.

Program 6801	Budget FY 2019	Superintendent Proposed to BOE FY 2020	Board Requested from County FY 2020	Approved FY 2020
DIRECTOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
MANAGER	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
AREA MANAGER TRANSPORTATION	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.0
SECRETARY	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
SCHOOL BUS ROUTER	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.0
DRIVER TRAINER PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
TRANSPORTATION ANALYST/PLANNER	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Operating Fund FTE	16.0	19.0	18.0	16.0

If the County Council and Taxpayers of Howard County continue to fund the busing of parochial school students through HCPSS, I ask that the County Council increase the Category 14 Community Budget for student transportation in the amount of \$150,000 to help share in the human capital cost of this service. In addition, I request that this funding does NOT come out of the money that the County Executive has already allocated for the other categories in the HCPSS operating budget.

Thank you for your consideration toward allocating additional money to Category 14 of the HCPSS 2021 operating budget to reimburse HCPSS the **entire** cost of busing parochial students. It makes sense that the school system should not be footing the bill for any costs of these services.

Sincerely,

Amy Grutzik, Council District 5

Enclosures



February 27, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Re: Parochial School Bus Service

The purpose of this memorandum is provide background information as requested by the Board on the history and administration of "same service" school bus transportation for parochial school students by the Howard County Public School System.

Legal Framework

The Howard County Code of Ordinances, has two sections that address school bus transportation to parochial schools. The first ordinance, Title 9, Section 9.100 School buses; parochial schools, states:

All children who attend parochial schools in Howard County, which schools do not receive State aid, and who reside on or along or near to the public highways of Howard County, on which there is now or hereafter operated a public school bus or conveyance provided by the Board of Education of Howard County for transporting children to and from the public schools of Howard County, shall be entitled to transportation on the said buses or conveyances, subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth, from a point on the said public highways nearest or most accessible to their respective homes to a point on said public highways nearest or most accessible to their respective schools, without changing the routes of said buses or conveyances now or hereafter established by said Board of Education of Howard County for transporting children to and from the public schools. Such transportation may be provided by the Board of Education, as aforesaid, for all the children attending schools described herein, upon the same terms and conditions as now or as may be hereafter established by the Board of Education of Howard County for children attending public schools.

(1943, Ch. 648, § 291A)

The second ordinance, Sec. 9.101. Same conditions states:

The County Council of Howard County is hereby authorized to appropriate annually to the Board of Education of Howard County, from any funds received by said Howard County for any general County purpose and not derived from any tax levied on real property, such sum as the said Board of Education may request to enable it to defray any costs incurred by it in carrying into effect the provisions of section 9.100 and to establish new bus routes, in the discretion of the Board of Education of Howard County, for the transportation to and from school of children attending schools not receiving State aid. The transportation of children to and from schools not receiving State aid shall be upon such reasonable terms and conditions as the Board of Education may from time to time determine, but in no event shall the amount charged children attending such schools for using buses or conveyances be greater or less than the amount charged children attending the public schools for the same kind of transportation.

(1943, Ch. 648, § 291B)

The primary distinction between the ordinances is that under 9.101, the Board of Education has the discretion to establish new bus routes for the transportation to and from school of children attending schools not receiving State aid.

Historical Overview of Services

The transition of services in which parochial schools accessed the same buses servicing public schools, section 9.100, to parochial schools receiving their own buses, section 9.101 took place in the mid 1970's. In the July 19, 1979 memorandum (attachment) from Charles Ecker to Grason Fowble, Mr. Ecker states, "When the separate system was established two years ago, it was agreed that we would provide the same service that we provide regular students." In the Board of Education minutes dated September 22, 1983 (attachment), Mr. Robert Lazarewicz, provided the following background in his report:

Transportation services for parochial students began in the early 1940's. There have been some significant changes in the type and level of services related to providing transportation for parochial school students. The program began as a "shuttle system" whereby parochial school students boarded the public school bus and rode to a public school. A "shuttle bus" then provided bus service to the respective parochial school. In 1976 a "separate fleet" system was established which provides separate buses for parochial school students. This system was established primarily because a state-imposed financial penalty made the "separate fleet" more cost effective. With some modifications the "separate fleet" is utilized currently in Howard County.

After the issuance of Mr. Ecker's memorandum and Mr. Lazarewicz's report, subsequent correspondences and Board minutes address attendance areas for the parochial schools, as well continued budget discussions. A letter from the Attorney General of Maryland, dated February 15, 1995 is also included as an attachment. Lastly, in 1984, the Atholton Adventist School requested transportation services and later in the year withdrew their request.

Current Services and Statistics

Currently, school bus service is provided to the following five (5) parochial schools: Bethel Christian Academy, Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH), Resurrection-St. Paul Catholic School, St. Augustine School, and St. Louis Catholic School. Each school receives service in accordance with section 9.101, namely, school buses are assigned to each school.

Bus Assignments

- Bethel Christian Academy - 2
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) - 2
- Resurrection-St. Paul Catholic School - 4
- St. Augustine School - 2
- St. Louis Catholic School - 9

Each school bus assigned to a parochial school is also assigned to provide service to public schools. For example, the buses assigned to OLPH, service a high and middle school prior to starting the OLPH trip. These scheduled trips are designed to maximize efficiencies and are consistent with the assignments of trips assigned to each school bus throughout the county. The complete schedule for all buses is provided below.

Bethel Christian Academy		
Bus 854 Hammond HS Bethel Christian Academy Clarksville ES	Bus 970 Patuxent Valley MS Bethel Christian Academy Forest Ridge ES	
OLPH		
Bus 159 Long Reach HS Bonnie Branch MS OLPH	Bus 861 Oakland Mills HS Mayfield Woods MS OLPH	
Resurrection-St. Paul		
Bus 468 Centennial HS Burleigh Manor MS Resurrection-St. Paul	Bus 771 Mt. Hebron HS Patapsco MS Resurrection-St. Paul	Bus 801 Mt. Hebron HS Patapsco MS Resurrection-St. Paul
Bus 821 Mt. Hebron HS Bonnie Branch MS Resurrection-St. Paul		
St. Augustine School		
Bus 156 Howard HS	Bus 988 Mayfield Woods MS	

Elkridge Landing MS St. Augustine School	St. Augustine School Bellows Spring ES	
St. Louis Catholic School		
Bus 300 Marriott's Ridge HS Burleigh Manor MS St. Louis Catholic School	Bus 74 River Hill HS Clarksville MS St. Louis Catholic School	Bus 75 River Hill HS St. Louis Catholic School
Bus 8 River Hill HS Clarksville MS St. Louis Catholic School	Bus 871 Patuxent Valley MS St. Louis Catholic School	Bus 88 Folly Quarter MS St. Louis Catholic School
Bus 89 River Hill HS Burleigh Manor MS St. Louis Catholic School	Bus 956 Wilde Lake HS Harpers Choice MS St. Louis Catholic School	Bus 959 River Hill HS Clarksville MS St. Louis Catholic School

The average trip length of parochial school trips is 13.5 miles as compared to 5.4 miles for public school trips. This difference can be attributed to the larger service areas (boundary) for the parochial schools. Additionally, since time has a direct correlation to mileage, the trip average for parochial schools is 45 minutes and the public school average of 24 minutes. Lastly, the ridership on parochial school buses is typically low (on average 20 students per bus). As a result, trips were consolidated which yielded a reduction of six (6) trips (Bethel Christian - 1, St. Louis -1, OLPH -2, and Resurrection 2). The transportation office continues working closely with the school administrators and will continue their efforts in reviewing the utilization of buses.

Schools	Data	Total
Bethel Christian Academy	Sum of Number Stops	80
	Average of Duration	52
	Count of Trips	4
	Average of Distance	13.64
OLPH	Sum of Number Stops	42
	Average of Duration	30
	Count of Trips	4
	Average of Distance	12.05
Resurrection-St. Paul	Sum of Number Stops	82
	Average of Duration	42.75
	Count of Trips	8
	Average of Distance	11.49
St. Augustine School	Sum of Number Stops	82
	Average of Duration	41.25
	Count of Trips	4
	Average of Distance	16.24
St. Louis Catholic School	Sum of Number Stops	181

	Average of Duration	50.5
	Count of Trips	18
	Average of Distance	14.18
Total Sum of Number Stops		467
Total Average of Duration		45.89
Total Count of Trips		38
Total Average of Distance		13.55

Cost of Services/Budget Impact

Since school bus service is competitively bid, with the term of a contract for six (6) years with six (6) additional renewal years, the contract assignments and associated rates may change. The rates are based on the following:

- Base Hourly Rate for 5 hours
- Base Mileage Rate for 55 miles
- Extended Hourly Rate for time over 5 hours
- Extended Mileage Rate for mileage over 55 miles

Because buses service parochial and public services, the work assigned to support these services must be assigned to the appropriate category. On average, parochial school costs represent approximately 48% of each contract and the requested amount for parochial services for FY21 is \$797,811.

Parochial school transportation is budgeted under State Category 14: Community Services. The County does not include Category 14 in the calculation of the required Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding. Therefore, neither a decision to maintain this request nor to eliminate it will have an impact on MOE.

In response to a request for an analysis of the budget impact if some parents transfer their child from a parochial school to an HCPSS school, it is important to note that the school system both receives additional revenue per student as well as incurs an obligation to provide services. This analysis is not reducible to a single dollar impact. On the revenue side, HCPSS will receive approximately \$14,000 in FY 2021 formula-based funding from the State and County combined per student. Actual enrollment used in the formula lags by one (1) year, therefore receipt of new dollars for new students is delayed one (1) year. Each additional student creates a demand on services, however, and at some point depending on the number and nature of students that demand create operating and capital costs, some of which may be significant.

School	Bus #	Route #	Contractor	Daily Contract Cost	Parochial Trip Cost	Parochial % of Total
Bethel Christian Academy	970	R1323	Blue Horizons	402.35	148.79	36.98%
	854	R0994	Mellors	319.58	129.23	40.44%

OLPH	159	R1186	Tip Top	329.3	135.64	41.19%
	861	R0861	Tip Top	327.83	224.38	68.44%
Resurrection-St. Paul	771	R0877	BL Com	313.38	137.77	43.96%
	468	R1327	MBG	387.71	161.51	41.66%
	821	R0808	MBG	348.9	145.6	41.73%
	801	R1332	Y&L Trans	400.85	156.1	38.94%
St. Augustine School	156	R0884	Tip Top	349.34	185.32	53.05%
	988	R0874	Tip Top	303.7	130.42	42.94%
St. Louis Catholic School	956	R1052	Blue Horizons	462.64	259.49	56.09%
	959	R1050	Blue Horizons	368.63	156.77	42.53%
	300	R0802	Bowens	359.92	222.46	61.81%
	74	R1157	Bowens	332.92	131.85	39.60%
	75	R0855	Bowens	337.1	306.77	91.00%
	88	R1339	Bowens	490.79	282.05	57.47%
	89	R1277	Bowens	515.8	260.65	50.53%
	8	R1120	HOB	317.95	125.04	39.33%
	871	R0993	JC Bus	342.88	283.93	82.81%
Average				369.03	188.62	48.53%

It should be noted that administrative human capital costs (design the bus routes, provide customer service to schools and parents, and contract oversight to the bus contractors assigned to each school) is not charged to State Category 14.

Lastly, should the Board consider providing service only under section 9.100, the school system would not yield a budget reduction savings from funds allocated to support parochial services. The buses assigned to the schools are still under contract with the Board and would be reallocated to support other needs of the school system.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Blom, General Counsel, or David Ramsay, Director, Pupil Transportation Office.

Copy: Executive Staff
Board of Education Office

J. JOSEPH GUNDEL, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

WILLIAM B. FLYNN
MORRIS E. PARKER, JR.
ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL



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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF
COUNSEL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
104 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES BUILDING
90 STATE CHURCH

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

GWATKINS LOCAL CALLING AREA (410) 841-3888

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA (301) 658-3888

TTY FOR DEAF & HEARING IMPAIRED: (410) 841-3814 - G. C. MARYLAND (301) 658-3814

February 15, 1995

The Honorable Martin G. Madden
402B Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear Senator Madden:

You have requested advice on whether under law the Howard County Board of Education may discontinue a program of transportation of public school students or not include in its proposed budget funds for such a program.

On the basis of statutory construction, it is my view that the Board of Education may not discontinue this student transportation program or fail to include any funds in its proposed budget for its operation.

In 1943, the General Assembly enacted the following public local law for Howard County:

"All children who attend parochial schools in Howard County, which schools do not receive state aid, and who reside on or along or near to the public highways of Howard County, on which there is now or hereafter operated a public school bus or conveyance provided by the Board of Education of Howard County for transporting children to and from the public schools of Howard County, shall be entitled to transportation on the said buses or conveyances, subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth, from a point on the said public highways nearest or most accessible to their

respective homes to a point on said public highways nearest or most accessible to their respective schools, without changing the routes of said buses or conveyances now or hereafter established by said Board of Education of Howard County for transporting children to and from the public schools. Such transportation may be provided by the Board of Education, as aforesaid for all the children attending schools described herein, upon the same terms and conditions as now or as may be hereafter established by the Board of Education of Howard County for children attending public schools." (Emphasis added). Chapter 648, Laws of 1943; Howard County Code, §9.100.

This statute also authorizes the County to appropriate funds for the parochial student transportation program; empowered the Board of Education to establish new bus routes "in its discretion" for the program, and to set "reasonable terms and conditions" for program administration; and states that:

"[B]ut in no event shall the amount charged children attending such schools be greater or less than the amount charged children attending the public schools for the same kind of transportation." Howard County Code, §9.101.¹

¹ According to U.S. District Court Judge Harvey in McCarthy v. Horaback, 390 F.Supp. 934, 939 (D. Md. 1984):

"There is no State law which relates to the providing of transportation services at public expense for private school students. However, in eleven of Maryland's twenty-four counties, local laws permit the extending of some such services to nonpublic school students at county expense. The remaining thirteen counties have not authorized the use of public funds for the furnishing of transportation services to private school students.


The counties which do not have public local laws concerning the transportation of nonpublic school students are now without power to enact legislation which would offer such services at county expense. In 1977, the Maryland Court of Appeals invalidated an attempt by Anne Arundel County to enact legislation which would provide transportation for nonpublic school students. McCarthy v. Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, 280 Md. 634, 374 A.2d 1135 (1977). The Court held in McCarthy that the field of education has been preempted by the General Assembly and that since transportation is an integral part of modern education, the home rule power of the counties did not extend to providing services of this sort. Under Maryland law

The Honorable Martin G. Madden
February 13, 1995
Page 3

The 1943 enactment is not a directory enactment that allows the Board of Education to disregard its terms. Although admitting of a measure of discretion in the establishment of new routes, in setting "reasonable" program terms and conditions, and making those terms and conditions the "same" as those for children attending public schools, the statute's basic command is framed in mandatory terms, viz. that qualified parochial school students "shall be entitled to transportation". In light of this requirement imposed by the General Assembly, the Board, in my view, is not free to eliminate this program that was established by law. Nor, in my opinion, can the Board eliminate the program by simply refusing to request in its budget money for parochial student transportation. Under §5-101(c) of the Education Article, student transportation is a budget category for which the board is required to prepare an annual budget under §5-101(b). Cf. Board of Education of P.G. Co. v. Co. Comm., 131 Md. 658, 668 (1917) (Board is "required by statute to expend all taxes received by it in accordance with the items of their budget.").

For these reasons, it is my view that the Board of Education may not discontinue the program of student transportation required by the 1943 statute or fail to include any funds in its proposed budget for such transportation.

Sincerely,


Kathryn M. Rows
Assistant Attorney General

KMR:mas
lms/madden.001

then, legislative responsibility for dealing with the current pattern of disparate transportation services provided to nonpublic school students in Maryland rests with the General Assembly."

July 16, 1979

TO: Mr. Graison Fowble
FROM: Charles L. Pekar
RE: Parochial Transportation

It has come to my attention that we are providing transportation services to parochial students that we do not provide to students in public schools.

When the separate system was established two years ago, it was agreed that we would provide the same service that we provide regular students.

The Priest set up school districts for each of the four parochial schools. A person living in one district was not to receive transportation to a school in an attendance area in which the student did not live.

I understand that we are not only providing transportation from one district to another, but we are actually having buses go into another district to pick up students.

Effective immediately, this service provided parochial students will be equal to the services that we provide public school students. Buses going into another attendance area to pick up students will be discontinued.

Please discuss this with me if you so desire.

CLE/ra

Minutes
September 22, 1983

6

REPORT ITEMS

Parochial School Bus Transportation

Mr. Robert Lazarewicz, Supervisor of Support Services and Mr. Glen Johnson, Assistant in Transportation, were present for the discussion of this item. It was pointed out that this report was developed after several inquiries and statements were made with reference to the transportation of parochial school students.

It was reported that in 1943, the Maryland General Assembly enacted local legislation to provide transportation for parochial school students in Howard County. The statute identified the conditions under which such transportation shall be provided and funded. The statute is now part of the Howard County Code in sections 9.100 and 9.101.

There have been several legal opinions and court rulings rendered in the past thirty years concerning the constitutional and legal issues associated with providing school bus service for parochial and/or non-public school students when such services are funded from local and/or state tax revenues. The latest opinion issued to the Howard County Council in 1981 by Timothy E. Welsh, Howard County Office of Law, in summary states:

- The Board of Education of Howard County has correctly interpreted the language of section 9.100 of the Howard County Code as mandatory and not permissive.
- Sections 9.100 and 9.101 of the Howard County Code appear to be constitutionally defective, but until adjudicated unconstitutional the present law is presumed valid.

Transportation services for parochial students began in the early 1940's. There have been some significant changes in the type and level of services related to providing transportation for parochial school students. The program began as a "shuttle system" whereby parochial school students boarded the public school bus and rode to a public school. A "shuttle bus" then provided bus service to the respective parochial school. In 1976 a "separate fleet" system was established which provides separate buses for parochial school students. This system was established primarily because a state-imposed financial penalty made the "separate fleet" more cost effective. With some modifications the "separate fleet" is utilized currently in Howard County.

The costs for parochial school bus service from 1970 to 1983 ranged from \$61,000 to \$203,000. Several cost containment measures have been implemented in the past seven years to help curtail the rising cost of parochial school bus services, including a reduction in the number of buses and a refined routing/scheduling system.

Minutes
September 22, 1983

Considering the legal opinions and court decisions concerning the transportation of parochial students, the staff believes that the Board is mandated to provide transportation for parochial school students in Howard County.

In answer to a question asked by Mr. Salett, Dr. Goedeke indicated that the staff has consistently acted within the county code and has not been challenged over the years. The plan is to continue to operate on the basis of the same interpretation and past practice which has been successful.

Mr. Salett noted that parochial schools and non-public schools would be eligible for the same transportation aid. The Board was advised that requests would be handled on a case by case basis and would be presented for approval by the Board, as in the past.

1984 Annual Lay Conference

Dr. Lee Smith, Supervisor of Staff Development, was present for the discussion of this item. He presented the preliminary plans for a lay conference on the topic of education and high technology.

The suggested objectives of the conference are:

1. To provide a forum for presentations, discussions, hands-on experiences, and interactions with guest speakers on the topic of high technology and its place in our society.
2. To demonstrate high technology equipment to the public for the purpose of raising awareness to changes in our society.
3. To receive input from community and resource persons on what changes are needed in our school programs to meet the high technology needs in Howard County.

Suggested dates for March, 1984 were given so that speakers can be scheduled. The suggested committee membership was presented to the Board and agreed upon. The appropriate invitations will be sent to those persons identified to make up the committee which will be chaired by Dr. Smith.

A dinner break was taken from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Listening Post Session

Mrs. Sue Hartdegen, parent of Wilde Lake High School graduate, shared with the Board her concerns about the program at Wilde Lake High School. The Board asked that the staff follow up and report to the Board with regard to the recommendations presented by Mrs. Hartdegen.

Sayers, Margery

From: Karissa Bryant <Karissa_Bryant@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 9:42 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fully fund our schools

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Esteemed Councilmembers,

I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. I support keeping the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being attended.

*Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is **unacceptable** to parents! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success.*

*Funding the school system in this county at the requested level **Stops the Avalanche** of program cuts.*

As a tax-payer of Howard county, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Thank you,

--

Karissa Strawley
Band and Strings Teacher
Phelps Luck Elementary School
410-313-6886
[Ms. Strawley's Music Website](#)



Sayers, Margery

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 6:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Budget - School Nurses Needed Even More in the Pandemic

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

Dear Council,

A year ago, a HCPSS nurse was the subject of a CBSNews story on the shortage of nurses in schools.
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nurse-shortages-at-schools-could-be-putting-your-child-at-risk/>

In light of the new medical needs of the pandemic, it seems that there is even more of a need for nurses in schools. They will not only help to serve the students, but help protect the county as a whole if any cases of COVID-19 occur. I did not hear this topic discussed at the education work session last week. In light of our new conditions, monies should be in the HCPSS Budget to provide full-time medical personnel at each school.

Sincerely,

Joel Hurewitz

Sayers, Margery

From: Alexis K <ask0109@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 7:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS Budget Testimony for the County Council

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

Dr. Ball and Howard County Council Members,

My name is Alexis Kalivretenos, and I am an HCPSS educator. However, long before I was an HCPSS educator, I was an HCPSS student. I was fortunate to have an excellent education. I had teachers who cared about me, who challenged me, who supported me. I had access to school programs and resources. I was part of a caring community, who placed incredibly high value on education. My experience as an HCPSS student shaped me into not only the person I am today, but also the educator that I have become. It's my goal every day to inspire my students the way my teachers once inspired me.

Knowing that the budget has not been fully funded, I am greatly concerned about my own students and all Howard County students. In a time where we don't know what the next week (let alone the next year) will bring, it pains me to think that our students may not even have the stability of their education to rely on. Cutting programs, supports, and teacher positions to allow for an underfunded budget is NOT in the best interest of our HCPSS students, and will lead to a myriad of negative long term effects.

The services that we as educators provide are essential to the education and well-being of our students. We CANNOT continue to provide these essential services effectively if programs and supports continue to be cut and teacher positions are eliminated. What our students need right now is to know that there are teachers who care about them and are there for them - and will be when we enter the 2020-2021 school year.

Ever since the budget issues arose, I have dreaded answering my students when they look at me, with concern in their eyes, and ask the question, "Ms. K, will you be our band teacher again next year?" Each time I pause for a moment, trying to answer them as honestly as possible. I say, "I sure hope so."

HCPSS provided me with a first class education that afforded me the opportunities I have today. I urge you to provide sufficient funding to the Howard County Public School System so that every child can have the well-rounded education that they deserve. The children are our future, and we must invest in our future now. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexis Kalivretenos

Sayers, Margery

From: Stacey Purdum <staceypurdum@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School Budget

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

To the respected members of the county council,

I am both a county resident and a teacher. A difficult accomplishment given the current HoCo teacher salaries. However, I DO NOT support any more money to be directed to the school system. As a taxpayer, I am appalled at the top-heavy bloated school system that continuously makes cuts to the front lines that support our children and education. Stop giving them money until HCPSS gets their priorities straight and please move forward with the audit. Although it should be conducted by a third party to be productive. I am a product of HCPSS and was proud of the education that I received. It is rapidly deteriorating and NOT from lack of funding.

Sayers, Margery

From: Sunmy Brown <s_brown0304@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:49 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jung, Deb
Subject: Executive Proposed Capital Budget Fiscal Year 2021: Public Input

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

Dear Howard County Council Members,

As you prepare to vote on County Executive Ball's proposed capital budget for 2021, I am asking each of you to examine carefully at what is being proposed in this plan.

Though I am pleased to read that a total of allocation of \$92.7 million is the "highest total HCPSS has had in the last 16 years," and investing \$68.7 million using County funds to the school system is what is being recommended, please take into account the rate of growth in student enrollment in the past 16 years as well as the rate in change in how much money was being allocated and spent in previous years. I am hoping each of you have looked over the numbers carefully. I am beginning to suspect these numbers may look "good on paper," but you must look carefully at the details. For too many years, the Howard County Public School System seems to be asking for more and more money, but there continues to be major shortfalls across the county at school-based levels. One has to wonder how the money is being spent ethically to meet the needs of all children attending HCPSS schools.

Looking at the systemic renovation amounts of \$13.5 million and \$7.3 million for other on-going needs, many of the schools in the county have not had major renovations since it first opened its doors. For example, Dunloggin Middle School, located in Ellicott City, built in 1973, has had no major renovations since 1999--21 years ago. The total enrollment in this school as of 9/30/19 is 628 students. Though the school has portables, there have been instances throughout the year when students couldn't use them effectively because class-sizes were too large or there were heating/cooling issues inside the portables. Students needed to relocate to other parts of the school to access instruction. This is unacceptable and it's disruptive.

Though bathrooms may be functional at DMS, many students end up using a handful of restrooms in the school building because they deem them "gross." Depending on where students are located in the school, this takes away minutes from instruction to utilize the restroom. I believe the school PTA is actually trying to raise funds or allocate PTA monies to "beautify" the school bathrooms. The PTA should be raising money for enrichment activities to foster educational experiences, instead they are putting money towards beautification efforts because this is actually a need, a priority. How many PTAs in the county do you know of needs to do this kind of spending on bathroom beautification? This wouldn't be the case if there were renovated bathrooms at Dunloggin Middle School and the additional wing HCPSS approved a few years ago, which included at least 100 additional seats or so in the school building, accommodating student growth at the school.

There are several priorities when considering and approving a County Budget year to year. It takes an enormous amount of collaboration and thoughtful discourse. Please listen to professionals, experts, and constituents voices and advice. Continue to examine, challenge, and ask thoughtful questions as you consider approving this budget. Today, I am asking that each of you hold the Howard County Public School System accountable for how they are using the money the County provides them from year to year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sunmy Brown
Ellicott City, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: tim siemens <tjsiemens11@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testifying soft copy for Tim Siemens' at the Operating Budget Meeting-Education

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

I would appreciate it if you could share this with the county council members...thank you..tim siemens

Operating Budget Public Hearing- Education (HCPSS)
May 6, 2020 – 6:30 PM
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

CouncilWebex@howardcountymd.gov

https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/Group_Representative_Affidavit_Digital.pdf

Dear Chairman
Howard County Council,

I am Tim Siemens, tired pastor from Grace Community Church and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Chin Integration and Advocacy Network USA (CIAN).

On behalf of the Chin community in Howard County, I am testifying to request a Chin Liaison position at Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). The role of this position is to facilitate communication and understanding across cultures between schools and the Chin families. There are approximately 400 Chin students studying at HCPSS from elementary to High School. They live in Laurel, Jessup, Columbia, Savage, and Elkridge.

I expect the Corona virus will have a significant impact on this year's budget. So I would be happily surprised if you were able to consider the Chin liaison position this year. I would like to use these minutes to share some of the unique challenges for the Chin refugees here in Howard County.

The Chin are one of the ethnic groups in Burma which is situated between India and China. They came here as refugees due to the persecutions by the military regime in Burma. There are about 70,000 Chin in the United States and approximately 5,000 in Maryland. Over 1,000 of them live here in Howard County. Living in Howard County is very expensive for Chin refugees. However, the Chin communities choose to live here because of the good quality of education and the County has been very welcoming to immigrants and refugees.

When you get the opportunity to consider additional liaison positions to serve the immigrants and refugees in Howard County I would ask you to consider the unique needs of refugees like the Chin.

- 1.
- 2.
3. You see an immigrant chooses to leave their contrary and are able to bring their assets with them.
4. Refugees on the other hand are fleeing for their lives and quite literally just bring the clothes on their backs.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

8. Most Chin refugees will have spent years in refugee camps in Malaysia before getting resettled.
9. There are no schools for their children in the refugee camps so many will arrive behind on their schooling. Even if the children actually come from Myanmar they have been an oppressed people with little support for their schools from the government so the
10. schools are not well staffed.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
14. They come from an agricultural village where few of the parents have received education beyond
15. high school and the priority is their crop production and not schooling. Parents do not play much of a role in their children's education. The concept of taking out a loan or scholarships for school is a foreign concept. Most parents do not speak English.
16. So the liaisons are crucial to the parents understanding our system and to the success of the Chin students.
17.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c. There is one Chin liaison, BiBi, who does an incredible job, but it's simply not possible to resource
 - d. all the schools the 400 Chin students attend and engage all their parents
 - e.
- 18.
- 19.
20. Many Chin students received free and reduced meal services (FARMS). Chin families are challenged
21. by the economics of making minimum wage. Both parents are working and doing a pass off between one working day shift while the other works night shift.
- 22.

CIAN is trying to play a supportive role with the education of the Chin students. With...

- 1.
- 2.
3. Elementary thru High School students we have offered a week of summer school where Chin and non-Chin
4. college students and young adults help them with English and Math
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. High school juniors we are helping them with applying for college and scholarships
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
12. College students we are helping to identify and apply for internships and apprenticeship opportunities.
13. Also assisting graduating students to connect with businesses in their field of major.
- 14.

