

CR68-2021

4.28.1.28

Sayers, Margery

From: Paul H <myoldsmoky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10:16 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCPSS budget concern

[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'm writing to you to express my concerns over the budget that's being allocated to HCPSS. The county executive gave merely \$2.5 mm this year, this is far less than what's expected, the healthcare only would increase \$3.6 mm alone, let alone other costs. Education is very important and that's one of the many reasons people choose to live here in Howard County. I would like you re-consider the budget for HCPSS. Thank you very much.

Regards,

Paul Huang
4905 Alice Ave, Ellicott City, MD 21043
443-762-4833

Sayers, Margery

From: Gordon Gao <gordongao88@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 12:02 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please increase the education budget

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

Dear Council,

I have been a resident of Howard County since 2013. I am shocked to learn that the budget on education has not increased at the same pace of other expenditure. Education is the reason I came to Howard County. I urge you to consider make the increase of your budget to \$13m.

Thank you,

Gordon Gao, Village of Riverhill, Clarksville

Sayers, Margery

From: Joanne Harkness <joanneharkness@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Please consider bus service for parochial schools

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

Dear Council Members,

I am a longtime Howard County resident and am cordially requesting you to reconsider the public bus service to parochial schools. We do not use county resources for the majority of our child's education, yet we do pay our county taxes. We choose, at our own expense, to have a religious education for our child.

I implore you to please consider adding bus service back for parochial schools, even at limited capacity.

Thanks,
Joanne Harkness
443-937-5730

Sayers, Margery

From: Rina Roca <rinasant@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 2:01 PM
To: BOE@Hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Fwd: Howard Co. NO School Bus transportation

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

Rina S. Roca
rinasant@aol.com

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

From: Rina Roca <rinasant@aol.com>
To: cball@howardcountymd.gov <cball@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Wed, Apr 21, 2021 1:55 pm
Subject: Howard Co. NO School Bus transportation

Dear Mr. Calvin Ball,

I am hoping you can help us. I am the grandmother of two children who attend Catholic School here in Howard County. I have been taking and picking the children's up from school since last week of August 2020, because the Howard County School Board chose not to provide bus transportation for them. As of today the Howard Co. School Board again, will not provide Bus transportation for my grandchildren for the next school year. Our families are residents of Howard Co. and we paid 62% equal more than \$ 15,000.00 to the Howard Co. School Board each year in taxes.

1. This situation is very upsetting, very expensive, hurtful, unjust and teaches division, discriminations in children at very young age.

2. I ask to be reimbursed for my expenses for taking and picking up the children from school since August 2020

and will be doing this till the end of the school year. I will be happy to submit an itemized statement basically is two hours of my time each day plus thirty miles a day.

Mr. Calvin Ball I gratefully appreciate your assistance in this serious situation.

Rina S. Roca
rinasant@aol.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeanne Lay <jeannelay@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 5:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: April 20 school system capital budget

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

Good afternoon - I understand that the April 20 County Council Budget Hearing will include capital budgets for the school system. I'm writing in support of funding capital improvements needed at schools in the Oakland Mills cluster.

Our community is absolutely thrilled to see visible signs of progress in constructing a new Talbott Springs Elementary School. And some of us have also been following along with the updates made to Hammond High. Though that school is not in our cluster, it's exciting to see the care and attention expended across HCPSS.

I'd like to have some visibility into the lifecycle management process of the county schools. I'm sure that maintenance, renovation, and construction needs are regularly evaluated, and that a lifecycle management tool is in place to continuously evaluate the condition of the variety of aspects that keep a school building sound.

In particular, we are all aware of the deferred maintenance needs of Oakland Mills Middle and High Schools. Existing infrastructure must be maintained as part of that lifecycle management. How old are those primary elements/systems across all of HCPSS, and at what age should each component come up for renewal, maintenance, and/or replacement?

Lifecycle management should be a fundamental element of capital planning. Not school capacity, leadership, or student achievement levels in any areas. My thought is that when evaluating several critical elements that keep school buildings operating smoothly, the Council may find that buildings in the Oakland Mills Cluster will be found wanting.