As you know, students are learning online due to coronavirus. Due to the language and learning system they are struggling.

Thank you for the opportunity to increase your awareness of the unique challenges of the Chin refugees in Howard County. I hope you are able to consider a Chin Liaison position at HCPSS in the near future .

Sincerely

Tim Siemens



FY2021 Operating Budget for HCPSS

During the Board of Education work sessions for the FY2021 budget, the Chief Academic Officer and Superintendent both stated their highest priority was Special Education. And yet, that was the ONLY program that the Board of Ed reduced in their requested funding from the Superintendent's proposal, by \$3.7M.

I have been critical of the school system for the lack of evaluation of special education programs and justification of their budget dollars spent. Take a look at the performance measures for each department in the budget book. Most are numbers of opportunities provided, number of people trained, or numbers of things done. They have nothing to do with actual performance or accountability.

However, we must also look at the recent history of special education in Howard County.

Between 2013 and 2018, HCPSS gained 1,006 additional special education students and only 2.5 special education teachers.¹ The HCPSS plan has been to meet their legal requirements on paper for adults assigned to special education students by hiring nonprofessional staff, that means untrained aides.

In 2019, Montgomery County had 251 MORE special education teachers than special education aides, while Howard County had 150 more aides that certified teachers. How can that be? Howard County had almost 800 paras and student assistant along with 845 part-time, minimum wage temporary employees to work with these complex students.

To add to the problem, Howard County has the lowest minimum requirements for all of these aides – with only a high school diploma required. Montgomery County, for instance, requires an associate's degree with a preference for a bachelor's degree and a minimum of nine credit hours in an education field such as behavior management or instructional strategies. Our most complex students are given the least trained people with whom to spend most of their day.

HCPSS also transferred \$4.5M OUT of special education between 2011 and 2016.

Although the Board of Education has already limited the County's ability to meet the needs of these students as recommend by the Superintendent and staff by reducing the Superintendent's proposal, the County Executive has decimated it by cutting \$13M.

Based on my educated experience, here is what I believe will happen if special education funding is so severely reduced. Howard County will lose more good teachers due to the stress of so many students on IEPs in their classes with not enough resources and training. Behaviors will increase because student needs will not be met, which will impact all students in our inclusion model. There will be more legal battles, nonpublic placements, and compensatory services due to the lack of appropriate staff. We have already seen a large increase in nonpublic tuition and transportation costs due to the lack of staff from 2013 to 2018. Nonpublic tuition was

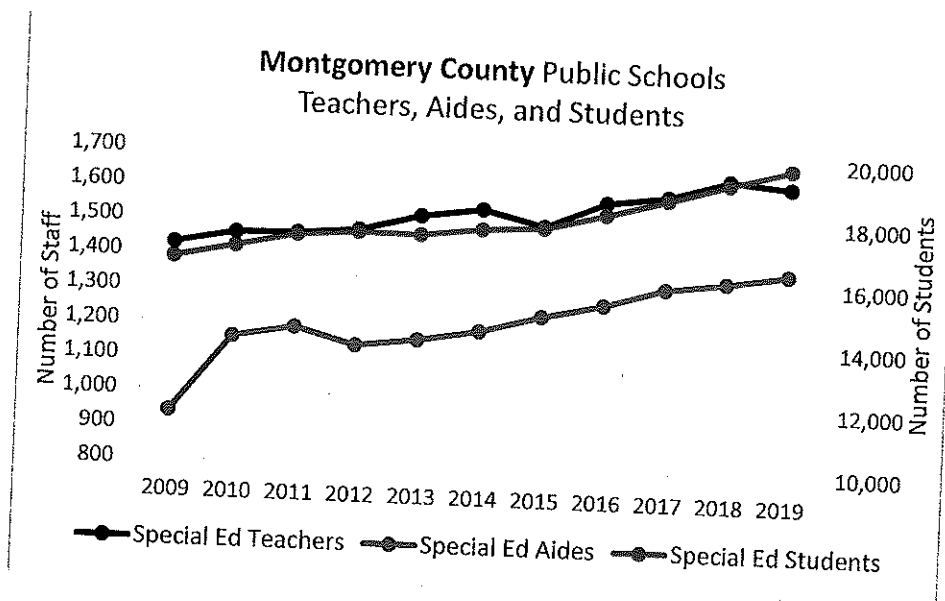
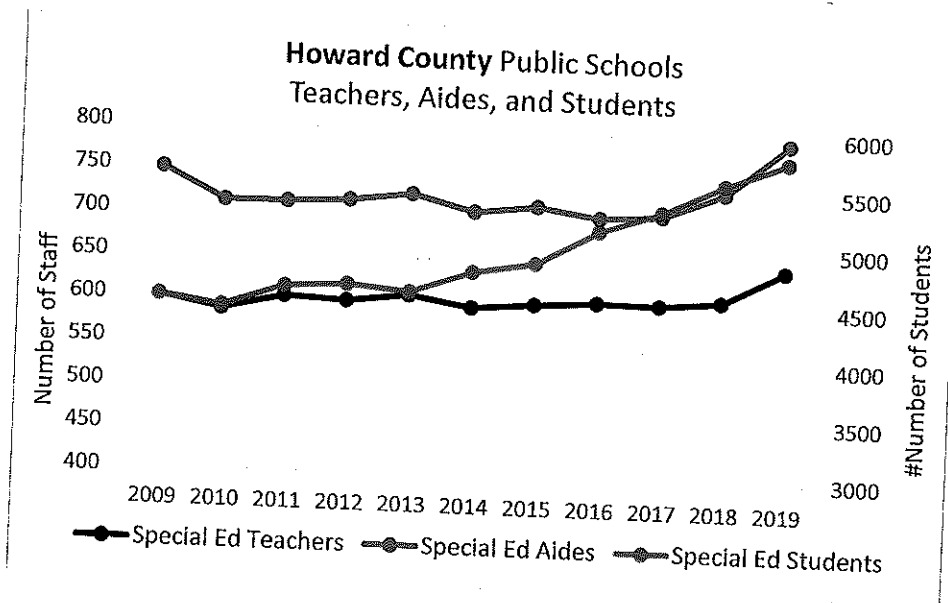
¹ <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DCAA/SSP/index.aspx>

underfunded by almost \$2M in 2018 and by almost \$3M in 2019. They paid that debt through salary savings in vacant positions. It is a vicious cycle and if we don't increase certified special education teachers and train support staff and general education teachers, this will never end and it will bankrupt the school system – financially and academically.

I urge you to increase funds in the special education category and require the school system to report back to you on the success of their dollars spent as they are tied to student outcomes.

Respectfully,

Barb Krupiarz



FY	Categorical Transfer Out of Special Education	funds paid to contractor for special ed temporary employees	Number of Special Ed Certified Teachers	Number of paras, student assistants	Number of Special Ed TEs	Number of Students in Special ed Nonpublic Schools	Number of Students on IEPs
2011	(\$1,539,600)	\$ 1,924,968	602.5	712.5	804.5	162	4570
2012	(\$470,000)	\$ 1,682,600	599	716	791.7	178	4639
2013	\$0	\$ 2,042,785	607.5	725	793.7	169	4586
2014	(\$900,000)	\$ 2,343,631	595.5	706.5	799.1	181	4771
2015	(\$1,100,000)	\$ 2,735,925	600.9	714.5	786.7	192	5158
2016	(\$490,000)	\$ 2,431,598	605	703.5	786.7	193	5164
2017		\$ 2,704,406	604	707.5	790.7	192	5339
2018		\$ 3,082,518	610	735.5	809.9	234	5592
2019		\$ 3,368,530	646.5	794	845.5	215	5846
2020						263	
	(\$4,499,600)	\$ 22,316,961					

	Categorical Transfer Out of Special Education	funds paid to contractor for special ed temporary employees	Number of Special Ed TEs	Number of Students in Special ed Nonpublic Schools	Number of Students on IEPs
2011	-\$1,539,600	\$ 1,924,968	804.5	162	4,570
2012	-\$470,000	\$ 1,682,600	791.7	178	4,639
2013	\$0	\$ 2,042,785	793.7	169	4,586
2014	-\$900,000	\$ 2,343,631	799.1	181	4,771
2015	-\$1,100,000	\$ 2,735,925	786.7	192	5,158
2016	-\$490,000	\$ 2,431,598	786.7	193	5,164
2017		\$ 2,704,406	790.7	192	5,339
2018		\$ 3,082,518	809.9	234	5,592
2019			845.5	215	5,846
2020				263	
	-\$4,499,600	\$ 18,948,431			





HOWARD COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

10910 Clarksville Pike • Ellicott City, Maryland 21042 • 410-313-6600 • www.hcpss.org

Special Education Paraeducator

DESCRIPTION

The person in this position works under the general supervision of the principal or assistant principal. With direct supervision from a teacher, provides assistance in implementing plans and programs related to the academic or functional skill attainment for students with mental, physical, and/or emotional learning challenges. Works directly with students, individually or in small groups, and performs clerical work as assigned. Performance is evaluated periodically.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Provides academic and physical assistance to students with disabilities as directed in one-to-one or in small groups
- Assists teachers with academic instruction and the implementation of Individual Education Program (IEP)
- Ability to lift and carry non-ambulatory students
- Provide clerical support to teachers and other professional staff
- Performs other duties as assigned.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

- Assists in implementing lesson plans and preparing academic materials
- Assists the teacher in the rewriting of materials to meet academic levels of a student or group
- Assists the teacher in implementing student IEP's
- Works with students one-to-one or in small groups
- With appropriate supervision and training, assists in teaching communication skills, implementing student behavior and learning programs with the use of behavior modification and crisis intervention
- Assists with the physical demands of functional life skills and academic skills, in school and community settings
- Makes observations, collects data, and gives input to appropriate staff
- Assists students with the use of media equipment, augmentative communication devices and computer learning techniques
- Assists with the physical demands of students by lifting, positioning, putting students in supportive devices, and transferring students from wheelchairs for toileting and for position change
- Monitors and is aware of medical needs of students, medical concerns and responds to emergencies as needed
- Performs clerical duties to include reproducing materials, initiating and maintaining files and records
- Operates various types of office machines and audio-visual equipment
- Takes inventory

EXAMPLES OF WORK - continued

- Takes notes and minutes and prepares reports for teachers, instructional leaders and administrators
- Schedules parent-teacher appointments
- Prepares instructional materials, learning centers and bulletin boards
- Administers and scores tests
- Plans student programs
- Assist students with feeding
- Supervises physical activities
- Escorts students and monitors them during non-classroom hours
- Assists students with feeding
- Attends screening committee meetings
- Performs other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely in both written and oral form
- Ability to remain calm under trying circumstances
- Ability to reinforce lesson plans to support the educational program for student
- Ability to follow directions from the teacher, which may include reinforcing instruction presented by the teacher
- Ability to provide personal attention to students on an individual basis
- Ability to work with small groups of students and assist with instruction
- Ability to use patience and care to provide students of all abilities with an active learning environment
- Ability to discuss problems affecting students' progress and with the teacher and, if so directed, with other professional staff
- Ability to demonstrate flexibility to work with students and staff
- Ability to carry out assignments to completion
- Ability to perform clerical work and knowledge of computers and keyboarding
- Possess basic knowledge of technology and keyboarding to support student learning
- Ability to demonstrate strong human relations skills
- Ability to have strong, positive communication and interaction skills when dealing with co-workers, students, administrators, parents and/or the community
- Ability to attend professional development sessions
- Perform other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

High school diploma or equivalent.

REQUIRED LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES

None

OTHER DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Prior experience working with children.
Eagerness to work students with disabilities.
Possess initiative, ingenuity, and patience.

Equal opportunity employee

Montgomery County Public Schools

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT → CLASSIFICATION → PARAEDUCATOR, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Sorted by job title: A - C | D - H | I - Q | R - Z

Paraeducator, Special Education

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLASS DESCRIPTION		
OFFICIAL TITLE: Paraeducator Spec Ed	CODE: 6550	SQ/OQ: Optimal Qualified
WORKING TITLE: Paraeducator, Special Education	GRADE: 12-13	MONTHS: 10
<p>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF CLASSIFICATION: At the direction of the principal, assists teachers by performing a variety of tasks that promote student learning and well-being. Works individually and in small groups to reinforce instruction, monitor performance, and support learning. This position also performs a variety of instructional and classroom management supports, as well as related clerical tasks to support teachers and other professional staff in all classrooms or learning environments.</p>		
MINIMUM QUALIFICATION STANDARDS		
<p>KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES: Knowledge of child development, instructional strategies and practices applicable to assignment, and instructional goals and policies of Montgomery County Public Schools. Ability to assist with implementation of the instructional program and to participate in monitoring and ensuring appropriate student behavior. Ability to exhibit patient behavior and to work effectively with children, young adults, and staff members. Ability to follow written and verbal instructions and to perform all required tasks. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing. Ability to read/write /speak English. Ability to interact with and support students with special needs. Knowledge of standard desktop computer hardware and software such as MS Office products and database software. Knowledge of and the ability to meet the seven core competencies of the Supporting Services Professional Growth System (SSPGS).</p>		
<p>EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EXPERIENCE: These requirements are in order of preference. Associates degree, required. Bachelors degree preferred. A minimum of nine credit-hours related to education field such as behavior management, instructional strategies, and/or one year experience working with students in structured educational (or academic) situations required. Two to four years experience working with children and adolescents preferred. Or at least 48 college credits and two years of experience in an education related field including preschool, adult day program, after school program, extended day, or school/non-school based departments, etc. Or two years of experience in an education related field including nursery school, adult day program, after school program, extended day, or school/non-school based departments, etc., and successful completion of the ParaPro Assessment with a qualifying score of 455 or higher is required. Any combinations of applicable education, training, and experience which provide the knowledge, abilities, and skills necessary to perform effectively in the position may be considered.</p>		

CERTIFICATE AND LICENSE REQUIREMENTS: None.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: (Special requirements such as lifting heavy objects and frequent climbing.) Frequent bending, walking, running, and lifting of objects/equipment up to 50 pounds may be required. Additional demands may require moving wheelchairs, assisting with toileting, feeding and other daily living activities. Assist with self-care plans such as toileting, feeding, personal hygiene, dressing and other daily living activities; physically assist students to engage in activities such as walking or eating, able to kneel and work on the floor with students, able to walk for long periods. Assistance with physically aggressive behaviors required.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: (Frequent overtime or night work required, etc.) Outside duty may be required. Must be able to accommodate flexible scheduling and change of location and/or program, as needed. May require training to accommodate students' special needs. Continues planned instructional activities during teacher's temporary absence from the classroom. May be required, after training on the administration of medications, and/or treatments including G-tube feedings or clean, intermittent/non-complex bladder catheterization. [COMAR 13A.05.05.08 (D)]

OVERTIME ELIGIBLE: Yes

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

(The duties listed are typical examples of the work performed by this job classification. This is not an exhaustive statement of duties, responsibilities or requirements and does not limit the assignment of additional related duties for the position. Not all duties assigned are included, nor are all duties listed performed in every office or every day.)

1. Works with the teacher to provide instructional and/or developmental activities for students.
2. Assists individual and groups of children to reinforce learning initiated by a teacher in various subject areas and motor activities; e.g., reading, telling stories, spelling, games, art, writing, music, physical education, mathematics, social/communication, community, recreation/leisure, and physical activities.
3. Assists teachers with content-area instruction for small groups or with individual students.
4. In collaboration with the classroom teacher, implements consistent reinforcement of appropriate student behaviors, as well as surface management strategies to address the behaviors of students experiencing difficulties.
5. Provides specified prompts for student engagement and participation during large group activities.
6. Provides support to all students in academic and non-academic classes.
7. Assists in administering alternative tests and assessments.
8. Performs medical tasks as authorized by the Maryland Nurse Practice Act.
9. Implements student Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) or learning contracts, token economy/reinforcement systems, etc. across all settings to manage inappropriate student behaviors,

including aggression and self-injury using proactive and responsive strategies.

10. Monitors students engaged in independent work or similar activities while the teacher is otherwise occupied.
11. Provides special help to students with short attention spans through interesting activities.
12. Alerts teacher to individual student needs and suggests programming, and prepares individual student activity plans under direction of the teacher as required.
13. Supports the implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
14. Reviews and reinforces classroom lessons and learning experiences with students requiring individual or close attention.
15. Assists teachers planning for and conducting classroom activities.
16. Provides information to assist the teacher in evaluation of the learning process, behavior management programs, individual student needs and progress.
17. Engages in daily and extended planning of activities with teachers.
18. Keeps teacher informed of student progress and learning needs.
19. May assist the teacher in classes presenting basic skills in off-site job training programs.
20. Assists teacher in carrying out classroom activities; prepares instructional materials requiring knowledge of the instructional subject matter.
21. Sets up and operates equipment; uses assistive technology to support student learning and communication and other equipment.
22. Assists in administering tests and examinations; corrects and scores objective tests requiring subject matter knowledge.
23. Helps maintain order and discipline and assists in managing the behavior of students, including crisis intervention.
24. Assists students with research.
25. Assists with teaching classes of basic skills and may monitor a computer, writing, or other technology laboratory under general supervision.
26. Supervises students between classrooms, during lunch period and recess, and during playground activities; eats lunch with students, and provides physical and instructional assistance as needed.
27. Assists in the supervision of students while being transported on buses in the loading and unloading of

buses.

28. May perform clerical and non-instructional duties such as keeping daily attendance counts, collection of money, distribution of books and supplies, maintenance of files and records, typing reports and routine correspondence, and reproduction of instructional materials; however, such duties comprise a clear minority of the work hours.
29. Prepares a variety of instructional materials, as requested by the teacher.
30. Assists with routine care, including personal hygiene, toileting, feeding and other custodial tasks, as required or requested.
31. Ensures proper maintenance and care of computer lab equipment.
32. Assists in arrival and departure routines of assigned students.
33. Maintains confidentiality as it relates to student records, IEPs, student files, health information, etc.
34. Ensures students wheelchairs; seat-belts or other safety restraints are properly secured.
35. Observes students behaviors and interactions on the bus during educational off-site experiences and uses the riding time to reinforce classroom learning.
36. Responds to parent inquiries and concerns by referring parents to the appropriate professional.
37. Performs related duties consistent with the scope and intent of the position.

Class Established: 7/03

Date(s) Revised: 1/12, 7/14, 11/14, 1/2017

Last Reviewed:

This description may be changed at any time.

OHRD

Human Resources and Development

©1995–2017 MCPS, 850 Hungerford Drive,
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MCPSweb



Sayers, Margery

From: Michael McClellan <Michael_McClellan@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 4:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget meeting testimony

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

Dear members of the County Council,

I am writing to express a concern I have for the budgeting process. I understand that there is a large discrepancy between what the HCPSS has requested and what the Council feels it is able to provide, and that it will only be exacerbated by the current COVID-19 crisis. In making a county budget, I would ask that you please consider that among the effects this crisis has had on our county, students, especially those who were already struggling with learning, will need all the support we are able to give.

As a special educator, I have 3rd and 4th grade students who are reading on kindergarten levels. Due to last year's cuts, we have a special educator in my building with 19 students on her caseload, and another with 25. When our students are included, they struggle because some paraeducator positions were cut. All of that was before COVID-19 forced schools to be closed. As it stands, I have some students who still are not accessing instruction for a variety of reasons, regardless of my attempts to contact them and their families. These children will desperately need academic support next school year, and I fear that further budget cuts will have severe impacts on our ability to help those students who need it most.

Any consideration you can give to this thought is much appreciated!

Sincerely,
Mike McClellan
Grades 3-5 ED Regional Special Educator
Waterloo Elementary

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Sayers, Margery

From: Beatrice Withee <beatricewithee@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 4:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget proposals for 2020-2021

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as an employee and as a parent in Howard County Public Schools. I am concerned about the potential budget cuts for the upcoming school year. I work as a paraeducator in an elementary school in the county and see and experience daily the shortage of support staff within the school and how it negatively impacts the student body. Support staff are constantly being pulled to cover/substitute other classes which take them away from their regular duties of supporting classroom teachers and students who need extra support. Many times special education paraeducators have the challenging task of supervising multiple students with special needs. Having been in that situation many times, it is very difficult to meet the needs of all those students while attending to ones that may need more attention.

I beg of you to continue to provide funding towards support staff. With the cuts that were made last year, support staff are already understaffed. If that continues, the students ultimately will suffer the most. Howard County Public Schools is such a strong school system. Please support the students by continuing to fund the staff members who provide so much support to the teachers and the students.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Beatrice Withee

Sayers, Margery

From: Jonathan Norell <thejonathannorell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:49 PM
To: CouncilMail; John_sangiovanni@hcpss.org; Michael_martirano@hcpss.org
Subject: Budget Concern

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

Hello,

I know that we have become a county that speaks of equity. However, sometimes it is those with the loudest voices, mostly those from wealthier areas, that get heard the most (ex: recent redistricting).

I am putting in a plea to not cut MST/RST or paraeducators any further in elementary schools. I think students, especially those in title 1/lower income schools, are shown so much support from these individuals to help reduce the academic gap.

Cutting 3rd grade strings, or minimizing GT dept to just enrichment (math just classroom teachers) would be a better solution. Classroom teachers are capable of teaching these math levels and providing enriching tasks, considering the county creates them all. Third graders can miss strings and students can have the choice of band or strings in fourth grade. GT and stings are valuable, however they have a higher service in the schools where students are already meeting or exceeding expectations. Let's think of those students that don't have the benefit of a high socioeconomic status and could use the MST/RST and paraeducators as further supports.

Thank you for the consideration,

Jon



Sayers, Margery

From: Kelly L. McKim <Kelly_McKim@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: budget testimony

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

To The Howard County Council,

First, let me start by saying we are in unprecedented times. The impacts of COVID 19 on local and global communities have been immense and far reaching. Our community will continue to be impacted as the economy recovers from the extended closures. I don't envy the enormous challenge you are facing to try to reconcile the financial challenges we face, while protecting our community's priorities and mission.

Through this process of extended closure, I hope that you have strengthened your core belief that the education of our students is essential in continuing the success of Howard County.

The teachers and staff of HCPSS have been working harder than ever to ensure that our students continue to learn and grow, despite the less than desirable circumstances. As a teacher and parent of a HCPSS student, I know just how hard teachers and parents are working together to provide the best for the students of HCPSS. That being said, our students are missing out on months of instruction. The impact of these many weeks of school closure will have to be addresses in many creative ways in the upcoming school year, and potentially for many years in the future.

We have spent many days talking about "flattening the curve." The idea behind this is to slow the impact of COVID as to not burden and overwhelm the health care system. This saves lives.

I urge you to think critically and work to "flatten the curve" of the financial impact of budget cuts to an already overwhelmed educational system. We need to protect class size, para educator positions, special education staff, and resources that directly support students and teachers in classrooms. Please work as hard as possible to fund these essential needs in our community.

Sincerely,
Kelly McKim
HCPSS teacher and parent

Sayers, Margery

From: Kim Birnbaum <ksmiles@myfastmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 3:22 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: budget testimony: Inadequately funding special education will just make our problems worse
Attachments: CE CC testimony for budget - JKBirnbaum.pdf

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

Attached is testimony in response to the County Executive's proposed budget.

Thank you.
J. Kim Birnbaum

Dear County Council Members and County Executive Ball:

There is no other document that more succinctly and plainly shows our county's priorities than our budget. While most if not all of our elected officials claim to prioritize public education, it is time to show that support. I believe we have hit a point where the money that's available is not sufficient for our growing counties needs. The status quo of borrowing from our future to pay for our present is proving more and more problematic and is just delaying and further escalating our future funding woes.

Special education has been grossly underfunded for years. We have enormous achievement and discipline gaps for special education students as well as for minority students. Additionally, we have the cost burdens of a large health care fund debt, having had to buy out the former superintendent's contract, have put off repair and maintenance of schools, our developer fees are still low and projected estimates of student enrollment that we base our budget plans off of continue to not accurately reflect the actual growth of enrollment in our county, and the casino money (at least until July) did not end up adding money, it supplanted it. In light of all of these reasons, we need more money. We must acknowledge that we can no longer borrow from our future by making deep cuts to try to balance out these funding problems. The additional dollars will likely need to be from a combination of sources, cuts to other parts of the county budget, additional funding from the state and/or federal government, higher taxes, and higher developer fees.

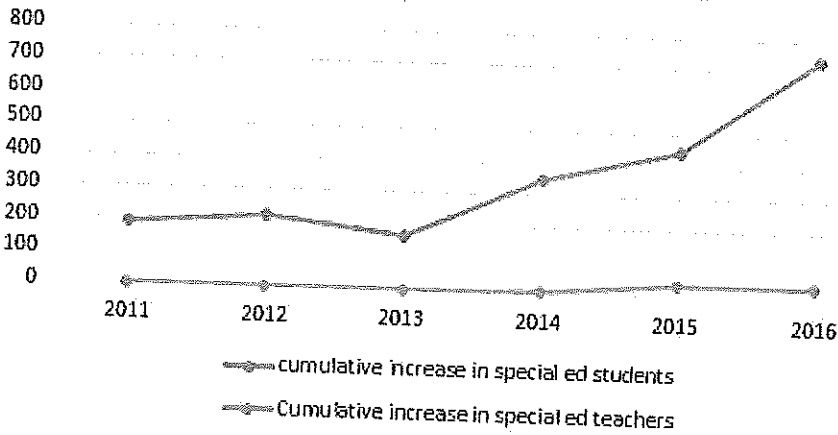
While I sympathize with the HCPSS community for wanting to hold onto some of our programs that make us great, such as orchestra and G/T, and my children participate in these programs, they are wants. You've no doubt received a lot of letters about these programs, and in truth I do not WANT them cut, nor will their being cut be anywhere near enough to fund our shortfall. I will say though, that to fund wants over needs is very unwise. Special education is a need and must be fully funded, and since the BOE to my great dismay already voted to reduce the special education budget by 4 million, it is all the more important to be funded fully. I understand that the BOE, after your budget decisions will have to make adjustments, and please know that the legal minimum for special education is a costly route as there WILL be legal issues resulting from hurt students due to insufficiently trained or experienced staff, students who are not progressing, etc. As painful as it may be to infuse money now, not doing so will prove more costly in the long run.

I also care a great deal about equity in our school system. I feel the proposed budget's three additional positions, 2 positions in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and 1 that will be in the Division of School Management and Instructional Leadership to focus on support and training of administrators will further our progress in this area and is a modest ask for a small number of staff with a very large job that affects nearly all aspects of school system operations. These new positions would be created in a budget neutral manner and would further HCPSS's commitment to equity.

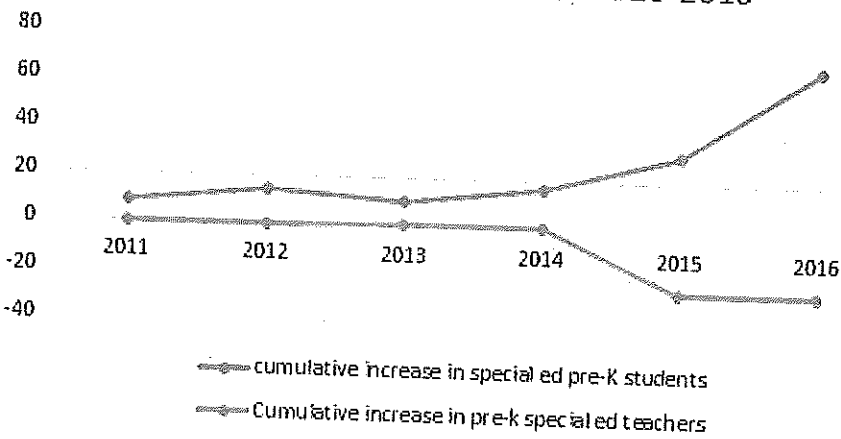
We say that early intervention is key and we know that upfront investment is the most cost effective as well as gives the best outcomes, yet even our early intervention is being hard hit.

The following graphs were posted in a Facebook group I follow, they are from HCPSS approved annual budget documents. I think they speak volumes about our funding and quality woes. Is it any wonder special education is in crisis? These do not even take into account the loss of more experienced staff for cheaper, less experienced staff which we did a lot of in the name of saving money. These short-sighted "savings" are doing nothing to narrow achievement or discipline gaps.

Cumulative Increase in Special Education Students and Teachers 2010 - 2016



Cumulative Change in HCPSS Special Education Pre-K Students and Teachers 2010-2016



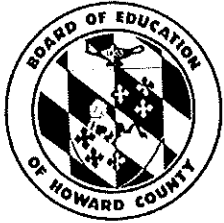
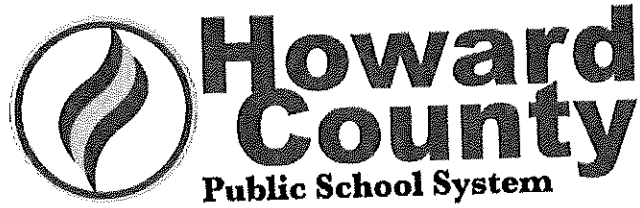
On a personal note, my husband and I are products of HCPSS and wanted to raise our children here where they can receive a high quality public education among a diverse group of peers. Our 2 children are both in HCPSS and both have special needs, though neither currently has an IEP. My son entered RECC in the 2013-14 school year and continued there until he started Kindergarten in the 2016-17 school year. I have first hand seen the difference in training or lack thereof, and the difference of strained and adequate staffing. We have had wonderful teachers and support staff who did their best but struggled with large caseloads or inadequate support. We have also had teachers whose lack of training was glaringly obvious. For example, one teacher dragged (albeit gently) a child with autism into time out. Clearly, this is not someone who has been properly trained on how to work with kids with autism. First of all, the child was trying to avoid the activity and being removed was negatively reinforcing the undesired behavior. Second this is a very poor way to model appropriate behavior, establish rapport, and motivate a child to participate. Lack of training such as this can easily become a safety issue should a staff person not know how to handle a child's behavior or unintentionally escalate a situation. Such incidents could end in lawsuits or nonpublic placements either from extreme incidents or due to a child's continued lack of progress, and at a much larger cost to the county than properly training staff and providing more intensive services. This is a

potentially big liability issue for the county. Similarly, if the county cannot/will not meet a child's needs and ends up paying for nonpublic, that also was more money spent than just doing it right from the start. HCPSS already has a report outlining improvements to be made in special education in HCPSS, this is the time for implementation and in order to begin to do that, the full budgetary ask must be fulfilled. As the county grows, so does our special education enrollment and it is very likely that the needs will continue to increase. Skimping now, is a false savings, and just putting off and exacerbating our problems. I am a parent who has been able to supplement what the county provided with outside therapies. Due to cost and time factors, not everyone is able to do what we have been able to do. For many special needs kids, school is the heart of their therapy and education, and whatever services needed for academic success that are not provided by HCPSS, may not be obtained at all. Thus, this becomes an equity issue as those that can afford interventions get them while others do not. We also need to expand our successes. The county has several successful programs that make a huge difference in outcomes, early intervention including Infants and Toddlers, RECC (Regional Early Childhood Centers), and collaborative funding have been an integral part of our child's progress and are the heart of many county children's education and therapeutic services, and help kids toward catching up to peers. Identifying more kids early and including more kids to ensure that some are not missed is important as late identification often results in it being very hard for kids to catch up once behind, and require more services later on, at a greater cost to the county.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to fund the absolute max you can and try to help secure additional funding for our schools.

Sincerely,

J. Kim Birnbaum
Elkridge, MD



**Board of Education
of Howard County**

Mavis Ellis
Chair

Vicky Cutroneo
Vice Chair

Kirsten A. Coombs

Christina Delmont-Small

Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Sabina Taj

Chao Wu, Ph.D.

Allison J. Alston
Student Member

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
*Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer*

**Board Testimony
Howard County Council Budget Hearing – May 6, 2020**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Jung and County Council members. I am Mavis Ellis, Chair of the Howard County Board of Education. On behalf of the entire Board, I appreciate this opportunity to present testimony on the Board's FY 2021 Budget Request, and to advocate on behalf of our students, staff and families.

We recognize that the County already faced steep challenges in allocating limited funding among the school system and all other county agencies, in an environment where costs and needs are far outpacing available revenue sources. The COVID-19 pandemic makes the fiscal pressures on the county even greater. As you weigh funding decisions, I urge you to consider the critical role school quality plays in attracting businesses and residents to our community, and the importance of sustaining our school system's reputation for excellence, for the local economy and long-term future of our county.

The Board, Superintendent and staff made many difficult decisions to reduce our operating budget request to include only our most pressing priorities and obligations. These difficult decisions included increasing class sizes, reallocating existing positions and delaying full implementation of the Superintendent's proposal to address special education staffing shortages. The impact of these reductions will be compounded by the actions already taken during the last three fiscal years, which include eliminating central office positions and services, scaling back academic programs, freezing instructional support positions and repurposing funds to support classroom needs. These reductions have a very real impact in the classroom and on our students, causing challenges that will escalate as the system prepares to welcome a projected 775 additional students next year.

The quality of educational services is a direct outcome of a highly skilled and dedicated workforce. Howard County competes with neighboring counties for a shrinking pool of highly qualified educators, and even smaller numbers of candidates who reflect the diversity of our students.

This Capital Budget adds improvements and capacity where they are most urgently needed to relieve crowded schools, ensure the equitable allocation of instructional resources, and provide facilities that are essential to allow consistent delivery of high quality instructional programming.

The current capacity of our school facilities is inadequate to keep up with the state-leading population growth in Howard County. The Board's requested Capital Budget projects will help to relieve crowding in our eastern schools and support much needed systemic renovations. These include:

- \$11.3 million in funding for High School #13, targeted to open in fall 2023, which will provide 1,650 new seats
- \$21.5 million in funding toward the Hammond High School renovation and addition, scheduled for completion in fall 2023, which will fully renovate the school and provide 200 additional seats.
- \$15.1 million for the Talbott Springs Elementary School replacement, scheduled to open in 2022. This will allow for the replacement project to begin on schedule with construction in October 2020 and add 160 additional seats.
- \$14.9 million for systemic renovations and roofing projects. These include the roofing replacement project underway at Harpers Choice Middle School, the replacement of the boilers at Hammond Middle School, and the continuation of projects to strengthen school security, enhance indoor environmental quality, and accommodate special education programs.
- \$6.3 million for other needs, such as essential technology upgrades, relocatable classrooms and other critical building maintenance projects.

The Board supports the County Council transfer tax proposal, which would generate essential funding for these capital projects.

The Board and Superintendent greatly value the strong support and commitment to our students that have always been evident among the members of our County Council. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration toward funding the educational services and supports that will give every Howard County student the best chance at a productive and satisfying life.

Mavis Ellis

Chair, Howard County Board of Education

Sayers, Margery

From: Carrie A. Slaysman <Carrie_Slaysman@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 10:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Jahantab Siddiqui
Cc: Written Testimony - County Council Budget Hearing 5 6 2020
Subject: MJM FY21 testimony_ County Council budget hearing 05-06-20.pdf
Attachments:

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

Attached please find the written testimony for the County Council Budget Hearing scheduled on May 6, 2020, submitted on behalf of Dr. Michael J. Martirano, Superintendent, Howard County Public School System.

Thank you.

Carrie

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's Testimony
Howard County Council Budget Hearing – May 6, 2020

Good afternoon, Chairperson Jung and County Council members.

The strong support of our County Executive, Council and entire community has long been among Howard County Public School System's greatest assets. That support and collaboration have been key to our system's progress in improving student outcomes and narrowing opportunity and achievement gaps.

We realize the significant fiscal challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic now facing Howard County and other local governments around the nation, and we are well aware that no county agency, including the school system, can be immune from the impact of those challenges. We appreciate the difficult balancing of priorities that were necessary to provide HCPSS an increase above Maintenance of Effort, or MOE.

During the current fiscal climate, the school system has employed sound fiscal management, including reviewing our hiring and spending carefully and evaluating major expenditures on a case by case basis. We have continued to look for opportunities to streamline services and accumulate budget savings that are sufficient to manage the unplanned costs during the COVID-19 pandemic, including purchasing 14,000 additional chromebooks acquired to ensure that all students can participate in continuity of learning during this crisis and support long-term planning in the event of an extended closure. While we were able to pay for these expenses with budget savings, we will seek all eligible sources of federal and state relief funding to offset pandemic-related expenses.

We remain committed to our joint plan to eliminate the deficit in our Employee Health Fund over a five year period. The joint plan demonstrates two very important things. First, our demonstrated commitment to fiscal responsibility will restore the sound financial footing of the school system. Second, and more importantly, our funding solutions to meet our obligations and new proposed mandates require a forward-thinking, multi-year approach. We understand that the fiscal strains of the current pandemic make necessary a delay in the County's contribution to this plan for FY 2021. Through careful savings and cost containment, the school system remains able to move forward in our commitment to apply current year savings towards reducing the deficit, while absorbing the additional costs related to our pandemic response.

Councilmembers, today we request your support of the Board's FY 2021 Operating and Capital budget requests.

The operating budget identifies the funding required to accommodate new enrollment, begin addressing critical shortages in special education, and fulfill negotiated increases for our highly skilled and deeply dedicated staff members. To offset these costs, the Board's adopted budget includes a class size increase. Additionally, we made significant reductions in the last two budget cycles and have incorporated further savings within the budget, through evaluating our staff turnover savings and aligning budget amounts to actual expenditures. This is not an aspirational budget request. The request advanced by the Board of Education seeks the minimum funding necessary to fulfill our obligations and continue to provide essential educational services. While we recognize that COVID-19 has altered the county's fiscal landscape, it has also resulted in the school system having to account for constantly evolving methods of instructional delivery.

It is important that our community recognize that MOE funding formulas fall short of the true cost of educational services in a school system that is among the fastest growing in Maryland; has an increasing proportion of students who struggle with poverty, mental health issues, language barriers, and other challenges; and which faces an increasingly competitive market for highly qualified educators. Our students' needs will only continue to increase, year after year, as our student population continues to grow.

We continue to monitor the status of state funding associated with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation, also known as Kirwan. The legislation has the potential to boost state funding beginning in FY2022 to help us support our students and provide funds for compensation increases. The legislation promises to support HCPSS and other Maryland school systems in ensuring high quality instruction and accelerating student achievement and well-being. As the status of the legislation becomes clearer, we will continue to provide updates related to the mandates associated with Kirwan and their implementation costs and plans.

The Board's FY 2021 capital budget request includes funding for three major projects intended to relieve school crowding and provide essential facilities where they are most urgently needed. These include new High School #13, a replacement Talbott Springs Elementary School, and an addition/renovation at Hammond High School. Because school construction and renovation projects are carried out over several years, each of these projects will continue to require funding commitments during the remaining years in the project cycle. The Board and I support the County

Council's proposed transfer tax increase, which would generate the additional funding necessary to allow these capital project priorities to move forward.

I want to thank you for the strong support that our county government leaders have consistently provided for our students, staff, and schools. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration during the budget process to ensure that we continue to provide every Howard County child with a quality education and support services.

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Sayers, Margery

From: bombick@verizon.net
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 2:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Operating Budget (Addendum)
Attachments: Operating Budget 2.xlsx

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

Dear County Council,
I have been continuing to look at the operating budget and comparing ours to others in the state. Attached please find a slightly more detailed comparison. Again, I note that our HCPSS budget is far lower than that of other counties while our Public Works budget seems unusually high.
Sincerely,
Cate Bombick



Citizen/Youth & Family Services	92,334,195	1.56%			6,096,342	0.92%	22,382,801	1.26%
Behavioral Health & Crisis	44,967,652	0.76%						
Prevent & End Homelessness	28,253,582	0.48%						
Community Service Partnerships							11,442,707	0.65%
Legal/Judicial								
County Council/Legislative	13,648,272	0.23%	4,693,900	0.27%	827,618	0.12%	5,579,551	0.31%
State's Attorney	19,530,025	0.33%	12,796,600	0.74%	6,402,169	0.96%	9,432,392	0.53%
Board of Elections	8,375,091	0.14%	5,329,700	0.31%	2,123,776	0.32%	4,025,419	0.23%
Circuit Court	15,546,668	0.26%	6,228,900	0.36%	1,726,718	0.26%	4,011,016	0.23%
Orphan's Court			155,900	0.01%	39,706	0.01%	87,453	0.00%
Independent Agencies								
Licenses/Commissioners	64,707,546	1.09%	917,000	0.05%	477,122	0.07%		
Internal Audit/Ethics	367,885	0.01%	251,400	0.01%	391,063	0.06%		
Cooperative Extension			240,600	0.01%	415,619	0.06%	626,272	0.04%
Weed Control					264,921	0.04%		
Soil Conservation					109,335	0.02%	1,204,303	0.07%
MD Dept Taxation					900,618	0.14%		
County Government								
County Executive	5,907,876	0.10%	5,438,100	0.32%	880,681	0.13%	2,066,359	0.12%
Administration	63245155	1.07%	44,612,200	2.59%	5,329,692	0.80%	123,483,402	6.97%
Human Resources/Personnel	8,645,804	0.15%	8,080,600	0.47%	1,244,409	0.19%		
Finance	15,541,685	0.26%	9,434,100	0.55%	5,600,696	0.84%	15,249,143	0.86%
Office of Law	6,587,300	0.11%	4,598,900	0.27%	1,507,248	0.23%	4,239,189	0.24%
Technology/Communication	44,184,452	0.75%	24,390,000	1.42%	10,958,724	1.65%	31,196,994	1.76%
Economic Development	5,481,458	0.09%			1658614	0.25%	4,146,726	0.23%
Housing and Community Development	66,297,423	1.12%					12,438,562	0.70%

Non-Departmental	732,760,809 12.37%	279,101,000 16.23%	81,888,880 12.32%	159,510,475 9.00%
Other Categories				
Environmental Protection	33,111,860 0.56%		1,245,196 0.19%	
Grant in Aid/Non-County				
TOTAL:	5,925,924,067	1,719,224,300	664,538,667	1,772,715,622



12/17/2019

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 1:03 PM
To: joannelocke@gmail.com
Subject: District 2 - school funding

First Name: Joanne
Last Name: Locke
Email: joannelocke@gmail.com
Street Address: 8575 Autumn Harvest
City: Ellicott City
Subject: school funding

Message: Please support the funding for Talbott Springs elementary school. I have no children there now and am no longer in that neighborhood. But I know it's definitely time to make Talbott Spring a school all the teachers, parents and school children and be proud of.

1 All MS DT

PETITION TO HOWARD COUNTY EXECUTIVE CALVIN BALL AND HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

As a Howard County resident-- and one of many people who either donate time and/or money to Grassroots and its Day Center on Guilford Road, or as someone in Howard County being helped by Grassroots-- I respectfully request that the County Executive and County Council ensure that there will sufficient designated funds in the FY2021 capital budget to provide night-time lighting for both the Day Center's adjunct hilltop parking lot (located between 10350 Guilford Rd/Salvation Army) and 10390 Guilford Road/ Leoloa Dorsey Center) and the path leading to/from the Dorsey building.

In my opinion, lighting should have been in place when the lot opened. During fall & winter months full lighting of both lot & pathway is critical to the safety and ongoing operation of the Center's volunteers, staff, and residents. Parking spaces next to the building are usually not available, and street parking on Guilford between the hill and blind curve is very, very dangerous.

Please ensure that funds for lighting are in the FY2021 County budget and that lights are installed before autumn 2020.

Name	Address	E-mail (optional)
1. Mary Jarvis <i>[Signature]</i>	6701 Carlinda Ave Columbia MD 21046	
2. Mary Strabala	5100 Iron Pen Place Columbia, MD 21044	adamestrabala@ yahoo.com

13. Kathleen Canullo 10213 Spruce Way
Ellicott City MD 21042

14. Kelley O'Shea
Kelley O'Shea 9805 Diversified Ln
Ellicott City, MD 21042

15. Kelly Van Horn
Kelly Van Horn 10331 Waverly Woods Dr
Ellicott City, MD 21042

16. Whitney Mrozinski
Whitney Mrozinski 10765 Wetherburn Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

17. Mary Kuzay
Mary Kuzay 10228 Wetherburn Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

18. Aparna Dhawan.
Aparna Dhawan 10261 Wetherburn Rd.
Ellicott City MD 21042

19.

20.

21.

22.

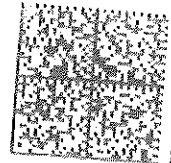
- 3. ROBERT Flaherty 8600 Cobblefield Dr.
- 4. Somiyah Wakeh 10390 Guilford Rd., Jessup, MD
- 5. Jerry Nicklis 10390 Guilford Rd.
- 6. Mike Bold - 10390 Guilford Rd Jessup Md.
- 7. Judy Robbins Ellicott City, MD
- 8. Susan Gordon Ellicott City, MD
- 9. John Fry 3011 Dexter Dr B.C. 21043
- 10. MAURICE HAYNES 7427 Hickory Log Cir COLUMBIA MD 21045
- 11. ROBERT COURSEY ELICOTT CITY MD 21042
- 12. Jay Knutson 5611 Lightspan Lane Columbia MD 21045



PROUD NARFE MEMBER

MR STEPHEN STERNHEIMER
6473 BRIGHT PLUME
COLUMBIA MD 21044-3789

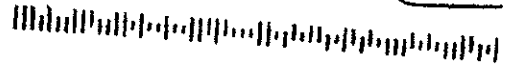
BRIDGEVILLE
MD 212
13 DEC '19
PM 71



UNITED STATES POSTS
02 1P
00028252
MAILED FROM

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Elliott City MD 211

ATTN: Council Admin. for Members



Sayers, Margery

From: Christopher Gran <christopher_gran@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 8:01 AM
To: BoE Email; Guy Senator Guzzone; vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us; shane.pendergrass@house.state.md.us; Jen Delegate Terrasa; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Include Talbott Springs ES and Hammond HS in capital budget

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

Dear BOE Members; The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Vanessa Atterbeary, Shane Pendergrass, and Jen Terrasa; Council Members; and Mr. Calvin Ball:

I am writing to you to express my concern that a much-needed replacement for Talbott Springs Elementary School (TSES) and renovations/additions for Hammond High School (HaHS) may not be included in the capital budget for the Howard County Public School System for the upcoming year.

I have been a Howard County resident for over 15 years now, and I have two children, a daughter in middle school and a son in elementary school. We moved this summer to another residence within the county; if we had stayed at our original residence, my son would be attending TSES now.

I understand that on December 12, 2019, the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) met to hear testimony from each school district and to discuss the IAC funding recommendations. Although a recommended funding allocation was provided for the new high school HS13, no funding recommendations were provided for the TSES replacement or the HaHS renovations/additions. This is a very disappointing development.

The issues taking place at these schools simply cannot be put off any longer -- there are people who are literally getting sick at these schools. Multiple IEQ (Indoor Environmental Quality) reports have been filed due to the presence of mold at TSES. Also, I know that some students are using buckets at HaHS to wash off lab equipment because there are no sinks available. We are supposedly a wealthy county, yet we have schools that are in this condition? And the state of Maryland doesn't think these conditions aren't important enough to be rectified?

I still remember the day I heard that TSES was going to get a replacement school. My family and I were at a choral concert for TSES that was held at Oakland Mills High School; I believe this was during the winter of 2017-2018 when Mr. Calvin Ball was a county council member. During the concert, the principal of TSES came up to the microphone and said she just learned that TSES was going to get a replacement school. She then thanked Mr. Ball for his efforts on the County Council to make this a priority. Mr. Ball was in the audience, sitting about 15 feet to my left, and he had a big smile on his face, as did I.

Mr. Ball: I think a lot of people in that auditorium voted for you as County Executive because of what happened that night. You know, as well as anyone, why TSES needs a replacement school as soon as possible. I also call upon Mr. Guzzone as our State Senator, and Ms. Atterbeary, Mr. Pendergrass, and Ms. Terrasa as our State Delegates, to use your influence to make the TSES replacement and HaHS renovations/additions a priority for funding at the state level.

Sincerely,

Christopher Gran
6425 Belleview Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

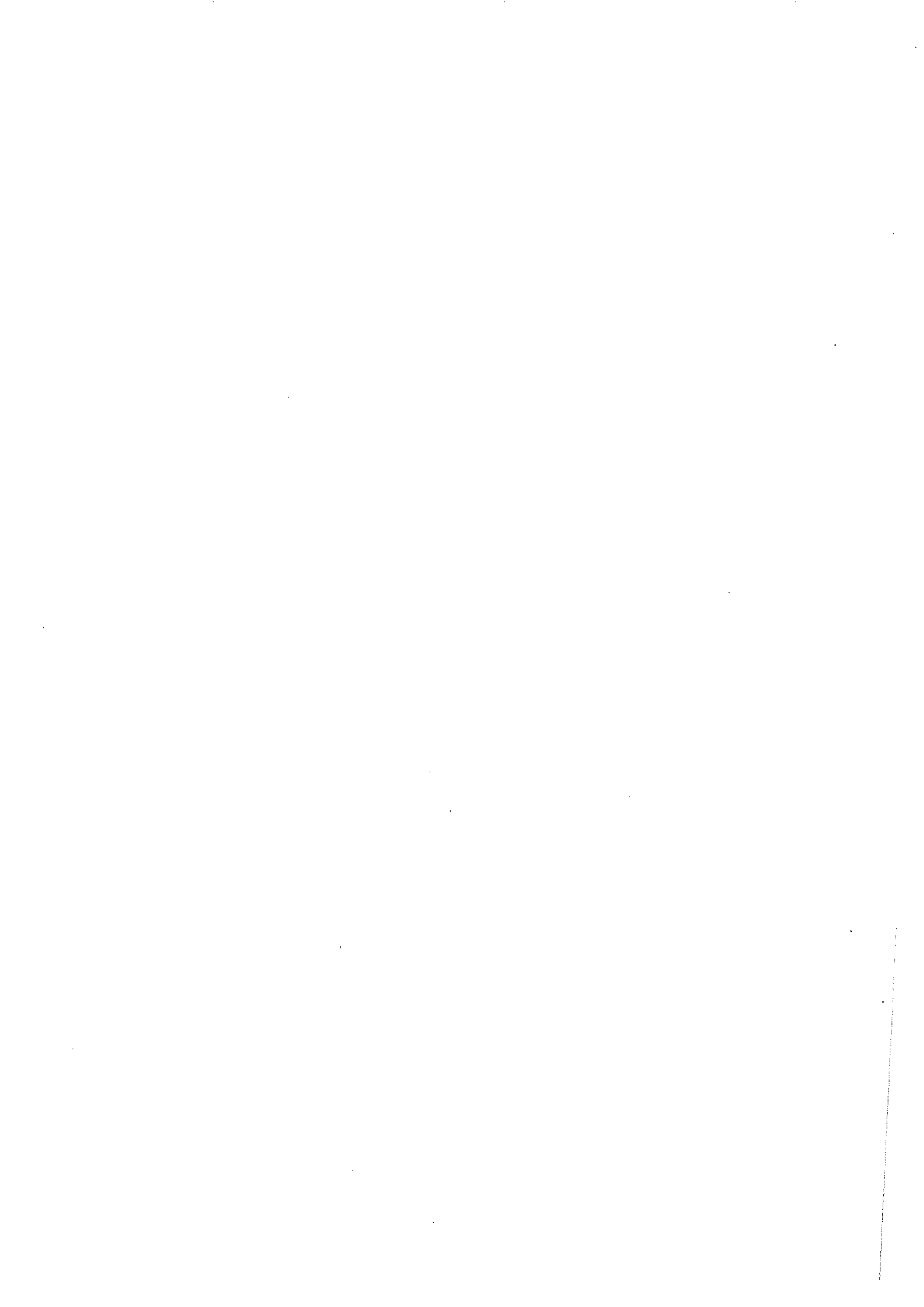
Sayers, Margery

From: Amy Grutzik <agrutzik@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 12:11 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; superintendent@hcpss.org
Subject: Testimony to County Council
Attachments: Testimony to County Council 12.15.19.pdf

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

Attached is my testimony.

Amy Grutzik



Dear County Council Members,

First, I would like to thank you for the funding that was allocated for HCPSS to invest in much needed bus routing software. The HCPSS department of transportation has posted a Request for Proposal for bids on bus routing software. The bids are due in on December 17, 2019. My understanding is the analysis of the bids will be presented to the BOE sometime in January.

The reason for my testimony is to request that the County Council partner with the BOE and the Superintendent to achieve HEALTHY school hours for our Howard County Public School System adolescents. There's no denying that restoring traditional school start times, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, and the Centers for Disease Control, is a solution with immediate benefits for children of all backgrounds and income levels.

On September 5th the Superintendent presented his Strategic Call to Action Update Report to the BOE. The meeting stressed that the purpose of the action is to close the achievement gap. Dr. Walker stated that "in Howard County attendance is a huge factor for drop outs." Graduation rates are going down in Howard County and a work group has been assembled to do a root cause analysis of why graduation rates are decreasing. A BOE member stated that if a student has one suspension they are likely to drop out.

Some of the benefits of changing to age appropriate school hours are:

- Less anxiety, depression, suicide (over 60 studies have linked poor sleep and suicide)
- Decreased risk-taking, drug use, and riskier sexual activities
- Decreased school violence and bullying
- Higher academic performance, decreased grade failure

The money spent on work groups, additional social workers, and other intervention programs could be repurposed and spent on getting healthier school hours for these students. This is a win-win for everyone.

The BOE sets policy as to what they determine appropriate class sizes should be. Their decision is not driven by how much the funding is for this policy, but by studies of the benefits of smaller class sizes.

Just last month, the BOE made a decision that rising 12th, 11th, 8th and 5th graders that were redistricted for 2020/21 school year can choose to stay at their current schools. In addition, the school system will provide bus service for these students. The BOE recognized the issues that these particular students would have with being moved to a new school. The result of this decision will entail "double busing" of students from same neighborhoods. This double busing will continue for 2 years since the rising 11th graders would also remain for their 12 grade year.

Changing school start times to healthier age appropriate times should also be based on the known science and proven substantial benefits.

The school system will soon have the new bus routing software which will enable the Department of Transportation to run bell time scenarios. Data is continually being collected by the school system so they would not have to start from scratch. As stated above, the next school year will have additional buses for students who choose to stay at their current school. With the school system already having additional buses, they could continue to use those buses going forward with the changing of school hours. This will help mitigate additional transportation costs.

Please make a commitment to make age appropriate school hours a priority. Let the BOE know that they have your support and should direct the Superintendent to begin working on bell time scenarios, community education, and assemble workgroups that encompass all stakeholders including naysayers. I believe you are the Council that can make this happen for our students and community. Let's get healthy school hours implemented for school year 2021/22.

Amy Grutzik, District 5

10 Ways Later MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL Start Times Benefit Teens and the Community

1. Healthy School Hours Reduce the Achievement Gap "[D]elaying school start times by one hour, from roughly 7:30 to 8:30, increases standardized test scores by at least 2 percentile points in math and 1 percentile point in reading. The effect is largest for students with below-average test scores, suggesting that later start times would narrow gaps in student achievement."

2. Healthy School Hours Lower Juvenile Crime Rates Juvenile Crime peaks nationwide at 3 p.m., a time that's between the end of school and when parents get home. Police support limiting unsupervised situations at this crucial time. Also, sleep deprived teens are more likely to commit crime due to low self-control. The Maryland Department of Juvenile Services supports later start and release times.

3. Healthy School Hours Help Prevent Car Crashes Drowsy driving is responsible for a significant number of fatal teen crashes. School districts with later morning start times see the teen crash rates decline.

4. Healthy School Hours Reduce Drop-Out Rates School attendance improves, tardiness decreases and graduation rates increase, which helps raise tax revenues and reduce crime and gang activity. When comparing attendance and graduation rates before and after the schools implemented a delayed starting time, the average graduation rate jumped from 79% to 88%, and the average attendance rate went from 90% to 94%.

5. Healthy School Hours Improve Health Sleep loss has wide-ranging consequences, including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and hypertension. Sleep deprivation reduces the immune system. With later, healthier school start times, teens experience fewer sports injuries and miss fewer days of school due to illness.

6. Healthy School Hours Are Better for Mental Health Inadequate sleep is linked to depressed mood, anxiety, behavioral problems, alcohol and drug use, risky behaviors and suicidal thoughts.

The Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2016 (YRBS) shows that 16.2% of Howard County high school students seriously considered suicide and 13.8% made a plan to do so. When able to sleep more:

- Teen attitudes and behavior improve
- Teens report less depression
- Teenage needs for medication decreases

A cost-benefit analysis prepared for Fairfax County, Virginia, estimates that later start times could save the community \$1.7 million a year in mental health treatment costs.

7. Healthy School Hours Help Prevent Substance Abuse Increased and adequate sleep decreases risk taking behaviors such as alcohol and drug use.

8. Healthy School Hours Make Streets Safer With early school start times, many students who are eligible for school bus service opt out and instead drive to school (or are driven by family members), which leads to more cars on the road during morning rush hours. In addition, children walking to schools and bus stops in the predawn darkness are a serious safety risk for both pedestrians and drivers.

9. Healthy School Hours Are Family-Friendly A year after the city of Minneapolis implemented later start times, students were getting an hour more of sleep per school night, 92 percent of parents were happy with the change, and parents reported improved relationships with their children.