Thank you
Jeanne Lay
Oakland Mills resident
301-919-7821

Sayers, Margery

From: Chris Rodgers <crodders@stlouisparish.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:29 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Bus Service for Parochial Schools

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

Executive Ball and County Council members,

As a Howard County resident and part-time teacher at Saint Louis School in Clarksville, I was disappointed to hear that the budget recently approved by the Howard County School Board would eliminate funding for bus transportation to parochial schools within Howard County in the coming academic year. Since September, Saint Louis has managed to remain open for in-person instruction with a virtual option. Doing so safely presented a number of logistical hurdles at the beginning of the academic year, and I am pleased to report that we have overcome these hurdles through the implementation of a range of measures, including dividing students into "cohorts" (with minimal interaction between cohorts), social distancing within classrooms, enforcement of mask-wearing, frequent hand-washing/sanitization, aggressive cleaning of school facilities, and set policies for the isolation of potentially ill members of the school community.

While we look forward to the eventual end of these safety measures, we remain concerned about another logistical challenge which we have faced this year - transportation. Hundreds of students in our school means hundreds of cars traveling to and from Saint Louis twice each day. While we have done our best to establish staggered arrival times and our faculty members have taken on the added burden of standing out in the parking lot under all weather conditions to direct traffic, we have still seen days when the line of cars stretches out to State Route 108. Bus service would greatly reduce the number of vehicles needed to transport students, reducing traffic congestion in the Route 108 corridor and diminishing environmental impacts through an overall lowering of carbon emissions. In addition, the provision of bus service would allow us to better serve underprivileged minority communities in the Columbia area, as bussing would give equal access to students whose parents lack the flexible working hours necessary to personally drop off and pick up their children each day.

As a public school graduate, I value the impact which a quality public education system can have both on individuals and society as a whole. At the same time, I also recognize the benefit in empowering parents to make decisions concerning the education of their children which will be in the best interests of their particular families. This means that an array of options should be available to parents, rather than just a one-size-fits-all model. When we work together, we can ensure that all students have access to the form of education which is best for them, and that society as a whole benefits from a well-educated populace.

With these things in mind, I respectfully ask you, as the elected executive leadership of Howard County, to exercise your authority to encourage the School Board to reevaluate the elimination of bus transportation to parochial schools. Thank you for your time and for all that you do on behalf of the residents of Howard County.

Sincerely,
Christopher Rodgers

Sayers, Margery

From: Angela (Comberiate) Garippa <amcomberiate@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 3, 2021 10:22 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Support Bus Funding for Parochial School Children

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

Greetings,

I am writing to urge you to reinstate county funded busing for parochial school students. Private schools in the county educate many children, which saves Howard County a tremendous amount of money. I am a parent of students at St. Louis School in Clarksville.

There are many families at St. Louis School that rely on the county buses in order to be able to send their children to St. Louis. For their sake and for the safety of our children, I urge you to reinstate the county funded busing for parochial schools. School busing is a small cost to pay for the safe transit of our children while reducing traffic on our congested roadways, especially the Route 108 corridor.

Thank you,
Angela Garippa

Sayers, Margery

From: Alison Hickman <alisonhickman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 1:58 PM
To: BoE Email; superintendent@hcpss.org
Cc: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Science-Based Request for 5 Days of Fall Instruction

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

Dear Dr. Martirano and Board of Education Members,

I am requesting that you please follow the science and implement 5 days of full in person school for the fall and announce that intention now. By fall, all adults who want to be vaccinated will be vaccinated. Our students will have been out of in-person school for a year, while private school students with parents who could pay have been educated largely in-person for the past year. We attempted to get into a private school for access to a more likely in-person education and were unsuccessful in obtaining slots in our school of choice - demand is very high right now. There are those who would say it is just the buildings that were closed this year, that education was still delivered. For some students, including my first grade son, that is simply untrue due to age, behavioral or parental employment limitations.