10. Healthy School Hours Benefit the Economy

The potential costs of schools starting after 8:30 a.m. can be recouped in as little as 2-3 years, based on improved academic outcomes (thus increased lifetime earnings) and a reduction in teen drowsy driving accidents.

SOURCES: (1) <http://educationnext.org/do-schools-begin-too-early/and>

http://www.hamiltonproject.org/assets/leagcy/files/downloads_and_links/092011_orqanize_jacob_rockoff_brief.pdf

(2) www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24085558 and <http://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/maryland/2018/02/09/md-juvenile-agency-later-school-hours-crime/323781002/>

(3) www.geico.com/information/autosafety/safety-library/ and <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2603528/pdf/icsm.4.6.533.pdf>

(4) http://www.hamiltonproject.org/assets/leagcy/files/downloads_and_links/092011_orqanize_jacob_rockoff_brief.pdf and [http://www.sleephealthjournal.org/article/S2352-7218\(17\)30002-5/fulltext](http://www.sleephealthjournal.org/article/S2352-7218(17)30002-5/fulltext) McKeever, PM and Clark, I. Delayed high school start times than 8:30 and impact on graduation rates and attendance. *Sleep Health: Journal of the National Sleep Foundation*, 2017;3(2), 119-125.

(5) http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6430a1.htm?cid=mm6430a1_e and <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25028798>

(6) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2656315/> Bernert RA, Joiner TE. Sleep disturbances and suicide risk: A review of the literature. *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*. 2007;3(6):735--743 and <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/ccdpc/Reports/Pages/YRBS2016.aspx#HowardCounty>

(7) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25178930>

(8) <http://startschoollater.pbworks.com/w/page/60412558/Sleep%20Loss%20and%20Accidents%20or%20Injury>

(9) <http://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/162769/impact%20of%20later%20start%20time%20final%20report.pdf?sequence=1.pdf>

(10) https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2109.html *Maryland specific data unavailable.

Howard County Maryland Chapter |

<http://www.startschoollater.net/md---howard-county.html>

| 12-2019





Sayers, Margery

From: Chao Wu <Chao_Wu@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 14, 2019 11:27 AM
To: guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us; Atterbeary, Vanessa Delegate; Clarence Lam; lt.governor@maryland.gov; katiefry.hester@senate.state.md.us; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; contact@maryland.gov
Subject: Please support Howard County School Capital Project

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

Dear Elected State Officials,

Howard County is in dire need of capital project funding from the state and the county to help relieve overcrowding, fix long-existing renovation, build High School 13, renovate Hammond High School and rebuild Talbott Spring Elementary School.

HCPSS is probably the fastest growing school system in Maryland and our capital projects are lacking behind. The state capital funding formula is not favorable to us without proper consideration of this student growth factor. The split of 45(Count)/55(state) funding mechanism also puts Howard County in a strain in terms of capital project in the past.

Please help to fully fund 2021 Howard County Public School System capital projects.

Thank you.

Chao

Dr. Chao Wu
Board Member of Howard County Board of Education

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 10:54 AM
To: Erica Bentley; BoE Email; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org
Cc: Scott Washington; Daniel Lubeley
Subject: RE: [External] 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.]

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2021 Capital Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process. 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 Capital Budget will be discussed again during the Board meeting on Tuesday, December 17, and the final budget will be approved in the spring. Once again, thank you for contacting the Board and providing valuable input.

Kind regards,

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

From: Erica Bentley <ericabentleyrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 12:22 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; calvinball@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; Superintendent <superintendent@hcpss.org>
Subject: [External] Hammond High School Renovations.

! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr. Martirano, Board of Education members, County Council members,

I am writing regarding a critical concern for not funding the renovations for Hammond HS and Talbot Spring ES, and letting you know this is no longer unacceptable for the students and families in these communities. The funding and renovations must stay on track as previously budgeted. You have neglected these schools for way too long.

I will ask each and everyone of you- what if this was your child? Would you accept this? I would not. I watched Mr Youngman ask on the Dec 10th meeting WHY renovations were needed. Do our representatives even read our submissions or the facilities reports?

I know you have been informed many times about deficiencies at HaHS. These are known and oft discussed. Mice in the classrooms, water contamination, only portable toilets available to the numerous outdoor portable classrooms, over capacity, science rooms too small to allow the entire class complete experiments at the same time, power fuses that blow with 2 cords plugged in.... the list goes on. HOW is this acceptable for any child, let alone a community with the reputation held by Howard County.

There are talented kids who go to Hammond High School and these conditions limit their ability to learn and demonstrate their abilities. They have loving homes. Access to basic needs. But you will let them underperform bc of the physical conditions of the school. I am not asking for a state of the art school. I'm asking for a school that doesn't make them use outdoor toilets, doesn't have rodent feces in the lockers (that don't lock anyway), and provides adequate facilities and space for teachers to support their students. My oldest son will attend Hammond in 3 years. This school has been in disrepair for over a decade. I am beginning to doubt it will be any better by the time he arrives.

HaHS is nowhere close to being ADA compliant, and that is gross negligence for the students in attendance. Are you aware that the doors to the restrooms are not wide enough for a wheelchair to fit through? Can you imagine having to use the restroom, but not being able access the toilet? And if you could get through the door, there are not appropriate stalls to use within the restroom. I am not certain of the number of HaHS students or staff that require assistance with mobility, but I do know there are a few. I'm not sure how HaHS accommodates these students. How do you plan to accommodate these students, staff and family members?

The southeast region of Howard County has been pushed aside for far too long. Will YOU be the people that pass on doing what is greatly needed, or will YOU be the people that will make HaHS and TSES a top priority? Will you continue to ignore the needs of these schools- needs that you are well aware of. Will you continue to keep HaHS a school that cannot accommodate people with mobility needs and different abilities? For the safety of these communities, I hope you will no longer ignore the issues these schools encounter.

I spend my days at work leading a team of 250 nurses, social workers, and community health workers whose sole job is to improve the lives of people in various communities. Every day we see the impact that the environment of their conditions has on their opportunities in life, their health, and their mental well-being. They live in complex situations that we are often shielded from in our own lives. How can you blatantly ignore this problem that CAN be fixed. It's not easy, but there is a solution sitting right in front of all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

- Erica Thuy Bentley, RN, MBA
- Andrew Bentley HaMS future architect, coder, or artist
- Alexander Bentley AES future sports statistician, politician, or Orioles center fielder

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 10:49 AM
To: Anna Nemirovsky; BoE Email; CouncilMail
Cc: Scott Washington; Daniel Lubeley
Subject: RE: [External] Capital projects funding

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

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2021 Capital Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process. 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.

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Kind regards,

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

From: Anna Nemirovsky <snemir@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 9:55 AM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Capital projects funding

! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As the Board is well aware of, Talbott Springs Elementary and Hammond High are in desperate need of rebuild and renovation. I urge the county council to address the issue and provide the necessary capital funding for these projects.

Sincerely,

Anna Nemirovsky
Polygon 159

Sayers, Margery

From: Brian Edwards <brianledwards@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 9:42 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Please fund Hammond High and Talbots Springs

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

With the increase in taxes and large increase in the number of tax payers in this county, there is no excuse to not fund the schools. School capacities should grow with development but it hasn't happened because developers have had such a great deal. Please find a way to fund these two school improvement projects and prevent future harmful mass moves of students.

Respectfully

Brian Edwards

Sayers, Margery

From: Erica Bentley <ericabentleyrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 12:22 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org
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.]

Dr. Martirano, Board of Education members, County Council members,

I am writing regarding a critical concern for not funding the renovations for Hammond HS and Talbot Spring ES, and letting you know this is no longer unacceptable for the students and families in these communities. The funding and renovations must stay on track as previously budgeted. You have neglected these schools for way too long.

I will ask each and everyone of you- what if this was your child? Would you accept this? I would not. I watched Mr Youngman ask on the Dec 10th meeting WHY renovations were needed. Do our representatives even read our submissions or the facilities reports?

I know you have been informed many times about deficiencies at HaHS. These are known and oft discussed. Mice in the classrooms, water contamination, only portable toilets available to the numerous outdoor portable classrooms, over capacity, science rooms too small to allow the entire class complete experiments at the same time, power fuses that blow with 2 cords plugged in.... the list goes on. HOW is this acceptable for any child, let alone a community with the reputation held by Howard County.

There are talented kids who go to Hammond High School and these conditions limit their ability to learn and demonstrate their abilities. They have loving homes. Access to basic needs. But you will let them underperform bc of the physical conditions of the school. I am not asking for a state of the art school. I'm asking for a school that doesn't make them use outdoor toilets, doesn't have rodent feces in the lockers (that don't lock anyway), and provides adequate facilities and space for teachers to support their students. My oldest son will attend Hammond in 3 years. This school has been in disrepair for over a decade. I am beginning to doubt it will be any better by the time he arrives.

HaHS is nowhere close to being ADA compliant, and that is gross negligence for the students in attendance. Are you aware that the doors to the restrooms are not wide enough for a wheelchair to fit through? Can you imagine having to use the restroom, but not being able access the toilet? And if you could get through the door, there are not appropriate stalls to use within the restroom. I am not certain of the number of HaHS students or staff that require assistance with mobility, but I do know there are a few. I'm not sure how HaHS accommodates these students. How do you plan to accommodate these students, staff and family members?

The southeast region of Howard County has been pushed aside for far too long. Will YOU be the people that pass on doing what is greatly needed, or will YOU be the people that will make HaHS and TSES a top priority? Will you continue to ignore the needs of these schools- needs that you are well aware of. Will you continue to keep HaHS a school that cannot accommodate people with mobility needs and different abilities? For the safety of these communities, I hope you will no longer ignore the issues these schools encounter.

I spend my days at work leading a team of 250 nurses, social workers, and community health workers whose sole job is to improve the lives of people in various communities. Every day we see the impact that the environment of their conditions has on their opportunities in life, their health, and their mental well-being. They live in complex situations

that we are often shielded from in our own lives. How can you blatantly ignore this problem that CAN be fixed. It's not easy, but there is a solution sitting right in front of all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

- Erica Thuy Bentley, RN, MBA
- Andrew Bentley HaMS future architect, coder, or artist
- Alexander Bentley AES future sports statistician, politician, or Orioles center fielder

Sayers, Margery

From: Alec Livieratos <aleclivi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 12:05 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail
Subject: Please Fund Hammond High's Renovation!

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

Dear Council Members,

Please fight for our students! Please help us! I am asking you to keep the Hammond High in the capital budget for FY 2021. Hammond has dire needs, of which you are well aware, if you are not aware, If attached report from April 2008 that addresses these issues. Yes 2008. Its now 2019. Will you help?

Hammond has already suffered by having this projects delayed. If you believe that issues need to be addressed, then you must keep them in the budget. If removed from the budget, you remove any possibility of funding the projects. Tax payers have already footed the bill for the planning and testing at both sites. Are you willing to throw that money away?

Our students deserve better. Will you fight for them? Will you lead? What message does it send to our students our families, and our community if you ignore and pass on the needs of our schools!

There is much talk about equity in the county. Hammond, and Talbot springs for that matter, are not asking for equity, we are not asking for anything special. We simply want our students to have the same facilities that every other school provides. In one of the wealthiest counties in the nation are you really going to delay, again, the improvements at two majority minority schools, which are well above the county average for students receiving free and reduced meals?

How many generations of students will go through these schools before you fix them? Is it ok for these students to have facilities that are so lacking? What are you saying about how you value our students? Don't all students deserve a safe school, free of mold, vermin, with potable drinking water and facilities comparable to other schools in the county?

I urge you to keep these projects in the budget and fully funded.

I urge you to do the right thing for our students. They are counting on you. Thank you for your time and your service to this county.

Sincerely,
Alexander Livieratos

April 2008.
<https://www.boarddocs.com/.../Hammond%20HS%20Fac%20Assess...>

The primary building program deficiencies at Hammond High School:

- The Special Education program is significantly undersized by -3,279 sf (63.4%) and is missing 3 classrooms, speech-language therapy room, OT/PT area, storage and a conference room.
 - The Gifted & Talented is significantly undersized by -530 sf (58.2%). It has been located in a converted support space from the media center
 - The physical education program is undersized by -5,336 sf (17.9%).
 - There is no auxiliary gym and the weight room is undersized; bleachers and sound system in gym needs to be replaced; locker rooms and team rooms need to be upgraded; storage is inadequate.
 - The lack of a second gym means our teams have to share a single gym and that means shorter practices. Hammonds are only 90 minutes while every other school can have a 2 hour practice. Over the course of the season, our student athletes lose a full 2 weeks of practice!!! The lack of equity affects our students wanting scholarships.
 - The English language arts program is undersized by -1,269 sf (10.4%). The average classroom size is 742 sf. They are missing two seminar rooms.
 - The foreign language/ESOL program is undersized by -388 sf (7.6%), does not have a technical resource room.
 - The social studies program is undersized by -616 sf (6.0%), but storage is inadequate and they are missing a seminar room and the technical resource room is undersized.
 - There are no permanent restrooms outside (must use portable toilets).
 - Ed. specifically calls for 2 multi-purpose play fields and 2 football practice fields. Currently there are only 1.5 fields to serve both of these functions.
 - There is an exterior basketball courts area, but it does not provide the 4 full size courts called out in the ed. spec.
 - There is one baseball field in very good condition. A second baseball field is missing.
 - There is one softball field versus the 3 programmed in the ed. spec.
 - No fitness path running around the perimeter of the site.
 - Administration is undersized by only -152 sf (4.7%).
 - Ninth grade assistant principal is located with the 9th grade cluster, but needs an administrative assistant.
 - There is no administration conference room.
 - A security vestibule should be provided with control by the administration reception area. Guidance is undersized by -1,123 sf (34.2%) and is missing two offices. Student records storage is inadequate and Career Center is too small.
 - Nurse/health suite is undersized by -152 sf (17.3%)
 - The staff lounge is undersized by -564 sf (45.1%); there is no dedicated faculty lounge (use faculty dining).
 - Student organization rooms are deficient by -401 sf (64.2%), missing a student organization room and storage.
 - The student support center is undersized by -336 sf (42.5%). -There is no Maryland Tomorrow office or a contract room. There is no professional development school's office & seminar room (-750 sf).
 - The art suite is undersized by -751 sf (14.6%). There are no windows to provide natural light into the art studios. The dark room is located in the media center.
 - The music education program is undersized by -1,428 sf (23.2%). The band room is undersized. There is no piano lab, or ensemble/music library. Storage for music is very inadequate
 - The science program is undersized by -863 sf (5.2%). This school has one additional general science classroom (no lab equipment). There is no greenhouse or seminar room and support spaces are undersized.
 - The tech. ed. program has adequate space, but one lab area is currently used for a combination of art and CR&D. Equipment and program needs to be updated to meet current state requirements.
 - Hammond High School is located on a site of 33.14 acres. The minimal recommended high school site size is 30 acres plus 1 acre for each 100 students. To meet the current ed. spec. site requirements, however, it is estimated that an additional 20 acres would be required.
 - There is dedicated parking for only 233 cars, 287 less than programmed. They do have a bus training area that cannot be used in the mornings when training is generally taught, but can be used at other times and during evening events.
- The extensive report is 11 years old and some items have been addressed. Most important is that the "homemade" sprinklers have been replaced.

--

~Alec

Sayers, Margery

From: Anna Nemirovsky <snemir@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 9:55 AM
To: BOE@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Capital projects funding

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

As the Board is well aware of, Talbott Springs Elementary and Hammond High are in desperate need of rebuild and renovation. I urge the county council to address the issue and provide the necessary capital funding for these projects.

Sincerely,

Anna Nemirovsky
Polygon 159

Sayers, Margery

From: mbwaak@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 9:36 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Hammond High School

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

I am once again writing to support the inclusion of Hammond High School and Talbott Springs Elementary School in next year's capital budget. Both of our school buildings have serious deficiencies and we both have been put off for far too long.

I am more familiar with Hammond since my children are both recent Hammond graduates. They are proud to be Golden Bears, but it is heartbreaking to hear the students joke about their school.

- There are frequent blackouts because the electricity does not function properly. If too many things are plugged in at the same time, it will trip a breaker and cause a blackout.
- The phone lines to the school often don't work in bad weather.
- There is insufficient science lab space and not all of the science labs have sinks.
- I've followed my child's IEP team around the school trying to find a room available to hold an IEP meeting since the special ed conference room was already in use.
- There is mold in the building.
- There is rusty water coming out of the pipes right next to the eye wash station.
- Students in wheelchairs have trouble getting into the building because the doorways are too narrow and the threshold is too high.
- Students in wheelchairs have to go to the health room to use a bathroom because too many bathrooms are not wheelchair accessible.
- Athletes practice in the hallways because we are the only high school with only one gym.
- We do not have outdoor bathrooms in our stadium.
- We have water fountains that test positive for lead.
- We have legionella in our cooling tower.
- We have mice and roaches in the building. I saw students from another school laughing about it and taking videos of the mice when they were at Hammond for a game.
- In our auditorium we need to choose between turning on the HVAC and hearing our performers.

We are a school that has a student body that is almost twice the county average of free and reduced lunch. Our students know that their facility is inferior and it makes them feel like second class citizens. It is time for the county to put their money where their mouth is and show our students that they aren't second class citizens and deserve a safe and healthy building like everyone else has.

Mary Beth Waak
Columbia, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Claire Femiano <cfemiano@fastmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 4:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support project #CO335- new East Columbia 50+Center funding

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

Hi

From: Claire Femiano <cfemiano@fastmail.com>
To: council@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: Support new East Columbia 50+Center
Date: Monday, December 09, 2019 2:28 PM

Dear Council Member,

Here is a copy of my online testimony urging funding for project #CO 335- full funding for a new stand alone 50+ Center in East Columbia. I hope that you will press County Executive Ball to put this much needed project in the FY2021 capital budget.

Thank you.

Claire Femiano

County Executive Ball,

I urge you to fully fund #CO 335 in the FY2021 capital budget, to build a new standalone 50+Center in East Columbia. When my husband and I retired and downsized we decided to remain in Howard County despite the high costs of living here because of the many services and facilities available to seniors.

The senior population is growing and the need for a larger center in East Columbia is great. Funding the new center would show a concrete commitment to the seniors in our community by our local government.

My husband and I own a house and pay taxes yet we require fewer services than our younger neighbors with school aged children who need sports and recreational facilities as well as schools. I volunteer for several local organizations. Seniors are a valuable resource for our county- socio-economically as well as financially.

The East Columbia Center has provided activities for all citizens- not just seniors. They have co- sponsored programs for children, artists, gardeners and people in poverty. If the facility was larger, they could serve so many more Howard County residents.

Please fully fund project #CO 335 in the FY2021 capital budget and build the new standalone East Columbia 50+ Center. It will only cost more money if you delay. Seniors like myself have waited a long time for that center to be built; the time to do it is now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Claire Femiano

cfemiano@fastmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: proctorpac@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 12:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Renovate Hammond

[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 was able to watch the meeting this morning between hcps and Council. I'm feeling discouraged. I feel like our school system was not advocating for us. In fact it felt like they were discouraging you from providing funding for our Very Very overdue renovation. Hammond must be invested in. It is a lot of money, I'm aware of that, but my children deserve it. It is unacceptable the condition of this school, it cannot be pushed off any further. We have been pushed back for over 10 years. things are getting worse and more expensive to fix. Also delaying this project only digs the capacity hole deeper, and pushes back other school projects. Please make funding available for Hammond

I'm including the letter I wrote to the BOE, superintendent, and County executive as I hope it will help. I was very encouraged by the response from Dr. Ball. He sent the letter that Dr Jones shared at the meeting. It seemed to me he was very supportive of the renovations and confident in funding.

I'm asking you to please leave Hammond High School renovation in the Budget. I'm pleading with you. I know you have many hard decisions to make regarding budget but Hammond Has to be a priority. It must be a priority for the school system and the county. As Columbia ages, if you do not invest in the schools, neither will new families. It is unfathomable to me that this school has been left behind. For 10+ years. Schools in much better condition have been prioritized. How many children have entered and exited the school year after year in inequitable conditions. What about staff? Is it fair to them to work/coach in a school in such terrible conditions while also managing the high need in the school.

Equity has been a hot topic in this county. It has different meaning to different people. To me the equity I expect the school system to provide my child is in safety and condition of buildings, quality staff, and equal opportunity to programs/classes throughout ALL schools in the county. All schools in this county are not Equal in these regards. We are building a \$140 Million dollar school, which seems excessive to me, but you are asking families to invest in a school with rats, unsafe brown water, disgusting facilities, little sunlight, unsecure stadium, no aux gym, no sinks in science labs, not enough gas lines for all students to complete lab work in a timely manner ect. There is no equity in that! Do you really expect people to invest in a school in this condition if they have the means to chose another. It is not unreasonable for all of the children in our county to have clean WATER and a safe school, no matter how affluent the population who attends them.

My family has invested everything we have into our home, We chose to invest in Columbia and in Hammond, I'm begging you to do the same.
Renovate Hammond.

Christina Proctor
District 3, Mom, Tax payer, CA assessment payer

Sayers, Margery

From: Leigh Roberts <lar@brventures.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 8, 2019 11:43 PM
To: CouncilMail; tellhoco; Rigby, Christiana
Subject: fund school renovations

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

Dear Mr. Ball and County Council Members,

I am writing to implore you to keep school renovations for Hammond HS and Talbott Springs ES in the budget for FY21. The children and the faculty and staff of these schools deserve equity in the facilities in which to teach and learn. This project has been delayed many times and should NOT be removed from the budget. As you are aware, the facilities at these school have mold, lead in the water, rodents, undersized spaces and many other inadequate facilities. The plans for renovations for Hammond HS have already been developed. Please follow through on your promise to update Hammond HS and Talbott Springs ES.

One idea is to move students from Hammond HS to HS #13 and renovate Hammond HS when it is empty. There is precedent for this in the county and it would cost much less money as well as be completed faster if the work is done while the school is empty.

Furthermore, on a similar but different note, what is the plan for expanding elementary and middle schools? Every school in this county that I have seen has portables located on their campus due to overcrowding. How is this safe for our students? In the awful event of an active shooter, which the student practice drills for, and is all too frequently on the news, you could not guarantee the safety of students who are not inside of buildings. You have installed guarded access to the front of buildings, but there is no protection for students who must walk outside to change classes. This is unacceptable and puts ALL of our students at risk.

Please keep school renovation projects in the budget and help make our schools better and safer for ALL students.

Thank you, Leigh Roberts

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 6:14 PM
To: Katie Schneider; CouncilMail; BoE Email; superintendent@hcpss.org
Cc: Scott Washington; Daniel Lubeley
Subject: RE: [External] Funding for Hammond High School and Talbot Spring ES

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

Good Evening:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2021 Capital Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process. 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.

This is the beginning of the process for the Capital Budget, and the final budget will be approved in the spring. However, during the approval of the Capital Improvement Program on September 19, 2019, the school system staff stated the Board would need to make a decision in the beginning of December prior to moving Hammond HS and Talbot Springs ES into the construction phase, which will take place during tomorrow's Board meeting.

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

Kind regards,

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

From: Katie Schneider <pulver222@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 2:05 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Superintendent <superintendent@hcpss.org>
Subject: [External] Funding for Hammond High School and Talbot Spring ES

! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr. Martirano, Board of Education members, County Council members,

I am writing regarding the hot topic of not funding the renovations for Hammond HS and Talbot Spring ES, and letting you know this is no longer unacceptable for the students and families in these communities. The funding and renovations must stay on track as previously budgeted. You have neglected these schools for way too long.

I want to specifically address issues at Hammond HS, as we now have a 9th grader attending HaHS, and I am not familiar with TSES. Participating in parent-teacher conferences was an eye opening experience, and one that I am appalled with what we encountered within the confines of the school. HaHS is nowhere close to being ADA compliant, and that is gross negligence for the students in attendance. Our older son (who attends Cedar Lane School) uses a wheelchair. Are you aware that the doors to the restrooms are not wide enough for a wheelchair to fit through? Can you imagine having to use the restroom, but not being able access the toilet? And if you could get through the door, there are not appropriate stalls to use within the restroom. I am not certain of the number of HaHS students or staff that require assistance with mobility, but I do know there are a few. I'm not sure how HaHS accommodates these students. How do you plan to accommodate these students, staff and family members? I will ask each and everyone of you- what if this was your child? Would you accept this? I know I would not.

I know you have been informed many times about other issues at HaHS; mice in the classrooms (we saw 2 while we were there), water contamination, over capacity, science rooms too small to allow the entire class complete experiments at the same time, power fuses that blow with 2 cords plugged in.... the list goes on.

The southeast region of Howard County has been pushed aside for far too long. Will YOU be the people that pass on doing what is greatly needed, or will YOU be the people that will make HaHS and TSES a top priority? Will you continue to ignore the needs of these schools- needs that you are well aware of. Will you continue to keep HaHS a school that cannot accommodate people with mobility needs and different abilities? For the safety of these communities, I hope you will no longer ignore the issues these schools encounter.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Schneider

Sayers, Margery

From: Jai Lee <jailee2008@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 7:26 PM
To: BudgetTestimony
Cc: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Esteemed Council members,

I am a father of two Howard County students. I am writing regards to the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget.

I support keeping the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being attended.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is **unacceptable** to parents! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success.

Funding the school system in this county at the requested level **Stops the Avalanche** of program cuts.

As a tax-payer of Howard county, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

I am hoping to hear good news.

Sincerely,

Jai Lee

Sayers, Margery

From: Mark & Ellen Bockelman <mark.ellen@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 12:51 PM
To: BudgetTestimony; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Esteemed Council-members,

I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. Specifically, I am writing to support keeping the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal would enable the school system to provide much needed staffing to reflect the growth in our student population. Last year, budget constraints required the school system to implement cuts in para-educators and teacher supports, which have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers are already spending extra time working to meet the demands of the students. Due to the shortage of para-educators created by past year cuts and compounded by the growth in our student population, students who need extra help are not getting the needed services.

If the HCPSS budget is not funded at the requested level, not only would the school system not be able to provide the services needed by our county's children, but additional programs may have to be cut as well, including the elimination of musical instrument programs (band and strings) and the elimination of gifted and talented classes for accelerated students (which would in turn hurt Howard County's national standing as a leading example of excellence in education). Funding the school system in this county at the requested level stops the reduction in services and program cuts.

I realize that the requested funding for the HCPSS goes past the maintenance of effort from last year. As a tax-payer of Howard county, however, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children, and by doing so, our future.

Sincerely,
Ellen Bockelman

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 12:32 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Testimony for 3/12 Residents' Budget Hearing for FY2021

From: Sylvia Hennesie <sylvia.hennesie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 4:23 PM
To: BudgetTestimony <BudgetTestimony@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: 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: Budget Testimony for 3/12 Residents' Budget Hearing for FY2021

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

March 11, 2020

Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Dr. Ball:

I write to you as a former educator within HCPSS and as a current parent of students in our school system, to ask that you fully fund our school system's budget request. We need more funding dedicated to our schools to support staff, infrastructure, and most importantly our students and their well-being.

I have been a resident of Howard County since I was five years old, when I moved to Columbia with my family in time to start Kindergarten at Stevens Forest Elementary School. I have cherished my upbringing in Howard County, and know that the education I received within HCPSS significantly supported my development and success throughout the years. I have strong positive memories of school and my teachers, which led me to wanting to become an educator myself.

I've been an Early Childhood Educator for over ten years, most recently teaching Kindergarten within HCPSS. I have seen the changes faced by schools and staff due to budget cuts, and know firsthand the difficulties this has caused for all those involved. Teachers are burning out from increased demands and less support - the sheer number of students we are trying to teach, love, and set up for success, combined with trying to balance administrative work, new curriculum, and changing reporting processes are all becoming too much. Students are having more frequent interruptions to learning due to extreme behaviors and lack of adequate support for students with significant social-emotional and academic needs. As a teacher, this was extremely defeating, and as a parent, knowing that my child at times is a bystander waiting to learn in her classroom, is heartbreaking. All students are entitled to have their needs met - however, this cannot be done by simply saying a classroom is inclusive. Schools need to have enough highly skilled staff and appropriate resources to bring this to fruition.

I mention all those challenges before even factoring in teachers' personal lives - I can speak from experience that it is

extremely difficult to maintain an appropriate work life balance as an educator within HCPSS. Mental health for staff and students is an issue. Unfortunately, due to the increasing stressors of work, I made the decision to resign earlier this school year at the end of January. Leaving my class mid-year was a devastating choice that I had to make, however it was necessary for my well-being and for my family. I do not want to see other teachers have to face this difficult realization, and know that with better supports, it does not have to be this way.

It is **critical** that funding is put in place to support smaller class sizes, appropriate adult to student ratios, and adequate human and material resources for our varied learning populations (specifically special education and English Language Learners). It is upsetting that different departments are having to compete with one another over funding, when in reality the success of all subsets of students is important to the continued growth of our county and our country's future. Students need access to subjects like the arts, technology, and gifted and talented resources, just to name a few. Teachers need access to staff to help with their professional development and curriculum implementation. They need para-educators, support staff, and interventionists to provide extra help for students in smaller settings as needed, and they need administrators available and able to have day to day school activities run well. Currently, **EVERYONE** is spread thin, regardless of their staffing position. Our county's population has continued to increase, however the educational resources have not done so in a meaningful way. If our county wants to retain the reputation our school system is known for, it is **imperative** that funding be put forth to retain educators so they are able to continue to give their very best to our students who deserve it. We cannot continue to make cuts to the education budget on the backs of students and educators.

I truly believe that our county is more than capable to make choices that show children are our priority. Our kids cannot wait.

Thank you,

Sylvia Hennesie
2019 HCPSS Teacher of the Year
(410) 499-1659
sylvia.hennesie@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 12:32 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please Consider Our Kid's Future for the Proposed FY21 HCPSS budget!

From: HLasko, Andrew <andrew.hlasko@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 11:33 AM
To: BOE@HCPSS.org; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; N'Guessan-Gbe, Darrell <dn'guessan-gbe@howardcountymd.gov>; mavis_ellis@hcpss.org; BudgetTestimony <BudgetTestimony@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: katiefry.hester@senate.state.md.us; trentkittleman+verizon.net@ccsend.com
Subject: Please Consider Our Kid's Future for the Proposed FY21 HCPSS budget!

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

Dear Dr. Ball, County Council and Members of the Board of Education

I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. Please consider all available options before cutting any of the school budget for our kids in the Howard county public school system. Such budget cuts will impact all our kids including those in underserved and underprivileged communities. Eliminating music programs and reducing STEM oriented GT Programs will only serve to further limit existing educational opportunities for our kids. Some may think that Music classes are a luxury but in reality Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success. Please think of our kids futures and do not cut the FY 21 HCPSS educational budget!

Any potential cuts in para-educators or teacher support personnel will put significant pressure on our HCPSS teachers and administration. Our Teachers have been already over working hard to meet the many demands of our students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help or students who are from some of the underprivileged communities are not being attended or properly served.

As a tax-payer of Howard County, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Andrew Hlasko
13010 Red Maple Way
Dayton, MD 21029
Tel. 240-449-7863

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 12:31 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Budget Testimony
Attachments: EducaçionCCTestiimony.docx

From: bdschmitt@verizon.net <bdschmitt@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 12:06 AM
To: Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; BudgetTestimony <BudgetTestimony@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc: 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: Budget Testimony

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

To All It May Concern...

Attached you'll find my testimony concerning the budget, considering the hearing for March 12th is now cancelled.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Benjamin D. Schmitt

Benjamin Schmitt
7817 Whistling Pines Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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

Wednesday, March 11th, 2020

Dear Dr. Ball and Members of the County Council,

My name is Benjamin Schmitt. I have been an art teacher in Howard County for 22 years. I grew up in Anne Arundel County, not knowing very much about Howard. Ironically, I came to Howard County after getting locked out of Anne Arundel, when hiring was frozen due to a tussle over funding between then County Executive John Gary and the Board of Ed.

I've made Howard County my home as a professional and as a parent. When my wife and I married, we decided to move here, raise a family and have our children attend the school system where we work so hard. That's why I'm here today. I'm asking you to fully fund the school system budget.

Some people say cuts can happen at the central office level, and that classrooms will have everything we need. I'm here to say that just isn't the case. There could be some changes, but there aren't enough reassignments or cuts at Central Office that would free up the money the school system so desperately needs.

When I started teaching, the school system looked very different. We had smaller class sizes, and the students and their needs were quite different. Our population of ESOL, children needing free & reduced meals, and special education students have all risen. On top of that, we are the fastest growing system in the state, and we now serve more children who suffered adverse childhood experiences. Class sizes have ballooned.

Yet, we don't have enough staff to serve these kids. Howard County taxpayers expect schools to do what's best for students, especially those that are the most vulnerable. That is exactly what teachers and staff want too. However, we're not given the funding to truly address all of the needs that walk in our doors on a daily basis.

We're at a critical point. Educators are leaving, and we who remain are stressed and anguished. This is a national crisis that we feel locally in every school. We've already had last year's Teacher of the Year resign. We shouldn't have to regretfully watch more walk away from the profession.

The decade of decisions to underfund while our student population is exploding, pits one educational need against another. In the end, we all lose. Students especially. Furthermore, when you consistently comment that "in order to fund the Supt.'s budget, you'd have to cut" police or fire services, that just creates more division in the county. I have friends, and union brothers and sisters who are in the HCPD and HCFD. Those kinds of incendiary statements pits community members against one another. It's not fair, and it's the kind of rhetoric that we see already dividing folks on the state and national level. I expect better of Howard County.

Look, when the fire department needed more funding, you as elected officials took a vote to increase the fire tax on my bill. I didn't balk at that, because my children have benefitted from emergency services. They both have a heart condition known as SVT (supraventricular tachycardia). My children have been rushed to the hospital several times due to their condition. I certainly appreciate our emergency services, and am happy to pay the fire tax.

Everyone benefits from a fully funded school system. We've had a vast number of people move to our county because of the school system. It is the largest employer in the county, and in reality, it is what drives the real estate market here. Retirees, empty nesters, and anyone that has owned their home for more than twenty years has benefitted from the school system when they go to sell their home. Developers also benefit from the school system, when they sell their freshly built homes for a premium, far more than other neighboring jurisdictions. Yet, we still haven't had a substantive bill pass that has developers paying their fair share for the school system and other infrastructure needs.

It's time for this body to step up, represent the community, and fully fund the HCPSS budget. It's what is right, just, and necessary for everyone. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Schmitt
bdschmitt@verizon.net

Sayers, Margery

From: Ruth L. Huang <Ruth_Huang@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 4:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: budget testimony

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Esteemed Councilmembers,

My name is Ruth Huang. I am an ESOL teacher at Phelps Luck Elementary School. I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. I support keeping the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being attended.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is **unacceptable** to parents! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success.

Funding the school system in this county at the requested level **Stops the Avalanche** of program cuts.

As a tax-payer of Howard county, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Please, listen to the teachers. We are important. The students are important. We need funding. We need it now!

Thanks for reading,
Ruth Huang

=====
Ruth Huang
ESOL Teacher
Instructional Team Leader
Phelps Luck Elementary School

Sayers, Margery

From: Seok PARK <seokpark@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 3:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Esteemed Councilmembers,

I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. I support keeping the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being attended.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is **unacceptable** to parents! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success.

Funding the school system in this county at the requested level **Stops the Avalanche** of program cuts.

As a tax-payer of Howard county, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Sincerely,

Seok Park

Sayers, Margery

From: david.carr <david.carr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Esteemed Councilmembers,

I am writing to ensure that constituent voices are being heard amongst the canceled meeting and the budget testimony email address not working properly

This email is regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. I support keeping the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being attended.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is unacceptable to parents! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success.

Funding the school system in this county at the requested level Stops the Avalanche of program cuts.

As a tax-payer of Howard county, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.
David Carr

Sayers, Margery

From: Pamela Sutkaytis <Pamela_Sutkaytis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 2:15 PM
To: BudgetTestimony; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Council members,

I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. I support keeping the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being assisted.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is **unacceptable** to parents! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success. We have already lost language instruction, which is important for our children.

As a tax-payer of Howard county, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Thank you,

Pam ~

Pamela Sutkaytis
Teacher's Secretary
Phelps Luck Elementary School
410-313-6886

This email, including any attachments, is CONFIDENTIAL and may be legally privileged. If you are not an intended recipient or an authorized representative of an intended recipient, you are prohibited from using, copying or distributing the information in this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email and delete.

Sayers, Margery

From: Donald Snyder <dsnyder7903@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 2:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Esteemed Councilmembers,

I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. I support keeping the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level. I want to make sure my voice is heard, especially because the forum was canceled.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being attended.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is unacceptable to parents! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success.

Funding the school system in this county at the requested level Stops the Avalanche of program cuts.

As a tax-payer of Howard county, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Both of our children have benefited greatly from the music program and other services that are under threat. We value Howard County specifically for its investment in education. Please maintain the budget.

Thank you,

Donald Snyder
5272 Bright Dawn Ct.

Sayers, Margery

From: Julia Roman-Duval <julia.romanduval@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 1:50 PM
To: BudgetTestimony; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget testimony

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

Hello,

I was deeply concerned to learn about the plans for significant budget cuts to HCPSS, affecting music, the G/T program, and overall staff levels.

These staffing reductions and slashing of important programs such as music and G/T are unacceptable, given the profound impact they would have on the children's early education.

The Howard County School system prides itself for its high rankings in the country and the overwhelming success of its students. By proceeding with these budget cuts, the county is putting this path to success in serious jeopardy.

I would urge the Howard County to keep the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level and reconsider their plans to address the budget cuts.

Thank you for your consideration,

Julia Roman-Duval

Sayers, Margery

From: Elana Hoffman <elanadc@cs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 1:44 PM
To: BudgetTestimony; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Budget testimony

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Esteemed Councilmembers,

I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. I support keeping the budget funded at Dr. Martirano's requested level. I am the parent of a 3rd grade student in a HCPSS elementary school.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being attended.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is **unacceptable** to parents! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success.

Funding the school system in this county at the requested level **Stops the Avalanche** of program cuts. As a tax-payer of Howard county, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Sincerely,
Elana Hoffman

Sayers, Margery

From: Jaclyn Bryant <Jaclyn_Bryant@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony

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

Note: Your BudgetTestimony@howardcountymd.gov email is broken and will not accept emails. Please count this among the budget testimony for the March 12th Hearing.

Dear Esteemed Councilpersons and County Executive Ball,

I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget on behalf of myself, my students, and all of my colleagues at Thunder Hill Elementary School to urge you to fully fund Dr. Martirano's budget request for Howard County Public Schools.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being attended. At Thunder Hill, this looks like students with emotional disabilities and other related disorders not having the one-on-one staffing they need in order to be successful during times of day where they are included with their peers – related arts. We have had to evacuate related arts classrooms multiple times just in the last 2 weeks because students with disabilities were not staffed appropriately and their behaviors became unsafe for the rest of the class. I have students who are in the band and strings program who need an aide in order to be successful in my class, but they never come with an aide because we are chronically understaffed and their aides are needed elsewhere. These students deserve the staffing they need in order to succeed, and other students deserve a safe, well-regulated learning environment.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is **unacceptable** to the families and students of THES! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success. Study after study has shown that studying instrumental music literally grows connections in students' brains – making them more robust thinkers in all areas of their lives. As HCPSS has made a push toward mindfulness, playing an instrument becomes even more vital in an era where we are trying to teach students the social skills they lack and healthy means of expression.

Funding the school system in this county at the requested level **Stops the Avalanche** of program cuts.

As a constituent of HCPSS, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jackie Bryant
Band and Strings Teacher
Thunder Hill Elementary School
410-313-6922
[Ms. Bryant's Music Website](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Jackie Bryant <jebryant7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 12:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Testimony

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

Note: Your BudgetTestimony@howardcountymd.gov email is broken and will not accept emails. Please count this among the budget testimony for the March 12th Hearing.

Dear Esteemed Councilpersons and County Executive Ball,

I am writing regarding the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget on behalf of myself, my students, and all of my colleagues at Thunder Hill Elementary School to urge you to fully fund Dr. Martirano's budget request for Howard County Public Schools.

Dr. Martirano's budget proposal requests that staffing reflect the growth in our student population. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have been already over working to meet the demands of the students. Due to lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not being attended. At Thunder Hill, this looks like students with emotional disabilities and other related disorders not having the one-on-one staffing they need in order to be successful during times of day where they are included with their peers – related arts. We have had to evacuate related arts classrooms multiple times just in the last 2 weeks because students with disabilities were not staffed appropriately and their behaviors became unsafe for the rest of the class. I have students who are in the band and strings program who need an aide in order to be successful in my class, but they never come with an aide because we are chronically understaffed and their aides are needed elsewhere. These students deserve the staffing they need in order to succeed, and other students deserve a safe, well-regulated learning environment.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board has floated plans to trim essential programs such as music. This is **unacceptable** to the families and students of THES! Enough cuts!!! Music is a vital program for our students' health and well-being, as well as, their academic success. Study after study has shown that studying instrumental music literally grows connections in students' brains – making them more robust thinkers in all areas of their lives. As HCPSS has made a push toward mindfulness, playing an instrument becomes even more vital in an era where we are trying to teach students the social skills they lack and healthy means of expression.

Funding the school system in this county at the requested level **Stops the Avalanche** of program cuts.

As a constituent of HCPSS, I request the Board of Education and the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children by addressing the revenue issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sayers, Margery

From: Stacey Folkemer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:48 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Good afternoon,

I am writing about the recent decision to cut the funding for special education in the budget proposal for Howard County schools. Special education students are the most vulnerable students in the school system and the special education budget is already stretched way too thin. It's not fair to these students who are entitled to the same opportunities as their peers. The proposal to increase class size is also concerning. So many kids, both special ed and typically developing, will fall through the cracks if and when that happens.

I am the mother of a bright and curious 2 1/2 year old named Maggie. Maggie has Down syndrome and will be starting the county RECC program in the fall. She loves school and we're very excited for her to start, but we're also worried by the budget cuts and all of the negative press about special education in Howard County of late.

When Maggie was born we moved to Howard County specifically so she could get the best education in the state. Our taxes skyrocketed when we moved from Baltimore County to Howard County, but it was worth it to us so she could get the best. And now we're worried that isn't going to happen.

Thank you for listening. I hope you'll do the right thing and provide enough funding for all students to receive the world class education that Howard County likes to say it provides.

Stacey Folkemer
5242 Lightfoot Path
Columbia, MD 21044
443-538-7222

Stacey Folkemer
stacey.long2@gmail.com
5242 Lightfoot Path
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Renata Sanders <rarring3@jhmi.edu>
Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2020 1:09 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Do not cut strings and GT

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

Hi,

This is crucial for my kids development and overall!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Barb Krupiarz <barbkrup@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: BoE Email
Subject: Fwd: RE: [External] Maryland Public Information Act request - salary increases
Attachments: Krupiarz Response 19-150.pdf; HCEA-HCAA 10 year salary history.xlsx

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

Council members,

Attached is a HCPSS MPIA response from March 2019 regarding the history of teacher and ESP raises and step increases for your information.

Respectfully,

Barb Krupiarz

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: RE: [External] Maryland Public Information Act request - salary increases
Date: Thu, 21 Mar 2019 19:38:49 +0000
From: HCPSS MPIA Requests <MPIA_Requests@hcpss.org>
To: 'barbkrup' <barbkrup@verizon.net>

Ms. Krupiarz,

Please find attached the information requested on increases for HCEA and HCAA employees since 2010.

Thank you,

Danielle Lueking
Maryland Public Information Act Representative
Howard County Public School System

From: barbkrup <barbkrup@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:18 AM
To: HCPSS MPIA Requests <MPIA_Requests@hcpss.org>
Cc: barbkrup@verizon.net
Subject: [External] Maryland Public Information Act request - salary increases

I am requesting any document that shows the increases for hcpss teachers and staff in the form of cost of living, step increases, or any percentage for each group as a whole (i.e., no individual increases) as negotiated by HCEA and HCAA. I am requesting it in an Excel spreadsheet from the years 2010 to the present negotiated agreement.

Thank you.

Barb Krupiarz

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



March 21, 2019

Barb Krupiarz

Response sent via email to barbkrup@verizon.net

Dear Ms. Krupiarz:

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) on March 11, 2019, received your request under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) seeking "any document that shows the increases for hcpss teachers and staff in the form of cost of living, step increases, or any percentage for each group as a whole (i.e., no individual increases) as negotiated by HCEA and HCAA. I am requesting it in an Excel spreadsheet from the years 2010 to the present negotiated agreement."

Responsive to this request, please find attached information on COLA and Step Increments for HCEA and HCAA positions since 2010. Please note the parameters/circumstances as indicated in the chart.

Pursuant to MPIA GP § 4-362, you are entitled to seek judicial review of this decision. You also have the option to refer any concerns regarding this decision to the Public Access Ombudsman pursuant to GP § 4-1B-01 *et seq.*

Please feel free to contact the Public Information Office at 410-313-6682 for further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Lueking".

Danielle Lueking
Maryland Public Information Act Representative

HCEA HCAA Salary Increases-Howard County Public School System
2010-2019

Year	COLA	Step Increment	COLA	Step Increment	COLA	Step Increment
2010	1.2	N	Set Aml (a)	N	1.20	N
2011	0.0	Y (b)	0.0	Y (b)	0.00	Y (b)
2012	0.0	Y (c,f)	0.0	Y (c,b)	0.00	Y (d)
2013	0.0	Y (g)	0.0	Y (h)	0.0	Y (i)
2014	0.0	Y (j)	0.0	Y (k)	0.0	Y (l)
2015	3.0 (n)	Y (m)	3.0(n)	Y (m)	3.0(n)	Y (m)
2016	0.0	Y(o)	0.0	Y(o)	0.0	Y(o)
2017	2.0	Y	2.0	Y	2.0	Y
2018 (p)	2.0	Y	2.0	Y	2.0	Y
2019	N	Y (q)	N	Y (q)	N	Y (q)

- (a) HCEAESP used equivalent of 1.2%
- (b) \$500 or equivalent increase for employees not increment-eligible
- (c) Half increment in FY 2012; other half delayed until FY2013
- (d) Half increment taken as \$1,200 increase for each FTE; other half increment delayed until FY2013
- (f) Small improvements to steps 1-3
- (g) Compression of scale to step 30 and adjustment of "seed" to \$41,230; including index adjustments.
- (h) 2% increase at the top of the scales
- (i) 2% increase at the top of the scales (\$1,957 for employees currently on step 16 and \$2,207 for employees currently on step 15), Scale retains 16 step
- (j) Compression of teachers' scale to step 29 with re-indexing, 0.8% COLA for employees going to and at the top of the "Other Certificated Staff" scale
- (k) Additional \$210,516 as a recurring cost divided as 1% COLA for employees at the top of the amount among all employees not at the top.
- (l) Additional \$24,380 as a recurring cost divided among employees going to and at the top of the scale, \$339/employee
- (m) 1/2 increment on 7/1/14, 1/2 increment on 6/30/15 paid in a stipend
- (n) plus an additional 1 % for employees at the top of the scale
- (o) Increment delayed until 12/24/2015
- (p) Negotiated 2018
- (q) increase of 1/2 step on 7/1/18 with second 1/2 step given 6/30/19

Sayers, Margery

From: Triny Paiz <trinypaiz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 7:16 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Yungmann, David; Ball, Calvin B; Jung, Deb
Subject: HCPSS Budget-2020-2021 fiscal year.

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

Dr. Ball and Howard County Council Members,

I urge you, as a voting resident of Howard County, to fully fund Dr. Martirano's budget for the school system for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Our beloved county is growing at an incredibly fast pace. The stresses placed on school system resources will also continue to grow. As the county grows, so too must our school system, which means more funding is needed to support our students and teachers. They can no longer be asked to do more with less.

Dr. Martirano's requested budget is not exorbitant nor unfounded, as it reflects an investment in the youth of Howard County. So many people who live here have been lifelong residents. I believe this is because Howard County truly is a wonderful place to live. Should not the county government wish to continue to invest in our children who will one day become the bright, responsible, well-rounded adults of our community?

Our school system is world class; able to compete on a global scale in so many ways due to our current enrichment programs like GT, technology and music. Forcing the Board of Education into a situation where they must make major cuts in spending, cut staffing, or increase class size year after year in order to allow our educators to receive adequate health benefits hurts our students and hurts our educators.

Please find a way to support our wonderful public school system and stop the avalanche of cuts to our schools. I support a fully funded budget for Howard County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Trinidad paiz

Sayers, Margery

From: Jones, Opel
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Support for Special Education

From: Christia Dudek <STIASER@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 3:25 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Support for Special Education

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

Good Afternoon,

I am a mother to two, non-verbal children who live in Howard County. My 4 year old, Landon has Autism and attends Bollman Bridge Elementary. My 2 year old Maverick is in the Infants & Toddler's program in HC (about to go through his assessments to determine eligibility for the RECC program). As a mother to two special needs children, it is disheartening to learn about the proposed budget cuts for the Special Education Program. Not only will this affect my children, but all of the other vulnerable children in HC. Please consider other areas to reduce the budget, the Special Education Program should be off-limits as these children need the most assistance to thrive. Howard County is supposed to be the best of the best, why is it other counties require more training and qualifications for their assistants than HC, who requires ONLY a high school diploma to work with our most complex students? If you replace the Student Assistants with part-time, minimum wage, high school diploma, contracted temporary employees there's going to be more turn-around and less qualified individuals working with our children.

I personally have to hire an advocate (\$100 an hour) to come with me to IEP meetings to ensure my child is getting the proper education that he deserves. My husband and I are fortunate that we can afford this extra cost, but it is still an extra burden to our budget as a family. How many other families cannot afford this help? Equity should include the legally protected class of students with disabilities. Special ed achievement gaps, graduation rates, and suspension rates are some of the worst in the County. Each year special education enrollment increases, but NO certified special education teachers are added! We do not have enough certified teachers to meet the needs of our kids and that is why they are quitting.

My children are young, we have a long road ahead of us. Please make the right decisions to protect the Special Education Program in Howard County.

Respectfully,
Christia Dudek

Sayers, Margery

From: Katie Kimble <kakimble1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 2:44 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Ball, Calvin B
Subject: School Budget

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

Hello Howard County Council members,

I am writing to request that you fully fund the school system budget request from the school board. With the population growth in our county, we need to fund the school system so it can continue to be a great one, and one of the major reasons for people to live in our county. I realize that the board is requesting an increase in funds, but that increase is necessary in order to meet population growth, continue existing programs, and increase special education staffing, an area that is very understaffed.

I grew up in Howard County and benefited from a wonderful education and programs including its fantastic music program. If the school board's budget is not funded, one area of proposed cuts is in elementary music. Cutting the 3rd grade strings program would have a major impact on the county's music program and would most seriously impact the county's low income students. 3rd grade strings is the first opportunity for students to play an instrument in a school ensemble. It is where they learn many foundation skills that are then the basis of all future ensemble playing. Cutting it will set back the abilities of ensembles at the middle and high school level as students enter that level less prepared than in the past. It will also have the most impact on low income students for whom lessons at school on a free school instrument are the only opportunity to participate in playing an instrument. Parents with the ability will pay for their children to get private lessons and with no instruction for students who cannot afford private lessons outside school, the gap in music achievement between rich and poor students will increase. Music is an important part of our education system and so it is important that we take steps to ensure it is available to all students.

The increase in special education staffing is also of critical importance. The number of students with IEPs and 504s is increasing and the staffing needs to increase so teachers can adequately meet the needs of their students.

As a parent and county resident I hope you will choose to fully fund the school system budget request.

Thank you,
Katie Kimble

Sayers, Margery

From: Erhivie Abu <erhivie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:39 PM
To: CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; Ball, Calvin B
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]HCPSS Budget Cuts

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

WARNING: Your email security system has determined the message below may be a potential threat.

The sender may trick victims into passing bad checks on their behalf.

If you do not know the sender or cannot verify the integrity of the message, please do not respond or click on links in the message. Depending on the security settings, clickable URLs may have been modified to provide additional security.

Dr. Ball and Howard County Council Members,

I urge you, as a voting resident of Howard County, to fully fund Dr. Martirano's budget for the school system for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Our beloved county is growing at an incredibly fast pace. The stresses placed on school system resources will also continue to grow. As the county grows, so too must our school system, which means more funding is needed to support our students and teachers. They can no longer be asked to do more with less.

Dr. Martirano's requested budget is not exorbitant nor unfounded, as it reflects an investment in the youth of Howard County. So many people who live here have been lifelong residents. I believe this is because Howard County truly is a wonderful place to live. Shouldn't the county government wish to continue to invest in our children who will one day become the bright, responsible, well-rounded adults of our community?

Our school system is world class; able to compete on a global scale in so many ways due to our current enrichment programs like GT, technology and music. Forcing the Board of Education into a situation where they must make major cuts in spending, cut staffing, or increase class size year after year in order to allow our educators to receive adequate health benefits hurts our students and hurts our educators.

Please find a way to support our wonderful public school system and stop the avalanche of cuts to our schools. I support a fully funded budget for Howard County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Erhivie Abu

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Please do not cut funding for HCPSS Music program

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Jennifer Galstad <jenn.galstad@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 1:07 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Please do not cut funding for HCPSS Music program

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

Dear Ms. Jung:

I am writing today to ask you to continue supporting the HCPSS music program with full funding and no further budget cut.

I have four children attending schools in HCPSS. We chose to settle down in HoCo in 2013 after nearly 20 years of moving across the globe as a military family. The kids have been thriving here, and all of my children were in the music program, with two still in the string program at Hammond Middle. The music teachers and the quality of the programs have been absolutely amazing. I believe this will have positive life long impact on my children.

The email I received today said the proposed budget cut contains: **cutting 21 Elementary Band/Strings positions / Lowered Special Education Staffing / No new hires / Eliminating 36 MS GT positions / Increasing the class size.**

This is simply unacceptable. HCPSS has already been too focused on academics only. On the other hand, the HCPSS music program has provided the students with a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow in addition to the basic academic skills. I am sure you agree with many benefits from music education - the exposures to music and the dedication and work ethics children learn from the orchestra and band participation are immeasurable.

Please vote against the proposed budget cut as it would mean a major set back in the HCPSS education.

Thank you very much,

Jennifer Galstad
Mother and Business owner, Howard County resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Against cutting funding for GT and Music programs

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

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

From: Lin Zhou <lynnlz2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 11:00 AM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Against cutting funding for GT and Music programs

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

To whom it may concern,

As a HCPSS parent, I am disappointed to found that the BOE is considering cutting funding for the GT/music program. We moved to howard county a few years ago because of the high reputation of HCPSS. GT and music program is really the guarantee of high quality education. The GT program keeps kids intellectually challenged at school. The music program develops grit, patience and team work of students. Cutting these two programs will have a detrimental effect on the education quality of HCPSS.

Dealing with budget deficiency is always challenging. Instead of cutting budget for the GT/music programs, shouldn't we be cutting money across the board? In the time of hardship, everyone suffering the pain seems to be the only fair solution.

Thank you very much for your time!

Proud mom of two children

Lin Zhou Ph.D.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Cecilia Haley <cecilia_haley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

One huge problem within my school right now is the lack of reliable, available, properly-working technology. As an ELA teacher, I want my students to write often. This is critical to helping my students become comfortable communicating their ideas confidently and proficiently. Students need working computers to write with frequency and to receive timely feedback. Yet right now, the laptops available to students are literally falling apart. They are unable to stay charged; the laptop carts no longer work properly, keys are missing, software lags, and systems are incredibly slow. Consequently, I have had to greatly reduce my students' use of computers this year. This means less time for writing, less timely feedback, and much slower progress for my students.

Additionally, my passion is to help my students become lifelong, passionate readers. I prioritize reading and writing daily in my lesson plans. A key to helping students to develop a love of reading is getting books they WANT to read into their hands. However, this requires resources that are non-existent due to continuing budget cuts.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Haley

cecilia_haley@hcpss.org

6221 Stratford Court

Elkridge , Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Gabrielle Jacobson <gabrielle_jacobson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I came to education after a 15-year career in PR & marketing. I'm now in my twelfth year as a special educator and my first as the Special Ed ITL at Hammond Middle School.

Middle school can be a difficult place on the best day, and when you've got even the mildest disability, learning can become a significant challenge, which often means that you begin to demonstrate negative and disruptive behaviors out of sheer frustration. It's our job as teachers to meet those challenging behaviors with compassion and redirection using pedagogically sound strategies. However, most educators haven't been trained to do that.

Unless you've actually walked in the shoes of a special educator, it's nearly impossible to appreciate what a typical day looks like for us. It's also nearly impossible to truly capture the depth of student needs in staffing formulas. What might make sense on paper doesn't actually make any sense when you're standing with both feet in the classroom.

As the team leader, I am called on the walkie-talkie to respond to a student crisis no less than three times a day. Administration, counselors and the school psychologist are also able to respond, however, there are many times when none of them are available. Our school psychologist is only in our building three days a week, and one of those is typically filled with IEP meetings. So on most days of the 17 weeks we've been in school, I do not have a formal lunch break. Until I met with HCEA last week, I was not even aware that I was eligible for a 50 minute planning period. I assumed that because I was a non-instructional ITL, planning time didn't apply to me. There hasn't been a day this year that I've worked, uninterrupted in my office for 50 minutes-unless of course you count working after-school hours. In neighboring counties, there are two or three people assigned to my same position. In Howard, only one.

What does that mean for me? It means that I am tired of apologizing to my three children and husband for not being home or emotionally available to them. I routinely work 70 hours a week and leave my heart on my desk, every single day. It means I work 12 hour days in the building, another two or three at night and at least 10 over the weekend. It means I've had to accept that I will never get it all done, I will never feel accomplished, I will never feel that I can be proactive. It means I take anti-anxiety medication and see a therapist.

As a new ITL, I've struggled mightily. There's no time to sit and chat with my peers during a lunch break. I received no formal training for this position. Sure, there was a generic team leader training about how to have hard conversations and build team morale, but nothing specific to the position about managing legal educational plans, or training staff, or navigating TieNet, or taking on administrative duties even though you're not an administrator, or conducting assessments or creating schedules or managing the timelines associated with IEPs.

I asked for a mentor and the Dpt of Special Ed assigned me a lovely woman who works across the County. But for her to provide real-time help, we'd have to meet outside of school several times a week, and I literally don't have the hours in the day for that. There's a Dpt of Spec Ed resource teacher who supports half of the middle schools in the County. When I get an email that says, 'let me know what I can do to help' I want to reply with, 'spending hours with me at

the beginning of the school year to walk me through even a fraction of the scenarios I encounter would have been a start.' So, please tell me how that's effective?

The Dpt of Spec Ed is woefully out of touch with what is happening at the school level. There is a culture among school-based staff to quietly take the increased workload, because experience has shown that they are not supported when they complain and we care too much about our students to quit. And that plays a large part in why I don't get lunch or planning, and why I put in 70 hour weeks.

Our current staffing formula doesn't account for the 40 minutes we spend with a student who can't bear to go to class because her grandmother died over the weekend; or the hour we spend de-escalating a student with Autism who is in a full-blown crisis after not winning a class prize; or the near constant prompting a student needs to complete the math warm-up; or the encouragement a student with severe depression needs to participate in a lab group; or the redirection two students with extreme ADHD need to complete the classwork; or the four hours it takes to complete a Woodcock-Johnson educational assessment and the other four hours it takes to write the report; or the hours of collaboration with the school psychologist about best practices for supporting students with debilitating OCD; or the 20 hours of writing Progress Notes each quarter. So when our county bases staffing needs exclusively on the service hours from student IEPs without considering individual student factors, or considering an acuity scale, I find it irresponsible.

When I am supporting our students in crisis, or our teachers who don't know how to support our students, I am not doing my required IEP paperwork. There are some ITLs who hide away in their offices and let their staff struggle through; I'm not that kind of person. I'd leave education before I'd do that.

What do I want? I want highly trained staff - it's useless to give me five additional paraeducators if they don't know anything. I'll take one who has been highly trained. Would you want a child who has severe dyslexia and autism to be supported by someone who could make more working at Chick-Fil-A and who knows nothing about either dyslexia or autism? Many of the children in crisis that I spend my days supporting got to that point because the staff members supporting them in class didn't have the skills or understanding to defuse the situation before it got to crisis level. A vicious cycle of ineffective staff and frustrated students feeling uncared for, depleted, unsuccessful and lost. Do parents really understand this? We should be ashamed.

I created my own support staff handbook because nothing existed from the County. The professional development they have received to date has been weak and so general as to be a waste of time. On Friday I received the following email from one of my support staff about what she'd be doing today, "I'll still plan to attend the ESP training Monday afternoon at Marriotts Ridge but not the Sp Ed Training on Adverse Childhood Experiences. Their last training on that subject was not helpful."

We come to school each day with enthusiasm, energy, optimism and motivation to make a difference in the lives of the students we care so much about.

If I could ask for two things right now, I'd ask that you would:

Provide Mental Health First Aid training to all HCPSS school-based staff through the Mental Health Association of Maryland; and I wish that you would

Fully staff each school with a psychologist (No more sharing psychologists between schools!), highly trained guidance counselors and a Social Worker.

I literally can't do enough to support my staff or the students in my building so that they feel successful, but I can tell you that your teachers and support staff are crying out for strong and influential school-based leadership, meaningful professional development and tools that they can use to actually support their students, and enough highly-trained staff to properly educate all of our students. Your school-based staff fights an uphill battle every single day to provide our best to our students, but we don't have what we need to win the battle and we know it.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

As the good teachers leave and as the Department of Special Education refuses to address the growing and changing student needs, our schools will start failing. More of our students will be failing. And then, in time, our County will start failing.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Jacobson

Special Ed Instructional Team Leader
Hammond Middle School

Gabrielle Jacobson
gabrielle_jacobson@hcpss.org
Maryland
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Andrea Aldrich <ankefauv@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@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.]

Dear Ms. Jung,

I am a resident, parent, and teacher in Howard County Public Schools. Many years ago, when I was offered a teaching contract in several other counties, I turned it down because I knew that Howard County was where I wanted to teach. As a music teacher, I saw firsthand, how the schools here are far superior to any county in Maryland. When my husband's job had him considering that we should relocate, I refused because I wanted my children to attend Howard County Public Schools. From a financial standpoint, we could own a similar house for much less money if we were to move to another county, but we live here for the top notch school system.

I am disheartened that our schools do not have the money to support smaller class sizes, adequate staffing for special education, instrumental music, technology, and gifted and talented programs just to name a few areas. I am frustrated that our county was able to open a new school almost every year between 1992-2007 and fund these programs but now we cannot fund either. Our county population continues to expand, but the money you are allocating is not keeping up to fund schools and the operational budget.

There are few things that need to happen as soon as possible. First of all, please make the builders do their share and pay to fund maintaining our current schools and building new ones. New schools and renovations need to occur now, not in 10 years from now. Second, if there is not enough money to fund our schools properly, then increase property taxes. I would rather pay more in taxes and keep our schools fully funded, than see the schools be shortchanged.

I am trusting you will do the right thing for the citizens of Howard County and support education in Howard County. I urge you, Dr. Ball, and the entire County Council to no longer overlook our county's growing needs and fully fund Dr. Martirano's original budget. Stop looking to our schools as a place where money can be saved. Howard County Public Schools are a critical part of the foundation of our county and for our county to flourish, our schools must flourish. By investing in our school system, our communities will reap benefits in Howard County for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrea Aldrich

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Karen Zepp <kzepp@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 7:42 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leaders,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, especially our most vulnerable.

I am a veteran elementary band and strings teacher at a Title 1 school that houses students of numerous needs. I cannot express to you the benefits playing an instrument has to our young children; I'm quite certain you are aware of what they are. For some of my students, band and strings is the only thing that brings them joy throughout the day.

I have the highest number of 3rd grade strings this year than I've ever had in my 17 years spending time recruiting, so that my program continues to grow. Now that I've successfully built that, I would be beyond disheartened to lose those students. I'm already losing dozens of

students in the redistricting plan that I didn't even know I'd be losing until the last minute. This has dealt me a heavy blow and hurt me deeply.

I am STRONGLY urging you to fully fund the budget for next year so our children can continue being impacted positively by the value of an arts education; do this not just for me but for others in my position, as well as the tech and GT teachers or any other teachers who may also be at risk of getting cut. It's the only right thing to do.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Karen Zepp
Bryant Woods Elementary

Karen Zepp
kzepp@live.com
5647 Harpers Farm Rd # A
Columbia , Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Jackie Bryant <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 6:11 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I am an elementary band and strings teacher in HCPSS. It is my dream job. I waited nearly a third of my career to "make it" into Howard County and I am proud of be one of your educators. However, I see first hand the needs of our students. We don't have enough paraeducators or student assistants to cover all of our students with special education needs, especially students who need CAS. On days when staff call out, it's even worse.

I also worry about the proposed cuts to music, GT, technology, and other programs that are vital to the elementary school curriculum. These programs are the crowning jewel of HCPSS, and are why parents choose our school system for their children. Cuts made now to these programs because of a short-term budget decision will have a decades-long impact, and these

programs will never recover. The school system will never be what it is now if these programs are removed.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Jackie Bryant

jax7786@aol.com

1134 Circle Dr

Halethorpe, Maryland 21227

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Alyssa Pearson <alyssa_pearson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

If we lose these RST/MST positions, my goals as an educator are going to change significantly. I look up to my MST, Maria Merrill, so much! She is such an amazing leader with such a presence in our building and two others in the county. You would be taking away opportunities for aspiring math leaders. I have always wanted to work alongside John SanGiovanni and his math department. I have always wanted to assist my colleagues with teaching math and supporting students. However, if you take this position away, you are also taking away my goals as a math leader in this county. I have interned in this county and taught for six years and counting. I want to be able to grow in my teaching position and I have always aspired to become a Math Support Teacher. I was absolutely devastated last year when I found out that so many RST and MST positions were cut. My heart broke and I felt like I had

lost a sense of direction. I didn't know what to do, I didn't know what my goals were anymore. It has been a very frustrating year for me as I try to figure out what my future holds. Hearing this news that these RST/MST positions aren't in the budget was devastating. I can't lose hope and I can't just let my dreams of becoming a MST diminish. I want to become a MST in Howard County. I want these positions to be available. I want these support systems in place for teachers and for our students. These positions are so critical and I have seen the amount of good that has come from them, especially coming from a Title 1 school like ours (Laurel Woods Elementary). Please don't lose hope. Please do something to make sure that these amazing positions aren't done taken away from aspiring math and reading leaders like myself.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Pearson

Alyssa Pearson
alyssa_pearson@hcpss.org
7119 SILVERLEAF OAK RD
ELKRIDGE, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Betsy Fetchko <betsy_fetchko@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 9:14 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

Please fund our schools sufficiently, so that we can do our jobs!

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Betsy Fetchko

betsy_fetchko@hcpss.org

3624 Joycin Ct

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Sharon Williams <sharon_e_williams@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

[INSERT YOUR OWN STORY]

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Sharon Williams

sharon_e_williams@hcpss.org

7620 Woodpark Lane

Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Rachel Raful <Rachel_Raful@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 7:37 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I am a special educator working in the regional Primary Learner (PL) program. This year we have This is my tenth year teaching special education. For my entire career, I have been working with students with autism and extreme behaviors, first as a behavior intervention teacher at a comprehensive school with a self contained autism program, then at a separate public day school for students with significant behavior needs. I had not been seriously injured by a student until I came to Howard County Public Schools 3 years ago. I have seen peers be injured. I have had a concussion from a student who pushed me against a wall. I was alone in a room with him. I do not remember what happened between the time that he pushed me and when other staff entered the room. Not only was I injured, but I could not safely supervise this

student. He could have left the building. He could have thrown a chair (he had a history of doing this) and hurt me further or broken a ceiling tile and hurt himself. I was out for a week.

I also have had 2 staff members get concussions. On one occasion, a student without a history of aggressive behavior (who we later learned had not had his medication that morning), walked over to a staff member who was sitting on the floor, took her head between his hands, and head-butted her head-to-head. She was out for a week. In the second case, a student grabbed my staff member by the hair by her scalp, and head-butted her head-to-head multiple times. She was out for three months. At the end of last school year, I got positional vertigo from the same student doing the same thing to me. I had 6 days (including the weekend) between the end of the school year and the start of ESY. Time I wanted to spend taking my fairy tale obsessed five year-old to Dutch Wonderland. Time I wanted to spend taking him to the lake by my house and playing in our backyard. Instead, my husband and mom took turns watching him because I could not walk without getting so dizzy I would bump into walls. I could not safely drive for 2 weeks.

I still have scars on my face from where a student scratched me. I backed away from him the entire length of my room. Another adult was in my room, but she was not trained and did not know what to do.

My staff and I have had numerous trainings in Safety Care and protective strategies for working with aggressive students, but we cannot always use them if we are also trying to protect the other children around us. I have seen peers be injured. They have had their hair pulled, faces and arms scratched, and been bitten more than once. It may sound like I am a bad teacher. It may sound like my staff is lazy or undertrained. But we can only be in one place at a time. Everyone has to eat. And if we do not have enough support, we cannot adequately support our students and the peers they work with.

I have missed countless hours of lunch and planning to keep children safe. If I do not do this, my students will leave the room or even the building. My students will grab or scratch other students. Skipping this time is not a choice. I already work an hour outside of my contract day and missed planning and lunch time mean I stay even longer, missing even more time with my family.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Rachel Raful

Rachel Raful
Rachel_Raful@hcpss.org
Maryland
Highland, Maryland 20777

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Deanna Prather <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:53 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

My name is Deanna Prather. I have been teaching for 12 years. Of the 12 years, I have spent 8 of them in Howard County. Of the 12 years, I spent 11 teaching first grade, and this year, I am teaching third grade.

In first grade, I averaged 25 students a year. Per <https://www.hcpss.org/schools/enrollment-reports/> it states that the student/teacher ratio is 1:19. I HAVE NEVER HAD 19 students in my class. NEVER.

In third grade, I have 31 students. I have had those 31 students since day 1 of school year 2019-20. Per that same Howard County website, it states the third grade ratio is 1:25. I have 6

more students than what is stated. As an employee I understand every classroom needs 31 students and upon the registration of that 32nd student we would then gain another teacher. So let's do the math. We have 6 teachers. If each teacher has 31 students, and 1 more third grade student enrolls, that makes a total of 187 students. If we then divide this number by 7 (because now we have an additional teacher) that puts 27 students in 5 of the classrooms, and 26 students in 2 of the classrooms, and the ratio that the county claims, is still NOT MET. Do you think pasting that ratio for people to see is a bit misleading? I am now making it my priority to let every person know that the county is misleading and inaccurate with their presentation of numbers.

Now let's get to the heart of the issue. The county suggests classroom teachers should use small group instruction as best practice. I agree. The county also recommends having 3 reading groups. If I had three reading groups, I would have 10-11 students in a reading group. That IS NOT small group instruction, that is small CLASS instruction. I have 31 reading journals, 31 writing journals, 31 science journals, 27 math journals, and 59 science journal that my students work in on a daily basis. I imagine, that in order for students to achieve their best, they would need feedback. How would one person give feedback on daily basis? Let me tell you, one person CANNOT give feedback on a daily basis. One person can't even give feedback on a weekly basis. What the county is saying to me is that they don't value their students OR teachers.

Another "best practice" the county suggests is conferencing with students, in reading AND writing. I have done this one time this year. I met with each individual student to go over their reading responses, so that they could ask questions and I could give feedback. Take a guess at how long it took me. SEVEN DAYS! A whole week and a two additional days. In order for me to conference with those students. I had to give the rest of the class something to do, we call that busy work. Not instruction, but busy work. Work that may strengthen their skills, but ultimately keeps them busy so I can meet with their classmates. Loss of instruction for seven days, so that I can conference with students, is unacceptable. Is that the kind of education that makes us proud? Or are we not really worried about that? I should mention, those conferences were reading conferences. I only have 40 minutes to teach writing, so forget conferencing altogether for writing. It would take more than 2 weeks of writing instruction. So my question to you... how do you expect a teacher of 31 students to know their students as learners.

Some nights I come home and reflect on my day. What went well, what didn't. More often than not, I reflect on whether or not I spoke to every child in the room. I say good morning to every child that walks through my door. But there is more to a teacher/student relationship. How

does one person get to know 31 little people every single day? If that doesn't seem like a difficult task to you, its because you have never taught 31 8 year olds before. If you are an introverted, quiet child, you WILL get left in the dust. It is absolutely unfair to the kids. Its unacceptable for the county to think its ok for one adult to manage 31 8 year olds. And then, post on the world wide web that the county's ratio is 1:25. What a joke.

Lets now add some IEPs, 504s, and behaviors to the mix. Now, I am also charged with making sure IEP hours are being met, students are receiving their pull outs, instructional levels are being met...the list doesn't end.

Let's add the kids who need reading support. Now I have to make sure those students' needs are being met.

If we are being realistic, I have a total of 6 hours of planning, on a good week. I have to plan 9 lessons for each day (vocab, reading, 3 small groups, writing, 2 math, science). I can't plan all of those lessons in one hour. I also now have to find time to meet with the special educator, guidance counselor, reading support teacher and my own team. Let's not forget, I also have to prepare the lessons with materials.

Additionally, I have to grade. I guess the expectation is that my family time should be used to grade my students work. Another way to devalue me as an educator. It's one thing if I am choosing to take work home, it's another when it becomes the expectation.

This is out of hand. I will not continue to do this. My teaching philosophy is not this. It doesn't align with what I am faced with every single day. I should be able to meet all of my students needs. Not only some. Not only the loudest. Not only the low achievers. I should be able to meet the need of every single student that sits in front me.

Finally, as I reflect back to the start of this school year, I remember sitting in the staff pep rally and listening to Dr. Martirano talk. He seemed to be very concerned about the number of students who drop out and he compared reading to imprisonment. I believe he stated that if a child cannot read by the third grade, he/she has a much greater chance of dropping out and/or entering into the prison system. Now, if this is true, and we are truly concerned, how would ONE teacher be able to ensure that all of his/her students are reading efficiently by the end of the year? The answer to that is: they don't. The teacher can not effectively guide that many students, at 8 years old, to give them the tools they need to be successful. Therefore, I feel like the county wants to point fingers rather than helping solve problems. Its almost as if the

county wants us to feel bad that we (teachers) aren't reaching some of these students, but then pack our classrooms to the max.

I need to know that this will not continue. Parents need to know that a teacher/ student ratio that says 1:27 (if class sizes increase by 2 students) really means that it's quite possible for their child to sit in a classroom with 33 other kids, under the supervision of one adult. And if their school has enough enrollment to hire another teacher, it's quite possible their child's class still won't reach that ratio.

As a teacher, it is my opinion that no money should ever be budgeted until salaries of the true teacher/student ratios are determined. If the class is too big, then everything else is a waste. Class size should be the very first priority because that is where the student spends the most of their day and receives the majority of instruction. EVERYTHING else is a bonus. An intervention outside of the class doesn't work if a teacher can't teach properly inside of the class.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Deanna Prather

Deanna Prather
d18shoes@aol.com
9500 Glen Ridge Dr
Laurel - 20723 (\$5.99 - Delivery), Maryland 20723

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Sarah Ramstrom <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I am a fourth grade teacher at Laurel Woods Elementary School, a title 1 school, in Howard County. My class consists of 23 students, 7 of which have IEP's, 1 that has a 504, and 5 that are higher level ESOL students. Being that I am new to teaching ESOL students and that I am basically a first year teacher that was hire in the middle of the last schol year, I do not know what I would have done without the help of Kelli Byle and Maria Merrill, our MST/RST. They have both taught me so much in terms of how to better instruct these English Language Learners in both Math and ELA. Losing these two key members of our school community and classroom communities would have a highly negative impact on what teachers gain from professional developments with each of them every other week.

Another key to student success in my classroom is Special Education support. Laurel Woods is lacking special education support, especially during this time when we have 15-20 new incoming Special Education students/new referrals school wide.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ramstrom

Sarah Ramstrom

s_ramstrom@yahoo.com

5002 Dorsey Hall Drive B5

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Lizabeth Smull <Lizabeth_Smull@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I work in the classroom where students are struggling because of their disabilities and need the support of the Para Educator in the room. Sometimes there isn't time to reach everyone because of the size of the classroom.

We need you to act now. Educators and Para Educators are reaching a breaking point. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Lizabeth Smull

Lizabeth Smull
Lizabeth_Smull@hcpss.org
9465 caffet court
columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Antwaine Jenkins <antwaine_jenkins@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

There are several stories I could tell in an attempt to compel you to bring your attention to the budget concerns that are in our county currently. But the reality is that we need money, appropriately and sufficiently allocated in order to continue to provide high quality lessons and the attention our students need to compete globally with other countries. We cannot do this without money. Please consider us and address the lack of funds in crucial areas.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Antwaine Jenkins

Antwaine Jenkins
antwaine_jenkins@hcpss.org
20 Enchanted Hills Rd-Apt 201
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Linda Donatich <linda_donatich@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

When I first started working for HCPSS as a full time employee in 2007, I was a student assistant in Special Education in a couple elementary schools for a few years. Then I was a Special Education Para-educator in an elementary school for a year, and now for the past ten years I have been a Special Education teacher in one of the Education Centers with high schoolers. Over the years my position has changed and the student population I work with has changed. However, one thing has not changed, the short-staffed, stressful, pressure-filled job environment. NO, I take that back! It has changed! It has become monumentally worse. Over the years, more has been asked of the special ed staff with fewer and fewer resources (staff and materials). Inevitably, something must 'give'. Staff are getting injured, stressed, stretched to the max (physically and mentally). It's been taken for granted too long that dedicated

Special Ed staff, who find this to be not just their job but their vocation, will 'put up with it'. But, believe it or not, special ed staff are just human, though many may seem to be super-human. If we really 'practice what we preach', as in January 27th ESP Winter Conference 'Committing to a Culture of Dignity: Leading as an Agent of Dignity, and follow and believe the 'Dignity Matters Pledge'; 'As agents of dignity, we recognize the importance of treating ourselves, each other, and the communities we serve in a way that honors their value and worth and the significant role they play in each others' lives'. ESP's must be paid justly, a budget must be created that supports us all for the benefit and success of our precious students.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Linda Donatich

linda_donatich@hcpss.org

9215 Marydell Rd

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Catherine Koch <catherine_koch@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I have taught in Howard County for 10 years at the same Title I School. I have learned a lot in the time that I have been working here, but I struggle to bring my best self to work every day, based on the increased demands. Please fully fund the requests for increased general and special educator positions in our county. Replacing a special education teacher with a para educator, TE or SA simply puts staff that is not as well trained with our neediest students and is not a solution. We could reduce the number of staff members who do not work directly with students. It is great to have support for teachers, but if we have large class sizes with students whose needs are not met that is not a helpful way to allocate staff!

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Catherine Koch

catherine_koch@hcpss.org

12 S Potomac St.

Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS and Music Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Christy Smith <byusmiths@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 7:26 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: HCPSS and Music Budget

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

Dear County Council,

Greetings.

Please prioritize the Howard County Public School System budget. The budget must be funded at the necessary level requested by the Board of Education for all of our children to be educated at the level we expect.

Please keep the current proposed budget to fund music at the same level. Music is important to our family (with three students).

Regards,

Christy Smith

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:21 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

From: Dexter Mannering <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Deb Jung,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

My fiance, is a special ed para for Guilford Elementary school. She is amazing at what she does and she loves teaching and caring for all of her students. Most days she is mentally and physically exhausted, although she doesn't express it much. Mostly due to the lack of bodies to obtain all that is need for her students. I can tell by her body language and how she express some concerns that she has with her current students. If the school was given more bodies for support, not only would her health be better, along with many other teachers, the students will get the support they need as well to succeed. In a title 1 school, not only is the education part a huge priority, so is the social emotional part. With a lot of students, not only do they need a teacher that teaches them well, but also someone who cares about if their getting fed at home

and if they have proper clothing to wear for the current season. More staffing would help with all of this, resulting in more students success and less teachers resigning and being burnt out.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Dexter Mannering

Dexter Mannering

d.mannering7187@gmail.com

9407 Merryrest Rd

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: redistricting and school funding

Deb Jung
Council Chair, District 4
Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

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

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

From: Tracie Schmidt <tr_schmidt@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 10:58 AM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Re: redistricting and school funding

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

Ms. Jung,

Thank you for your reply.

I believe that all Ho Co property tax collected, which is collected both from residential and commercial properties, is used to fund the HCPSS. (I also understand that the amount of property tax for commercial properties, and businesses within, is determined in a different way than for residential properties.) I also understand that county revenue is generated in both progressive and regressive ways. I don't understand how the state affects county revenue other than revenue generated in Ho Co may not all come back to the county and can be distributed to other counties.

What has struck me as odd is this. Consider the 12 high school boundaries which each includes approximately 1,200 students. Several of these high schools are located in areas of the county with very little high density housing and very few commercial properties and businesses. Given the great benefit owning a home provides in both federal and state income tax reduction, I find it hard to believe that paying more in property tax in the residential and commercial sparsely populated areas of the county actually offsets the property tax and tax revenue generated in the other areas of the county with greater densities of residential properties, commercial properties, and businesses. A more regressive tax structure actually provides more benefit to areas of the county with wealthier families and fewer residential and commercial properties and businesses particularly given that the poverty rate in the county is only 22%.

As an aside. Last fall I attended the meeting in which the BOE and county officials provided information to the state legislators concerning the HCPSS. I asked a county employee, who presented information on county revenue generation and school funding, why there were so many large apartment buildings, located in areas without sidewalks or green open spaces, being built in Columbia and along the Rt. 1 corridor. I realized, and he verified, the obvious answer is to use

available space to generate revenue for Ho Co. That's when I began to wonder about the actual contribution to county revenue from property tax in different areas of the county.

The only reason I mention this point is that changing the narrative seems to always be a precursor to change. I believe that those who may pay more in property tax in Howard County receive a greater, disproportionate, undeserving share of the HCPSS budget and that their hoarding of resources creates an inequitable educational opportunity within the county. That being said, I haven't got the faintest idea how to help bring about change. I just attended a Common Cause information/training session on lobbying of state legislators and realized my approach of complaining was, not surprisingly, ineffective!

I do hope that development zoning is changed in the county so that high density, commercial, and affordable and subsidized housing units are no longer barred from certain areas of the county.

Enough said. Thanks for your time.

Happy New Year,

Tracie Schmidt
Hobbits Glen neighborhood

> On Dec 30, 2019, at 10:58 AM, Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

>

> Hi Tracie, Thanks for reaching out with your question. HCPSS's operating budget, which funds teachers' salaries, supplies, and other annual expenses, comes directly from the Howard County general fund, which includes revenue from property taxes, income taxes, various County fees, and other sources. Annual County revenues are spent across the County on a variety of services, from schools to trash collection.

>

> Your question contains several public policy considerations. I don't have an analysis of revenue generation from a geographic perspective and the State controls most of the tax policy in the County. For most of the U.S., there is a mix of progressive (the percentage of tax increases relative to the taxpayer's ability to pay) and regressive (the inverse scenario) taxes. Distribution of services are not explicitly tied to either tax model but there are other factors that cause unequal distributions. That is where elected officials work to make sure that their constituents are fairly treated and represented.

>

> Deb Jung
> Council Chair, District 4
> Howard County Council
> 3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043
> 410-313-2001 fr

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Tracie Schmidt <tr_schmidt@icloud.com>

> Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 3:46 PM

> To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>

> Subject: redistricting and school funding

>

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

>

>

> Ms. Jung,

- >
- > My family lives in Hobbits Glen. I have a son who graduated from Wilde Lake HS in May 2019 and a son who will be a sophomore there this fall. I applaud your position that Ho Co schools must be desegregated.
- >
- > I have been curious about the source(s) of school funding provided by the Howard County Council to the HCPSS. Can you tell me the total amount provided, the funding source(s), and the percentage of funding from each source?
- >
- > I often hear residents claim that because they pay more in property tax, they deserve a school with better educational opportunity. I have wondered what percentage of funds provided to the HCPSS actually come from property taxes and the amount of property tax coming from each region. Does the majority of property tax actually come from the more densely populated areas such as Columbia, the Rt. 1 corridor from Elkridge to Laurel, and the Rt. 40 corridor just west and east of Rt. 29?
- >
- > Sincerely,
- >
- > Tracie Schmidt

Sayers, Margery

From: Luis Otero <lotero@elmsliving.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 6:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Howard County school budgets

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

Howard County Council Members,

I urge you, as a voting resident of Howard County, to fully fund Dr. Martirano's budget for the school system for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Our beloved county is growing at an incredibly fast pace. The stresses placed on school system resources will also continue to grow. As the county grows, so too must our school system, which means more funding is needed to support our students and teachers. They can no longer be asked to do more with less.

Dr. Martirano's requested budget is not exorbitant nor unfounded, as it reflects an investment in the youth of Howard County. So many people who live here have been lifelong residents. I believe this is because Howard County truly is a wonderful place to live. Should not the county government wish to continue to invest in our children who will one day become the bright, responsible, well-rounded adults of our community?

Our school system is world class; able to compete on a global scale in so many ways due to our current enrichment programs like GT, technology and music. Forcing the Board of Education into a situation where they must make major cuts in spending, cut staffing, or increase class size year after year in order to allow our educators to receive adequate health benefits hurts our students and hurts our educators.

Please find a way to support our wonderful public school system and stop the avalanche of cuts to our schools. I support a fully funded budget for Howard County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Sayers, Margery

From: Ball, Calvin
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 2:11 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; mavis_ellis@hcpss.org
Cc: CouncilMail; superintendent@hcpss.org; Sidh, Sameer; Sun, Holly; Jahantab Siddiqui
Subject: Letter to the BOE
Attachments: 20200213 Letter To BOE.pdf

Dear Chair Ellis and Members of the Board of Education,

Please find this letter attached regarding your dilation over the FY 2021 operating budget

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Calvin Ball



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov
FAX 410-313-3051

February 13, 2020

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

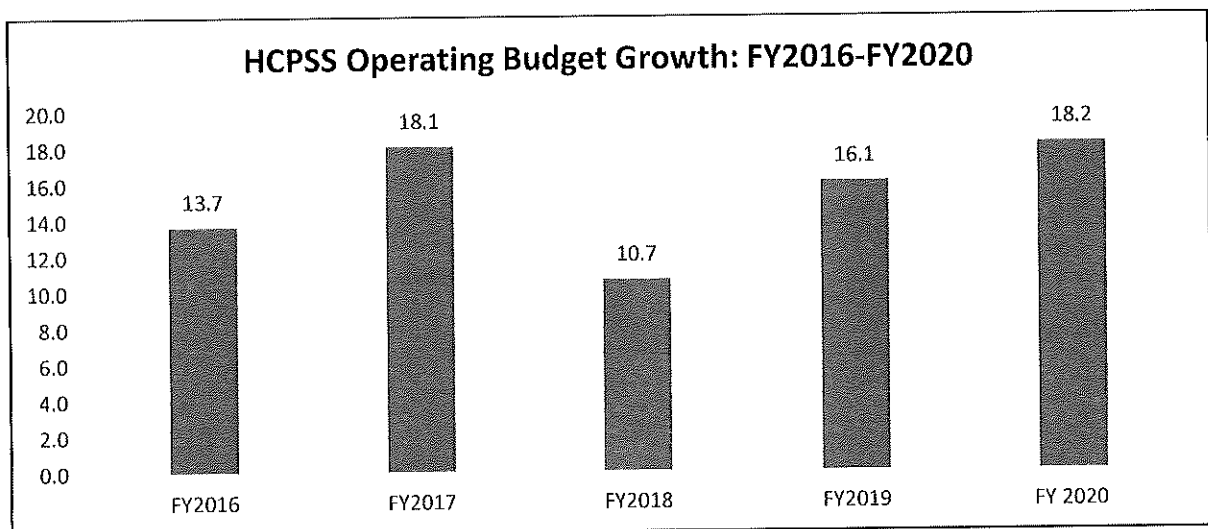
Dear Chair Ellis and Members of the Board of Education:

I want to thank you for your careful consideration of the Superintendent's FY2021 proposed budget. As you confront the many tough choices you will make during your budget process, I am hopeful that you will factor the County's broader budget outlook into your review of the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) budget.

Provided below are key points of context that I am hopeful you will consider as you review the HCPSS budget. As the HCPSS budget comprises over half of the County's total operating budget, the decisions that you make will significantly impact the residents of our County.

- **Howard County has a long-standing record of funding education beyond its peers.**

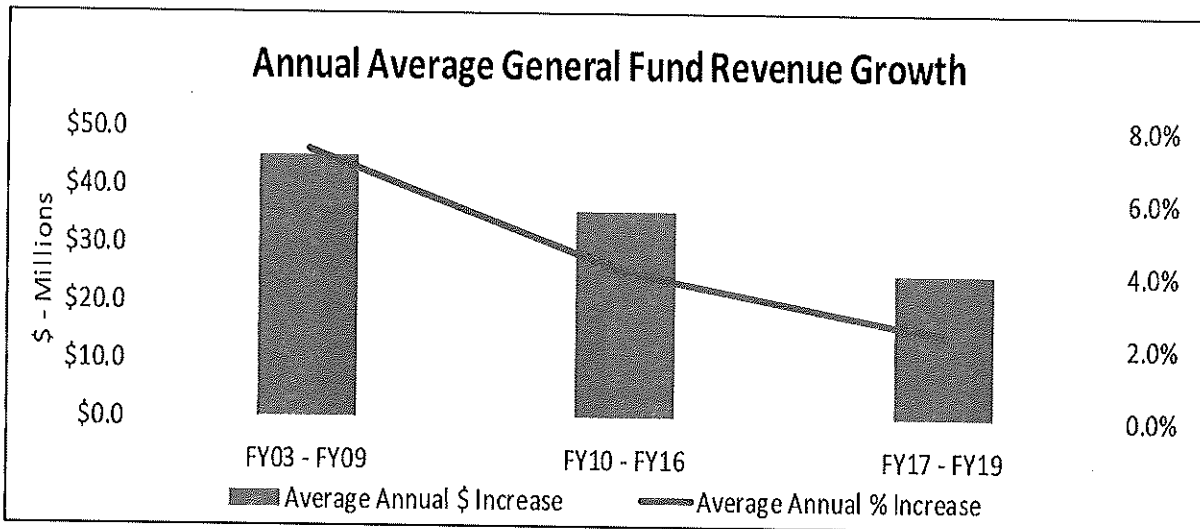
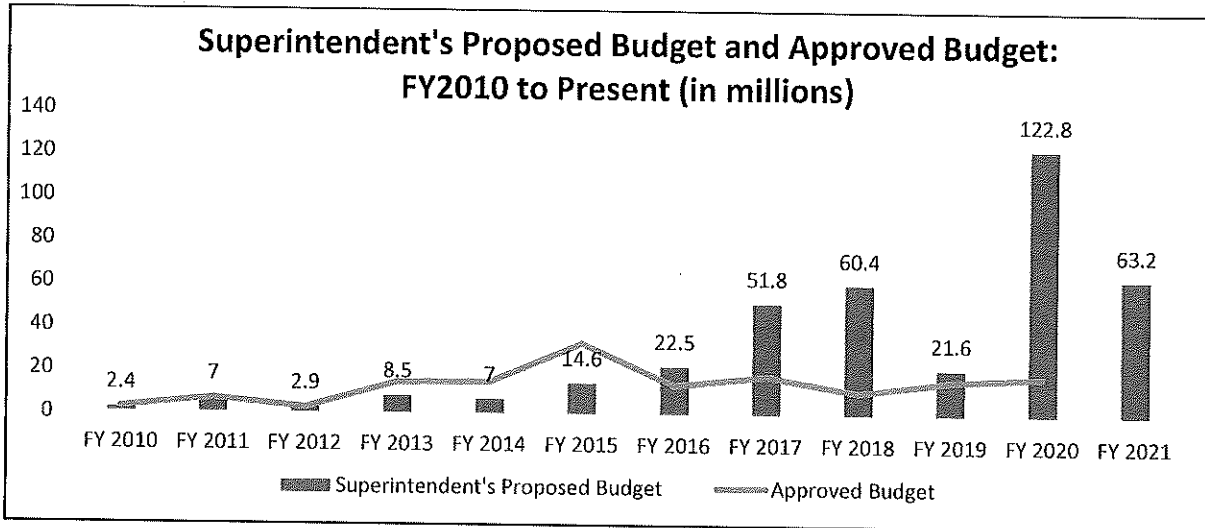
Howard County's position as one of the top school systems in the country is due in large part to our funding decisions. On a per pupil basis, Howard County's local spending ranks third amongst Maryland's twenty-four (24) jurisdictions, exceeding the statewide per pupil average by 41%. The approved FY2020 budget (\$18.2 million increase) exceeded prior funding trends, providing the largest increase in County funding in the past five (5) fiscal years.



- The current proposed budget far exceeds what the County can afford.

Despite our strong record of funding education, the current Superintendent's proposed budget increases the County share of the HCPSS budget by \$63.2 million (\$54.2 million in recurring funds). This increase nearly doubles total revenue growth County-wide (\$36.5 million in FY2020), and is nearly equal to the amount of County funding growth to the HCPSS budget over the last four years combined.

Conversely, revenue growth is projected to slow. Over the past three (3) years, total revenue growth has averaged 2.3% (\$24.7 million per year), down from an average increase of 7.4% annually from FY2003 to FY2009, and 4.0% from FY2010 to FY2016. In the FY2020 Spending Affordability Advisory Committee (SAAC) report, it was projected that the County-wide gap between revenues and spending requests would reach \$275 million in the next six years without corrective actions.



- **Fulfilling a budget request that exceeds County total revenue growth would have significant consequences.**

To fulfill a budget request for HCPSS that exceeds total County-wide revenue growth, tough decisions would be required that could result in deep cuts to County services or tax increases. For example, if in FY2021 the County receives the \$36.5 million in revenue growth that was generated in FY2020, an HCPSS budget increase of \$54.2 million in recurring funds would require \$27.6 million in cuts to the County's 26 agencies, Howard Community College (HCC) and the Howard County Library System (HCLS). The \$27.6 million in cuts required to fund the current proposed HCPSS budget would equate to the cost of eliminating 450 police officers (94% of authorized sworn staff). As County Executive, I must balance priorities and ensure that the quality of all services provided by Howard County meet the needs of our residents.

(\$ - Millions)	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2020 Alternative
HCPSS - direct appropriation	18.2	54.2
Debt payments (mandated)	9.9	9.9
HCCC, HCLS & 26 agencies	8.4	(27.6)
Total	36.5	36.5

To avoid deep cuts to services while funding the current proposed HCPSS budget, the County would be forced to increase taxes that support the County's General Fund. The two largest revenue sources for the General Fund are property and income taxes, which combined provide nearly 90% of all General Fund revenue. Currently, County income taxes are at the highest level allowed by the State, and the property tax rate is second highest in the State (see Appendix). Increases to either of these funding sources would exacerbate the already high tax burden passed onto Howard County residents.

As has been communicated to HCPSS staff, County revenue growth in FY2021 is anticipated to fall in line with recent historical levels. Howard County has traditionally struck the balance of funding education at levels that exceed peer jurisdictions, without major consequences for the provision of County services or the tax burden carried by our residents.

I am requesting that the BOE propose a budget that continues this tradition of supporting education while balancing the overarching interests of the County. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Calvin Ball
County Executive

Cc: HCPSS Staff
Howard County Council

Appendix – Property and Income Tax Rates and Tax Burden by County

County	Real Property Tax Rate	Income Tax Rate	Property and Income Tax Burden
Allegany	0.9750	3.05%	\$2,406
Anne Arundel	0.9350	2.81%	\$5,784
Baltimore City	2.2500	3.20%	\$6,254
Baltimore County	1.1000	3.20%	\$4,958
Calvert	0.9370	3.00%	\$5,903
Caroline	0.9800	2.73%	\$3,269
Carroll	0.9800	3.20%	\$5,922
Cecil	1.0180	3.03%	\$4,399
Charles	1.1410	3.03%	\$6,345
Dorchester	1.0000	3.20%	\$3,223
Frederick	1.0600	2.96%	\$5,928
Garrett	1.0560	2.65%	\$2,805
Harford	1.0420	3.06%	\$5,398
Howard	\$1.260	3.20%	\$9,123
Kent	1.0220	3.20%	\$3,974
Montgomery	0.9786	3.20%	\$7,606
Prince George's	1.0000	3.20%	\$5,453
Queen Anne's	0.8471	3.20%	\$5,544
St. Mary's	1.0000	3.20%	\$2,448
Somerset	0.8478	3.00%	\$5,147
Talbot	0.6411	2.40%	\$3,397
Washington	0.9480	3.20%	\$3,840
Wicomico	0.9320	3.20%	\$3,289
Worcester	0.8450	2.25%	\$3,273
State Average	1.0332	3.02%	\$4,820

Note: Tax burden was calculated based on median household income and median house value.

Sayers, Margery

From: Dana Keiner <dckeiner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 11:06 AM
To: CouncilMail; N'Guessan-Gbe, Darrell; Yungmann, David; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb
Subject: Budget 2020-2021

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Members of the County Council,

I am writing in regard to the proposed FY 21 HCPSS budget. I support keeping the budget fully funded at the Howard County Board of Education's requested level.

The Board's budget proposal requests that staffing be kept at the current level. Cuts in para-educators and teacher supports have put significant pressure on our teachers and administration. Teachers have already been working extra, to meet student demands. Due to the lack of para-educators, students who need extra help are not receiving it. Important events such as the Spelling Bee and Rube Goldberg building project are not being held at our schools this year, because teachers do not have the time or energy to volunteer for these activities outside of school.

Furthermore, during the work sessions, the Board had floated plans to raise class size and further trim programs such as GT, technology and music. This is unacceptable to parents! Enough cuts! These programs are vital for our students' health, well-being, and academic success. I am so grateful that in the meeting this week, the Board agreed with Dr. Martirano's budget proposal to keep staffing at the current level and I am asking you to do the same.

We are in dire need to increase support staff at elementary levels, to meet the needs of our teachers and administration. Funding the school system in this county at the requested level stops the avalanche of cutting programs. Howard County should be dedicated to providing a robust educational foundation for our children, by addressing the revenue issue.

As a Howard County taxpayer, I request the County Executive go well past maintenance of effort to fund the HCPSS budget at this level. HCPSS has been running in the red to support programs for too many years. I understand that this problem was created before anyone took office, but it is the responsibility County Executives to fully fund the system for our children.

Please support keeping the budget funded at the requested level and increasing the support staff for our schools. Thank you for your time.

Dana Keiner

Sayers, Margery

From: Ashley Deadwyler-Jones <ashley.deadwyler-jones.rv31@statefarm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 10:42 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Strings Programs in 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.]

To Whom it May Concern:

My husband and I moved our family to Howard County 6 years ago because of the outstanding schools and amazing programs in HCPSS. One of those programs was the Strings Music program for kids as early as 3rd grade. As a result of starting early, my 15 year old son is an amazing cellist who spends time volunteering and playing in local assisted living centers. He is also in the GT/Honors program at Reservoir with aspirations of becoming an engineer. I do believe his ability to start the strings at an early age assisted with his strong quantitative and analytic skills and it also bolstered his confidence to the moon!

I do hope that HCPSS will maintain our 3rd grade strings program as it has done wonders for my son and I believe it will continue to set us apart from other school systems throughout the country. Let's continue to maintain high standards and raise the bar for others rather than settle for lower standards.

Thank you,

Ashley Deadwyler-Jones, M.B.A., State Farm' Agent
12057 Tech Rd, Ste B
Silver Spring, MD 20904
phone: 301-273-3205
fax: 1-866-721-2366
email: ashley@ashleyinsureme.com
Website – Spanish: [En Espanol](#)
[Click Here to Register Your Policies and Accounts Online](#)



"You would give your life for your children, why not insure it for them"

<https://youtu.be/EwVFEWqbwYO>

If this communication is securities related, click [here](#) for additional disclosures

Sayers, Margery

From: Raza <ratalba.raza@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 5:16 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Sub pay for Para educator and Substitute Teachers!

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

Good Evening,

I would like to speak out as an advocate for substitute teachers and para educator subs in requesting a raise for us to be included in the budget. I would also like to request the Para educators get a bonus when they have completed 50 days like the substitute teachers. As currently the para educator subs are not getting any bonus and are paid less on top of that. I know substitute teachers who have informed me that they will not take a para sub job since it is less pay and not counted towards completing the 50 days for a bonus.

As we know that our substitute teachers and para educators are needed and appreciated so if we can show that in monetary ways that would be greatly appreciated!
I have confidence and faith that the board will address our concerns as subs since we are needed and they have over 400 open sub jobs daily.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me!

I am located on 14376 Dorsey Mill RD, Glenwood MD, 21738.

Kind Regards,
Hope Raza

--

Hope Raza, MS, BS
Howard County Substitute
Email: ratalba.raza@gmail.com
Phone (C): 443-917-9467

Sayers, Margery

From: Dexter Mannering <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 10:14 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

My fiance, is a special ed para for Guilford Elementary school. She is amazing at what she does and she loves teaching and caring for all of her students. Most days she is mentally and physically exhausted, although she doesn't express it much. Mostly due to the lack of bodies to obtain all that is need for her students. I can tell by her body language and how she express some concerns that she has with her current students. If the school was given more bodies for support, not only would her health be better, along with many other teachers, the students will get the support they need as well to succeed. In a title 1 school, not only is the education part a huge priority, so is the social emotional part. With a lot of students, not only do they need a teacher that teaches them well, but also someone who cares about if their getting fed at home and if they have proper clothing to wear for the current season. More staffing would help with all of this, resulting in mor e students success and less teachers resigning and being burnt out.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Dexter Mannering

Dexter Mannering

d.mannering7187@gmail.com

9407 Merryrest Rd

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Al <alingalls.trumpet@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 8:44 AM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Do Not Cut HSCPSS Music Programs

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

Dear Howard County Council and Mr. Ball:

Good morning. As a long-time resident of Howard County and a parent of a Marriotts Ridge HS graduate who is a product of the HCPSS Music Programs, beginning with 3rd Grade strings at Manor Woods Elementary School I am disappointed that, again, there is a potential tactic to reduce the Elementary Strings music program at the 3rd grade level thereby eliminating 21 teaching positions from within the County. This will have a long-term negative effect to all the music programs from elementary through high schools across the County - as well as fine arts programs in general given the overall integration effects within arts related extra curricular activities and subject content across the County. Music is what enabled my daughter, who has a bit of a learning disability, to find ways to cope with and deal with her learning disability to later successfully become a National Honor Student and receive an outstanding scholarship for her undergraduate degree and she is now completing her Masters. All through the benefits she received by starting as a string player in 3rd grade!

I recognize that there is a budget deficit and that something must be done - but cutting programs in our school system is not the correct way to go about doing this. I am also concerned about potential cuts in support to our Special Education students.

Please assess other means for dealing with the historic overspending that has occurred and I implore you to not touch the HCPSS music curriculum at all.

Sincerely,
Alan M. Ingalls

Sayers, Margery

From: John Hintz <hintz.john@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 11:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: funding for music, GT, and special education

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

Dear Dr. Ball and Howard County Council members,

I have heard recently that the Board will hold a work session tomorrow, at which they will discuss cutting funding to elementary band and strings, middle school GT, and special education programs, as well as other staffing/funding cuts. I have already written to ask the Board to reconsider this action, but am also writing to ask you to please consider instead a budget that fully funds these programs and supports the needs of our school system and our children.

I am an engineer and a musician, and I fully believe that music is a fundamental part of a well-rounded education. Howard County has world class programs, and cuts such as 3rd grade strings would have serious consequences on the quality of band and strings programs throughout all grade levels, as you are cutting the very beginning of a student's musical education. Further, the school system would no longer be able to support the current sectional model, removing individualized support from the children who need it the most, which is against the school system's stated mission of equity in education. These programs, as well as the GT, technology, and special education programs also at risk in the current budget discussions, are the sorts of programs that make HCPSS a top tier school system, and why I chose to start a family here. Again, I implore you to fight for our children and find a way to provide full funding for our school budget.

Thank you for your consideration,
-John Hintz

Sayers, Margery

From: Harry Guenther <hlguenther@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 11:15 PM
To: BOE@HCPSS.ORG
Cc: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov.
Subject: How playing an instrument benefits your brain

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

Dear Board Members,

My name is Harry Guenther, musician and former instrumental music instructor. It is my understanding that the Howard County Public School budget is before the Board of Education, and that there is a proposal to cut elementary instrumental music. I would like to impress on the board how important instrumental music is to the all around development of young students.

Music is math, music is science, music is language. Music helps develop skills in problem solving. Here is a little video from Ted Talks by Dr. Anita Collins, a neurological educator, which may help you understand what I am talking about.

<https://youtu.be/ROJKCYZ8hng>

After viewing this short video, it is my hope that you will consider the importance of instrumental music in the Howard County Public Schools, and fully fund the elementary instrumental music.

Respectfully,

Harry L. Guenther

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S[®] 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Sayers, Margery

From: Benjamin Denne <benjamin_denne@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 11:01 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

Dr. Martirano's budget was conservative. There is a need for much more than he has asked. But it must be funded. Howard County is one of the wealthiest counties in the country. The success of the school system is a driving force in the real-estate market and a large contributor to the strength of our County.

We must work toward restoring per-pupil funding to the levels they were at 10 years ago. Our school system population has grown significantly in the last decade and the funding has not kept up.

It is necessary for the success of this school system for the Board of Education to request the full amount of Dr. Martirano's request from the County Council and the Council must raise the revenues necessary to fund this request. A decline in the success of our school system will be much more painful than a small tax increase.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Ben Denne

Benjamin Denne
benjamin_denne@hcpss.org
10812 Bird Song Pass
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Kristina DiMonte <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 9:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

Class rooms are under staffed and over populated with kids who require much more assistance than there is to go around in any given day. Between sick teachers or the average "personal" days! Coverage is so scarce.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Kristina DiMonte
kristina.dimonte@gmail.com
S. Colonial dr
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Sayers, Margery

From: Carla Connor <carla_connor@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 9:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

As a Kindergarten teacher, who works closely with Special Ed, I know how important it is to have a fully funded Special Education team. We are now at 25 per class and expected not only to support their social and emotional needs but to teach them to read, write and to gain number sense. Having 21 children in my class with 3 who have IEP's and having a possible 2 more than are now being tested is overwhelming when we are fully staffed. But now you are asking us to do this when you are taking away the very people we rely on to help and support us. We rely on them to help support our young children and to help us teach them the skills that they need. As general teachers we cannot again be expected to do more with less. Taking away our paras, increasing our class size and reducing our special education staff is unimaginable with the amounts of children who are coming in with behavior and academic deficiencies. Please do not put us on the chopping with so many children depending on us. Technology is very important and has already been reduced to barely nothing. You are not going to balance the budget on the backs of teachers who are leaving even when it is mid-year. Please find some other way to balance this budget but not by taking away our supports or increasing our class size that is serving no one child. We are better than this!!!!!!!!!!

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Carla D. Connor

Carla Connor
carla_connor@hcpss.org
7459 Merrymaker Way
elkridge, Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Debbie DiMonte <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

[INSERT YOUR OWN STORY]

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Debbie DiMonte

Debbie DiMonte
ddimonte4@gmail.com
504 Fairhill
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Sayers, Margery

From: Randhi Asbury <randhi_asbury@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 3:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I am a special education paraeducator at Guilford elementary school. I thoroughly love the students that I get to care for and teach everyday. I also enjoy working with all of Guilford's staff. Sometimes love is not enough though. On most days, I don't meet the hours that are required for the majority of my students that they are given on their IEP. There are days that I get kicked, punched, spit on and verbally assaulted but multiple students, even being safety care trained. When I'm in the middle of one student's situation, that means other children are not getting the support they need in the classroom or pulled out for special instruction. Many days I beat myself up for not giving my students all the support that is required on their IEP. I have to remind myself that it's not my fault and that we simply need more bodies in our building. The reason being is because of the lack of support that we have in our school. Every single staff member helps out when they can, but it's simply not enough. We , along with so many other schools in our county, need more positions added to our school. Not only is it important for us not to cut any of the funding that we currently have , we are of need of more positions. Our class sizes are growing, and so is the number of children that are in need of extra support. In order for our children, our future leaders, to succeed we need more staff, and more help in our classrooms. Our students matter and deserve the support that is needed for them to succeed.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely, a concerned parent and teacher of Howard County ,
Randhi Asbury

Randhi Asbury
randhi_asbury@hcpss.org
9407 Merryrest Rd
Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Matthew Jarvis <matthew_jarvis@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 3:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

Cutting an already under-budgeted special education program should be a crime. These students are the ones among our population that need the most support and the proposed budget eliminates positions for staff to reach these learners. One might think that supporting special education means that cutting support on the other end of the spectrum is okay but the GT teachers are essential as well. Middle school can already be a volatile age for some students and by cutting gifted and talented teachers you risk these students growing bored and losing interest in school. For a school system that prides itself on being among the best, we risk destroying the far ends of the spectrum and will simply average out.

I am also a musician and, if anything, I feel that the music programs should be extended to younger grades, not eliminated. Music is its own language and affects students' growth in more ways than many other subjects. I feel that all people should play an instrument and by removing the opportunity we are doing a disservice to our students.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Matt Jarvis

Matthew Jarvis

matthew_jarvis@hcpss.org

4834 Red Hill Way

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Melissa Waite <melissa_waite@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 3:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

Educators in Howard County are reaching a breaking point. We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable population.

I've worked at the same Title 1 school in Howard County for the past 10 years. I was nominated for Teacher of the Year in 2017-2018 and my colleague was nominated and won Teacher of the Year for the 2018-2019 school year (last year). This school year, she reached a breaking point and had to resign because of the conditions our teachers and students endure each day.

I grew up in Howard County and attended HCPSS for grades K-12. I returned to this county as both a resident and an employee because I believe in the core values of embracing empathy, diversity, and inclusion. However, these core values that we all hold true, need to be prioritized as we reflect and create a cohesive budget for our school system.

Families move from all over the state and country to have their children attend HCPSS. They pay more taxes, live in smaller homes, and make daily sacrifices so that their students are given the excellent education they expect and deserve as residents.

However, student needs are not all being met. Teacher and school needs are not always being met. We need additional qualified staffing for special education. Not only that, but we need additional intervention staffing for reading and math. If a student is below grade level in math, they never receive instruction on their instructional level. Grade level classroom teachers are charged with teaching grade level standards and no-one is staffed to meet these vulnerable students where they are academically. We know that research says academic struggles precede behavioral issues yet we are not staffing to address below grade level

students. We aren't meeting them where they are and closing the gap, nor are we staffed to arm families with resources for below grade level students in math. The gap gets wider and wider because of the lack of Tier 2 supports. Then special education and individualized education plans seem like the only option to help these most vulnerable students.

Math and Reading Support Teachers help ensure that all Howard County educators are educated in best teaching practices. These professional development staff members provide us with resources, strategies, and expertise in areas in order to close achievement gaps for our neediest populations of students at our Title 1 schools.

Smaller class size allows teachers to focus on building community in their classrooms. They allow teachers to get to know their students, provide a emotional and academic support system, and meet diverse needs through enrichments and reteaching. It allows for a richer quality of activities and lessons with increased opportunities for hands-on experiences. We need to create a work and learning environment where teachers and their students are valued by budget-makers. Where teachers feel confident that their efforts are not only appreciated but supported.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of the education that our children deserve and the environment that our teachers deserve.

Sincerely,
Melissa Waite

Melissa Waite
melissa_waite@hcpss.org
10109 Nicolson Road
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Casey Sawyer <casey_sawyer@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 2:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I work in a title one school, and I see first hand the inequities in our system. Our students are very needy and our teachers work tirelessly, and go above and beyond, to provide quality instruction; quality instruction that they also tailor to the specific needs of all their different learners. Quality instruction that goes hand in hand with Professional development, PD that we get weekly from our MST's and RST's.

PD's that keep our teachers informed of best practices and held accountable to use them in the classroom. Best practices that give our students, our neediest population, that quality instruction. Our teachers are tired, our teachers are worn out. They often work with classes full of special education students, emotionally challenged students, at-risk students, and violent students. These teachers often work without support staff and the necessary resources. This is because special education is not staffed appropriately to meet the needs of our population. Taking into consideration our transient nature and that each year we get new students that join us at any given time. We are working with an at-risk population and should be staffed to reflect that. So please don't cut our MST's/RST's, don't hold back on hiring more Special Educators and support staff, and certainly don't increase class sizes. Listen to the people in the trenches. We are losing quality educators faster than ever because of these unsustainable conditions. Walk a day in our shoes. Give us more- don't take away!

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Casey Sawyer
Reading Specialist

Casey Sawyer
casey_sawyer@hcpss.org
7335 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, Maryland 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: Lauren Williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 11:52 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

I am breaking from the scripted letters we were asked to send to share how disappointed that I am in the current state of the proposed budget. When I testified before you earlier this year regarding my experience with special education in HCPSS, I was given advice to make sure that I come with solutions and clear, concise data. I was told that you hear people upset with you all day and that you wouldn't be able to digest my speech unless I came with solutions and compromise. I followed the directions and was shocked to see the proposed cuts to special education funding. I have learned that my voice was ignored. If you think that special education teachers will continue to endure cuts, you are absolutely mistaken. HCPSS has created a haven for people with disabilities and you have absolutely no choice but to fund it accordingly. It is impossible for me to meet the needs of my students as it is, and continued cuts are nearly laughable at this point. Believe me when I say, you will leave me (and countless others) no choice but to leave the profession if you continue to underfund and under-staff our programming. We can only watch our most vulnerable students struggle for so long before we can't take it anymore. It is out of our hands and into yours. You must find a way to give us the staff that we need for the students we have. Otherwise, we will begin to be considered a disgrace amongst the special education community. We are already headed in that direction. We have daily injuries to both students and staff, daily staff absences due to mental health concerns, and Guilford lost our teacher of the year due to your lack of funding and support. To those of you that have visited my school since my previous testimony and attempted to understand my daily life- thank you. I am counting on you to convince your colleagues that this is a non-negotiable issue. To those of you that have not put yourself in my shoes, I dare you to spend a day doing my job. To sit in your office far from children and make politically motivated and irresponsible financial decisions is a disgrace to your

community and the children that you serve. I am a voter and a member of this community. I am finally to the point of angry that our voices haven't been heard. I understand that you inherited a financial challenge. Rise to it. We can not get funding that you don't ask for. Your most highly educated and specialized staff members are finished with the current state of affairs. Make a change or lose us. It's that simple. We are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Williams

Special Education Teacher

Lauren Williams

laurenblake11@gmail.com

4045 Chariots Flight Way

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Ariana Justice <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 11:12 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I'm a student teacher intern at Guilford Elementary School and I can't wait to teach in Howard County next year when I graduate, but these budget cuts are making me think twice. Even as a pre-service teacher I know how detrimental these cuts will be to our schools. We NEED these programs for our students, for our teachers, for our community. It's not right or fair that we take away these much needed programs. Already our special ed team is struggling from lack of resources. I see everyone in our school saying how we need more resources. If you want our students to succeed you will not make these budget cuts. If you want our community to flourish you won't make these budget cuts. If you believe in achieving equity in our schools you won't make these cuts.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Ari Justice
Future Teacher

Ariana Justice
arijustice@gmail.com
8307 Arden Dr.
Salisbury, Maryland 21804

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Amit Verma; BoE Email; Jaclyn Bryant; CouncilMail
Cc: Darin Conforti; Sandra Austin
Subject: RE: [External] No Cuts To Our Students SUPPORT for BAND and STRING

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

Good Morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2021 Operating Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2021 Operating Budget. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing.

The public is able to submit written testimony until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at BOE@hcpss.org. The Board's budget schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 1 p.m. - Work Session I
- Thursday, January 16, 2020, 7 p.m. - Public Hearing I
- Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 1 p.m. - Work Session II
- Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 1 p.m. - Work Session III
- Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 7 p.m. - Public Hearing II
- Thursday, January 30, 2020, 1 p.m. - Work Session IV
- Wednesday, February 5, 2020 1 p.m. – Work Session V
- Thursday, February 6, 2020 1 p.m. – Work Session VI
- Tuesday, February 11, 2020 Noon – Work Session VII
- Thursday, February 13, 2020, 3 p.m. - Adoption of Budget

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

Regards,

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

From: Amit Verma <amit.akv3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:08 PM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Mavis Ellis <Mavis_Ellis@hcpss.org>; Kirsten Coombs <Kirsten_Coombs@hcpss.org>; Vicky Cutroneo <Vicky_Cutroneo@hcpss.org>; Christina Delmont-Small <Christina_Delmont-Small@hcpss.org>; Jennifer Mallo <Jennifer_Mallo@hcpss.org>; Sabina Taj <Sabina_Taj@hcpss.org>; Chao Wu <Chao_Wu@hcpss.org>; Jaclyn

Bryant <Jaclyn_Bryant@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] No Cuts To Our Students SUPPORT for BAND and STRING

! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Members,

Music is an integral part of our lives. There are countless examples of how learning music affects intelligence in students, but that is not music's only benefit. Music is an academic discipline available in schools in which students' simultaneously develop cognitive abilities, physical abilities, and social skills. This is particularly evident in the instrumental music classroom.

Through the studying of instrumental music and playing in ensembles, students learn countless lifelong skills that help them develop into intelligent, creative leaders.

The cognitive abilities of the students grow and expand the longer they study music. Furthermore, it has been proven that their test scores improve in the math and sciences.

Through reading music, students learn a new language that is significantly more complex than any other written language. They also improve their physical motor skills by honing their abilities at a piano or a variety of other instruments.

Students learn leadership, organization, dedication, and teamwork, and also develop an interactive awareness of what is occurring around them through ensemble playing.

All objective evidence points to the importance of instrumental music education in the schools.

The minimizing of music takes away an important tool in achieving students' success as adults. The importance of instrumental music education needs to be recognized so that programs are supported and the positive effects upon students will not be lost.

Please do not erode the quality of education we provide our students.

Regards,
Amit Verma

Quality Always Scores Let's Keep ours HIGH !

Sayers, Margery

From: Nadia Abdallah <abdallah.nadia@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 9:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: PLEASE FULLY FUND HCPSS STRINGS/BAND PROGRAMS

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to request that the board of education full funds HCPSS instrumental programs and especially third grade strings. I am a single parent of three beautiful daughters who have a very hands off father. It is a constant struggle financially and time wise to enroll my daughters in extracurricular activities. The third grade strings was the first opportunity both of my daughters had to be in activity outside of the normal course work. My middle daughter struggles with anxiety. When she played the Cello in third and then the clarinet, it has helped her tremendously to build self-confidence. My oldest started off with violin and changed to Saxophone in fourth grade. She is now in 7th grade and is still going strong. I can't thank Mrs. Jackie Bryant for her endless support and affirmations she gave my daughters. Especially with my oldest, she instilled a life-long love for music. My oldest daughter used music to get through some of her toughest moments. It is of utmost importance that our children these days have this opportunity to express themselves early on in their lives. A year and a half ago, we relocated to Carol County and they do not have strings/band offered in the third grade and it is a HUGE disappointment for my youngest daughter. I strongly ask to please fully fund the HCPSS strings/band program beginning with third grade. It is a life saver for our children.

Warm Regards,

Sayers, Margery

From: June Swinski <juneswinski@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 9:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Where has the money gone?

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

Please fund our education budget so the money goes to the teachers and programming. Why are we in this position again? Where is the insanely high amount of money you collect from our property taxes going? Why is there such a huge shortfall? Please tell me it's not the new courthouse.

Sincerely,

A tax payer who moved back to Howard County from Montgomery County because she loved the education and community she grew up in

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephanie Mummert <skmummert@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 1:28 PM
To: chao_wu@hcpss.org; vicky_cutroneo@hcpss.org; christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org; jennifer_mallo@hcpss.org; kirsten_coombs@hcpss.org; sabina_taj@hcpss.org; mavis_ellis@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B; superintendent@hcpss.org
Subject: Please fully fund the superintendent's proposed budget for the special education department

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

Dear board members, council members, Dr Martirano and Executive Ball,

I'm contacting all of you because I know you all have to work together to reach a final operating and capital budget for 2021.

Budget season is always difficult. I know the county is experiencing major growing pains as the student population is growing faster than the county can afford to build capacity. I understand the reality.

I come to you as a parent of a student who receives special education services. I know how hard the special educators and general educators work together every day to meet the needs of their kids. I will never forget watching multiple educators from the special education department beg the board and Dr Martirano through tears for more funding. After watching that impassioned testimony and after reading Dr Martirano's budget request, which correctly termed the funding of special education as an investment, I am absolutely floored that the board would go after this part of the proposed budget first to find a place for cost savings.

Yes, the special education department would still get a net increase in funding, but the superintendent's proposal was intended to help the special educators now, when they need it most. They have been working with far too low staffing numbers and working with less funding than they have needed for a very long time. This funding request is not excessive, it is catching them up after years of being overlooked.

If the whole board truly cares about treating their entire system of students leading with a lens of equity, this should be one of the last places you would look for a cost savings. Please reconsider the plan to cut the superintendent's planned funding for the special education department. They need that funding now, not a reduced amount or funding spread out over multiple school years.

Thank you for your time,
Stephanie Mummert
District 3

Sayers, Margery

From: Rashi Verma <rashi.rv5@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:14 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; mavis_ellis@hcpss.org; kirsten_coombs@hcpss.org;
vicky_cutroneo@hcpss.org; christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org;
jennifer_mallo@hcpss.org; sabina_taj@hcpss.org; chao_wu@hcpss.org; Jaclyn Bryant;
CouncilMail
Subject: No Cuts To Our Students SUPPORT for GIFTED and TALENTED TEACHERS

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

Dear Board Members,

Gifted programming positively influences students' futures. Several longitudinal studies have shown that gifted programs have a positive effect on students' post-secondary plans.

Students who had participated in gifted programs maintained their interests over time and stayed involved in creative productive work after they finished college and graduate school.

Help in keeping the gifted child engaged in the learning process

This curriculum designed especially for the gifted student provides the best opportunity to grow his or her talents. Appropriate courses and projects that fit individual student interests allow a high level of commitment and achievement.

Please do not erode the quality of education we provide our students.

Thank you !

Regards,
Rashi Verma

Sayers, Margery

From: Rashi Verma <rashi.rv5@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:13 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; mavis_ellis@hcpss.org; kirsten_coombs@hcpss.org;
vicky_cutroneo@hcpss.org; christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org;
jennifer_mallo@hcpss.org; sabina_taj@hcpss.org; chao_wu@hcpss.org; Jaclyn Bryant;
CouncilMail
Subject: No Cuts To Our Students SUPPORT for BAND and STRING

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

Dear Board Members,

Music is an integral part of our lives. There are countless examples of how learning music affects intelligence in students, but that is not music's only benefit. Music is an academic discipline available in schools in which students' simultaneously develop cognitive abilities, physical abilities, and social skills. This is particularly evident in the instrumental music classroom.

Through the studying of instrumental music and playing in ensembles, students learn countless lifelong skills that help them develop into intelligent, creative leaders.

The cognitive abilities of the students grow and expand the longer they study music. Furthermore, it has been proven that their test scores improve in the math and sciences.

Through reading music, students learn a new language that is significantly more complex than any other written language. They also improve their physical motor skills by honing their abilities at a piano or a variety of other instruments.

Students learn leadership, organization, dedication, and teamwork, and also develop an interactive awareness of what is occurring around them through ensemble playing.

All objective evidence points to the importance of instrumental music education in the schools.

The minimizing of music takes away an important tool in achieving students' success as adults. The importance of instrumental music education needs to be recognized so that programs are supported and the positive effects upon students will not be lost.

Please do not erode the quality of education we provide our students.

Regards,
Rashi Verma

Sayers, Margery

From: Amit Verma <amit.akv3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:12 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; mavis_ellis@hcpss.org; kirsten_coombs@hcpss.org;
vicky_cutroneo@hcpss.org; christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org;
jennifer_mallo@hcpss.org; sabina_taj@hcpss.org; chao_wu@hcpss.org; Jaclyn Bryant;
CouncilMail
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Please do not erode the quality of education we provide our students.

Thank you !

Regards,
Amit Verma

Quality Always Scores Let's Keep ours HIGH !

Sayers, Margery

From: Amit Verma <amit.akv3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 8:08 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; mavis_ellis@hcpss.org; kirsten_coombs@hcpss.org;
vicky_cutroneo@hcpss.org; christina_delmont-small@hcpss.org;
jennifer_mallo@hcpss.org; sabina_taj@hcpss.org; chao_wu@hcpss.org; Jaclyn Bryant;
CouncilMail
Subject: No Cuts To Our Students SUPPORT for BAND and STRING

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Please do not erode the quality of education we provide our students.

Regards,
Amit Verma

Quality Always Scores Let's Keep ours HIGH !

Sayers, Margery

From: Luis Otero <loter@elmsliving.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 6:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Education

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

Hello as a parent I am deeply concerned regarding the cuts you are trying to make just to meet your budget it is unfair to our future generation to do so I honestly believe that string band and GT programs that are in place now are very instrumental in preparing our children for the future I am opposed to the cuts as we get home tell our children to be the best that they can be at whatever they do long hours go into backing our children and teaching them how To prepare for life and their future many of them will continue and become musicians and many of them will earn scholarships to continue their education as stated before I am appalled that these are the cuts you intend to make for budget reasons

Sayers, Margery

From: Kimberly Arndt <kimberly_hughes@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 6:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I have 5 students (out of 21) with special needs in my classes. Three of those students require more individualized attention and more one-on-one support from me, the special education teacher, and our support staff. When one student has an episode of defiance or elopes (runs out of the classroom or building) or begins throwing things and yelling, all students suffer. The child who needs extra assistance is taking resources and time from the other 4 in my classroom AND, if the incident plays out longer than the class period, from the students in the next class who cannot get their interventions, since the special education teacher is dealing with the child in crisis. I wish this was infrequent, but it is not.

Our special educators have mountains of paper work to do. As a general educator, I feel stressed thinking about the amount of documentation that is required for my position; a special educator's job has probably five-times as much paper work. It is impossible to teach, plan, deal with crises, meet with families for IEP meetings, and complete the necessary paperwork for the increasing number of students on their caseload.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Arndt

Kimberly Arndt
kimberly_hughes@hcpss.org
11460 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Lin Zhou; BoE Email; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; CouncilMail
Cc: Darin Conforti; Sandra Austin
Subject: RE: [External] Against cutting funding for GT and Music programs

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

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2021 Operating Budget. Your email will be saved as written testimony for the public hearing process on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2021 Operating Budget. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record maintained by the Board Office and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing.

The public is able to submit written testimony until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at BOE@hcpss.org. The Board's budget schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 1 p.m. - Work Session I Thursday, January 16, 2020, 7 p.m. - Public Hearing I Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 1 p.m. - Work Session II Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 1 p.m. - Work Session III Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 7 p.m. - Public Hearing II Thursday, January 30, 2020, 1 p.m. - Work Session IV Wednesday, February 5, 2020 1 p.m. - Work Session V Thursday, February 6, 2020 1 p.m. - Work Session VI Thursday, February 13, 2020, 3 p.m. - Adoption of Budget

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

Regards,

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

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

From: Lin Zhou <lynnlz2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 11:00 AM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Superintendent <superintendent@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Against cutting funding for GT and Music programs

! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

As a HCPSS parent, I am disappointed to found that the BOE is considering cutting funding for the GT/music program. We moved to howard county a few years ago because of the high reputation of HCPSS. GT and music program is really the guarantee of high quality education. The GT program keeps kids intellectually challenged at school. The music program develops grit, patience and team work of students. Cutting these two programs will have a detrimental effect on the education quality of HCPSS.

Dealing with budget deficiency is always challenging. Instead of cutting budget for the GT/music programs, shouldn't we be cutting money across the board? In the time of hardship, everyone suffering the pain seems to be the only fair solution.

Thank you very much for your time!

Proud mom of two children

Lin Zhou Ph.D.

Sayers, Margery

From: Lin Zhou <lynnlz2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 11:00 AM
To: BoE Email; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; CouncilMail
Subject: Against cutting funding for GT and Music programs

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

To whom it may concern,

As a HCPSS parent, I am disappointed to found that the BOE is considering cutting funding for the GT/music program. We moved to howard county a few years ago because of the high reputation of HCPSS. GT and music program is really the guarantee of high quality education. The GT program keeps kids intellectually challenged at school. The music program develops grit, patience and team work of students. Cutting these two programs will have a detrimental effect on the education quality of HCPSS.

Dealing with budget deficiency is always challenging. Instead of cutting budget for the GT/music programs, shouldn't we be cutting money across the board? In the time of hardship, everyone suffering the pain seems to be the only fair solution.

Thank you very much for your time!

Proud mom of two children

Lin Zhou Ph.D.

Sayers, Margery

From: Tim Reinhardt <tim_reinhardt@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 9:27 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

The budget needs to be fully funded. As the county council, board of ed., and superintendent have made difficult decisions over the past few years to cut costs, OUR STUDENTS are the ones paying the price. Larger class sizes mean poorer instruction. There are no two ways about it. We need smaller class sizes and more special ed. staff.

Howard County currently has a music program that is recognized on the national level as being robust and rigorous. Cutting 3rd grade strings and eliminating sectionals would do unimaginable damage to the health of our programs.

By cutting 3rd grade strings, you are not only delaying the students' education, along with all of the cognitive and behavioral benefits associated with learning an instrument, you are cutting many positions at the elementary level AND getting rid of specialized instruction (meaning a string specialist would be teaching band instruments and vice versa). Whereas teachers are qualified/certified to do this, you would still be making a decision that diminishes the quality of education for our students.

Sectionals are critical at the middle school level to teach the techniques of individual instruments, properly assess students, and give meaningful feedback. Teaching a band, orchestra or chorus is like teaching a math class where everyone shouts the answers to different math problems at the same time. It is impossible to individually assess students in a setting where you have a room full of 40-80 students.

There is a reason why Howard County boasts the best education in the state of Maryland, and it is because of the support that has been given to our students, our teachers, and our programs. Nobody should PLAN to move backwards.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Tim Reinhardt

tim_reinhardt@hcpss.org

6720 Monroe Ave.

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Sayers, Margery

From: Joanne Topping <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 7:59 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I teach middle school math, and the district bought an online curriculum. But there aren't enough computer carts for me to get one when I need one. And when I do, there's a good chance that some of the computers aren't charging or are not going to let students log in or will have other technical issues. I don't even try to use the computers any more. I just print copies EVERY DAY, then we get told that the math team is using too many copies!

Our staffing situation is such that when a student is in CRISIS, teachers have been told, "there's no one available" when they call the office for help. That is unacceptable! If a student is in crisis, they need help immediately, and the other students deserve the opportunity to learn without the additional stress. As a professional, I want to do my job well, rather than try and do other people's jobs poorly because they aren't available!

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Joanne Topping

Joanne Topping

jrtopping@gmail.com

8094 Woodloo Dr

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Reena Dalsania <reena103@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 10:26 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: GT program

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

County council members,

My name is Reena, and my child participate in the HCPSS GT Program. The GT Program has been a meaningful part of my child's education because he can get enough academic challenge in classroom, help boost his self-esteem, allow him to become more social and it positively influence in his future. As you work on refining your proposed budget for next year, I request you please continue full funding of the GT Program. Thank you for your time and hard work!

Best regards,

Reena

Sayers, Margery

From: Cecilia Haley <cecilia_haley@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 2:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

One huge problem within my school right now is the lack of reliable, available, properly-working technology. As an ELA teacher, I want my students to write often. This is critical to helping my students become comfortable communicating their ideas confidently and proficiently. Students need working computers to write with frequency and to receive timely feedback. Yet right now, the laptops available to students are literally falling apart. They are unable to stay charged; the laptop carts no longer work properly, keys are missing, software lags, and systems are incredibly slow. Consequently, I have had to greatly reduce my students' use of computers this year. This means less time for writing, less timely feedback, and much slower progress for my students.

Additionally, my passion is to help my students become lifelong, passionate readers. I prioritize reading and writing daily in my lesson plans. A key to helping students to develop a love of reading is getting books they WANT to read into their hands. However, this requires resources that are non-existent due to continuing budget cuts.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Haley

cecilia_haley@hcpss.org

6221 Stratford Court

Elkridge , Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Gabrielle Jacobson <gabrielle_jacobson@hcpss.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 12:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I came to education after a 15-year career in PR & marketing. I'm now in my twelfth year as a special educator and my first as the Special Ed ITL at Hammond Middle School.

Middle school can be a difficult place on the best day, and when you've got even the mildest disability, learning can become a significant challenge, which often means that you begin to demonstrate negative and disruptive behaviors out of sheer frustration. It's our job as teachers to meet those challenging behaviors with compassion and redirection using pedagogically sound strategies. However, most educators haven't been trained to do that.

Unless you've actually walked in the shoes of a special educator, it's nearly impossible to appreciate what a typical day looks like for us. It's also nearly impossible to truly capture the depth of student needs in staffing formulas. What might make sense on paper doesn't actually make any sense when you're standing with both feet in the classroom.

As the team leader, I am called on the walkie-talkie to respond to a student crisis no less than three times a day. Administration, counselors and the school psychologist are also able to respond, however, there are many times when none of them are available. Our school psychologist is only in our building three days a week, and one of those is typically filled with IEP meetings. So on most days of the 17 weeks we've been in school, I do not have a formal lunch break. Until I met with HCEA last week, I was not even aware that I was eligible for a 50 minute planning period. I assumed that because I was a non-instructional ITL, planning time

didn't apply to me. There hasn't been a day this year that I've worked, uninterrupted in my office for 50 minutes-unless of course you count working after-school hours. In neighboring counties, there are two or three people assigned to my same position. In Howard, only one.

What does that mean for me? It means that I am tired of apologizing to my three children and husband for not being home or emotionally available to them. I routinely work 70 hours a week and leave my heart on my desk, every single day. It means I work 12 hour days in the building, another two or three at night and at least 10 over the weekend. It means I've had to accept that I will never get it all done, I will never feel accomplished, I will never feel that I can be proactive. It means I take anti-anxiety medication and see a therapist.

As a new ITL, I've struggled mightily. There's no time to sit and chat with my peers during a lunch break. I received no formal training for this position. Sure, there was a generic team leader training about how to have hard conversations and build team morale, but nothing specific to the position about managing legal educational plans, or training staff, or navigating TieNet, or taking on administrative duties even though you're not an administrator, or conducting assessments or creating schedules or managing the timelines associated with IEPs.

I asked for a mentor and the Dpt of Special Ed assigned me a lovely woman who works across the County. But for her to provide real-time help, we'd have to meet outside of school several times a week, and I literally don't have the hours in the day for that. There's a Dpt of Spec Ed resource teacher who supports half of the middle schools in the County. When I get an email that says, 'let me know what I can do to help' I want to reply with, 'spending hours with me at the beginning of the school year to walk me through even a fraction of the scenarios I encounter would have been a start.' So, please tell me how that's effective?

The Dpt of Spec Ed is woefully out of touch with what is happening at the school level. There is a culture among school-based staff to quietly take the increased workload, because experience has shown that they are not supported when they complain and we care too much about our students to quit. And that plays a large part in why I don't get lunch or planning, and why I put in 70 hour weeks.

Our current staffing formula doesn't account for the 40 minutes we spend with a student who can't bear to go to class because her grandmother died over the weekend; or the hour we spend de-escalating a student with Autism who is in a full-blown crisis after not winning a class prize; or the near constant prompting a student needs to complete the math warm-up;

or the encouragement a student with severe depression needs to participate in a lab group; or the redirection two students with extreme ADHD need to complete the classwork; or the four hours it takes to complete a Woodcock-Johnson educational assessment and the other four hours it takes to write the report; or the hours of collaboration with the school psychologist about best practices for supporting students with debilitating OCD; or the 20 hours of writing Progress Notes each quarter. So when our county bases staffing needs exclusively on the service hours from student IEPs without considering individual student factors, or considering an acuity scale, I find it irresponsible.

When I am supporting our students in crisis, or our teachers who don't know how to support our students, I am not doing my required IEP paperwork. There are some ITLs who hide away in their offices and let their staff struggle through; I'm not that kind of person. I'd leave education before I'd do that.

What do I want? I want highly trained staff - it's useless to give me five additional paraeducators if they don't know anything. I'll take one who has been highly trained. Would you want a child who has severe dyslexia and autism to be supported by someone who could make more working at Chick-Fil-A and who knows nothing about either dyslexia or autism? Many of the children in crisis that I spend my days supporting got to that point because the staff members supporting them in class didn't have the skills or understanding to defuse the situation before it got to crisis level. A vicious cycle of ineffective staff and frustrated students feeling uncared for, depleted, unsuccessful and lost. Do parents really understand this? We should be ashamed.

I created my own support staff handbook because nothing existed from the County. The professional development they have received to date has been weak and so general as to be a waste of time. On Friday I received the following email from one of my support staff about what she'd be doing today, "I'll still plan to attend the ESP training Monday afternoon at Marriotts Ridge but not the Sp Ed Training on Adverse Childhood Experiences. Their last training on that subject was not helpful."

We come to school each day with enthusiasm, energy, optimism and motivation to make a difference in the lives of the students we care so much about.

If I could ask for two things right now, I'd ask that you would:

Provide Mental Health First Aid training to all HCPSS school-based staff through the Mental Health Association of Maryland; and I wish that you would

Fully staff each school with a psychologist (No more sharing psychologists between schools!), highly trained guidance counselors and a Social Worker.

I literally can't do enough to support my staff or the students in my building so that they feel successful, but I can tell you that your teachers and support staff are crying out for strong and influential school-based leadership, meaningful professional development and tools that they can use to actually support their students, and enough highly-trained staff to properly educate all of our students. Your school-based staff fights an uphill battle every single day to provide our best to our students, but we don't have what we need to win the battle and we know it.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

As the good teachers leave and as the Department of Special Education refuses to address the growing and changing student needs, our schools will start failing. More of our students will be failing. And then, in time, our County will start failing.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Jacobson
Special Ed Instructional Team Leader
Hammond Middle School

Gabrielle Jacobson
gabrielle_jacobson@hcpss.org
Maryland
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Brittany Jacobs <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 8:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

[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:

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I am writing to ask you to keep elementary instrumental music safe in HCPSS.

The music ensembles in this county are some of the strongest and most enriching in the country due to the high quality of our music educators and music classes.

Cuts to elementary music will have a profound effect on all levels of music in the county and will be devastating to the stellar level of musical experiences our students currently receive.

As a resident of Howard County and one of your constituents, I encourage you to act to keep elementary school instrumental programs intact by keeping third grade strings, and not cutting over 20 elementary instrumental positions.

We need you to act now. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brittany Jacobs

Brittany Jacobs

brittanyplaysviola@gmail.com

7221 Wedding Ring Way

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Zepp <kzepp@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 7:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leaders,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, especially our most vulnerable.

I am a veteran elementary band and strings teacher at a Title 1 school that houses students of numerous needs. I cannot express to you the benefits playing an instrument has to our young children; I'm quite certain you are aware of what they are. For some of my students, band and strings is the only thing that brings them joy throughout the day.

I have the highest number of 3rd grade strings this year than I've ever had in my 17 years spending time recruiting, so that my program continues to grow. Now that I've successfully built that, I would be beyond disheartened to lose those students. I'm already losing dozens of students in the redistricting plan that I didn't even know I'd be losing until the last minute. This has dealt me a heavy blow and hurt me deeply.

I am STRONGLY urging you to fully fund the budget for next year so our children can continue being impacted positively by the value of an arts education; do this not just for me but for others in my position, as well as the tech and GT teachers or any other teachers who may also be at risk of getting cut. It's the only right thing to do.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Karen Zepp
Bryant Woods Elementary

Karen Zepp
kzepp@live.com
5647 Harpers Farm Rd # A
Columbia , Maryland 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Jackie Bryant <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 6:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: RE: HCPSS FY21 Operating Budget

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

I am an elementary band and strings teacher in HCPSS. It is my dream job. I waited nearly a third of my career to "make it" into Howard County and I am proud of be one of your educators. However, I see first hand the needs of our students. We don't have enough paraeducators or student assistants to cover all of our students with special education needs, especially students who need CAS. On days when staff call out, it's even worse.

I also worry about the proposed cuts to music, GT, technology, and other programs that are vital to the elementary school curriculum. These programs are the crowning jewel of HCPSS, and are why parents choose our school system for their children. Cuts made now to these programs because of a short-term budget decision will have a decades-long impact, and these programs will never recover. The school system will never be what it is now if these programs are removed.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

When the budget is in your hands, think of me and my story, and think of all of us who support our county's children.

Sincerely,

Jackie Bryant

jax7786@aol.com

1134 Circle Dr

Halethorpe, Maryland 21227

Sayers, Margery

From: Sandra James <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2020 7:27 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: We sounded the alarm. Now we need you to act.

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

Although staff give their hearts and skills every day to their students, taking away time from their own families to do so, they cannot meet the ever-increasing demands.

This will require both a change to the way we staff based on student needs and caseloads, and the expanded funding required to ensure these staffing ratios are implemented. We also need to ensure all staff have the training and support needed to delivery integrated services with fidelity.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

Sincerely,

Sandra James
sowhatirun@gmail.com
4501 DUNTON TERRACE, UNIT H
PERRY HALL, Maryland 21128

Sayers, Margery

From: Grace Morris <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2020 10:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Vulnerable students

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

Although staff give their hearts and skills every day to their students, taking away time from their own families to do so, they cannot meet the ever-increasing demands.

This will require both a change to the way we staff based on student needs and caseloads, and the expanded funding required to ensure these staffing ratios are implemented. We also need to ensure all staff have the training and support needed to delivery integrated services with fidelity.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

Sincerely,

Grace Morris
sgandjmo@gmail.com
5980 Avalon Drive
Elkridge , Maryland 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Harvey <susan_harvey@hcpss.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2020 3:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: We sounded the alarm. Now we need you to act.

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

Although staff give their hearts and skills every day to their students, taking away time from their own families to do so, they cannot meet the ever-increasing demands.

This will require both a change to the way we staff based on student needs and caseloads, and the expanded funding required to ensure these staffing ratios are implemented. We also need to ensure all staff have the training and support needed to delivery integrated services with fidelity.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

Sincerely,
Susan Harvey

Susan Harvey
susan_harvey@hcpss.org
1908 Harcourt Ave
Crofton, Maryland 21114

Sayers, Margery

From: Virginie Dujols <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2020 12:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: We sounded the alarm. Now we need you to act.

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

Council Members ,

Dear Elected Leader,

We need your help. Our schools are in a daily struggle to meet the needs of our students, and especially our most vulnerable.

Although staff give their hearts and skills every day to their students, taking away time from their own families to do so, they cannot meet the ever-increasing demands.

This will require both a change to the way we staff based on student needs and caseloads, and the expanded funding required to ensure these staffing ratios are implemented. We also need to ensure all staff have the training and support needed to delivery integrated services with fidelity.

We need you to act now. Educators are reaching a breaking point, and they are leaving, making a terrible situation even worse. We know you care about education, and we need your leadership to expand revenue streams and build a budget to support us.

Sincerely,

Virginie Dujols
climorome@hotmail.com
1675 woodstock rd
Woodstock, Maryland 21163