I will have an incoming kindergartener and second grader; my son has been homeschooled for the past year due to his reticence to sit at the computer for virtual coupled with my need to attend meetings for my employment during the virtual window. We tried it for a month, and frankly during that window I determined it was not a good use of either of our time. He effectively could not access a public education unless I quit my job for the bulk of this school year. I am not re-enrolling him for the spring because I do not believe it would be helpful for all involved for him to come back mid-school year, but I have already enrolled both children for the fall. We will participate in whatever the school system comes up with, but I beg of you to make it meaningful, worthwhile, non-screen based and follow the science.

The science on COVID-19 thus far tells us that fomite transfer is not a method of transmission, that masks and ventilation are important, plexiglass is not useful, and that the distance between 6 and 3 feet has no impact on transmission. Please do not focus on things like excessive cleaning, materials sharing, and other data points that do not impact transmission. Please, through leadership and science get our students back in the buildings for in-person education with their teachers, not classroom monitors. Please get our students back in the classroom with educational materials, not laptop computers causing eye strain, delivering excessive screen time to our already-screen entrenched students. This is really something you should be striving to achieve right now rather than in the Fall, but at this point, I'd take some progress on the Fall as a positive.

I am not a "Reopen" person who favors reopening business, restaurants, and other things when it is not safe. I am not someone who has advocated eliminating the student board member vote. I am just a regular, sometimes reasonable, mom who has followed a number of qualified epidemiologists on twitter, and from my armchair epidemiologist seat (I guess that is a lot of us these days) our county has had a failure of leadership in following the science and providing students an in-person education. **But do not listen to me or any other stakeholder that is not a medical professional who specializes in public health- I am not qualified to make this determination and neither are they or you. I want you to listen to:**

- The CDC [CDC on 3 feet](#)
- Joseph Allen, assistant professor of exposure assessment science at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Helen Jenkins, associate professor of biostatistics at Boston University School of Public

Health <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/03/22/schools-finally-have-road-map-they-need-fully-reopen/>

- Dr. Ashish Jah, Dean of Brown University School of Public Health [Schools Need to be Bolder About Reopening - Public Health Official](#) "That deep fear people have has meant, unfortunately, that we're not having a science-based debate about schools."
- Dr. Scott Gottlieb, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and was commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, 2017-19. He serves on the boards of Pfizer and Illumina. Dr. Caitlin Rivers, an epidemiologist, is a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. [How to Make Spring that Last Lost Semester](#)

It is my hope that you will signal clearly that your intention is to get students back to school using science as a guide and by following through on that intention with an efficient meeting that doesn't involve the board navigating the scientific nuances in detail, but instead delegating those to appropriate qualified professionals. This board spends meeting time on details that, while important, should be delegated to appropriate school leadership and science-based advisors with subsequent approval by the board if needed.

As a taxpayer and county resident, I am deeply frustrated with the pace of planning and decision making and I suggest that part of that issue is that the board is not delegating decision making enough to the appropriate roles and is weighing in on too many issues and details. If an external public health professional could establish appropriate constraints needed for the district to implement in-person education and the board could delegate the implementation following those constraints to Dr. Martirano and his staff entirely, I suggest that might be a much more efficient path forward. Then the board could confidently approve any proposed plan knowing 1) the current public health guidance was interpreted by a qualified medical professional 2) the educational implementation of that guidance was implemented by a qualified education professional. Instead, it appears to me that the board is involved too deeply in the establishment of factors embedded in items 1 and 2, and then are not able to confidently approve plans. For example at a recent meeting, time was spent addressing board member concerns related to how students were moving within a hallway and finding a bathroom when new to the school as part of the transition to back to in building. School leadership was able to confirm this was already on their radar and this was already addressed. This is an example of the board getting too in the weeds on the small details and not leading on the larger strategy, mission and execution needed to get students back to school. The board should be providing mission and vision on a broader scale than some of the detailed view it takes and the board is not functioning as an oversight body at times, but sometimes as a management body. If more detail was delegated to qualified stakeholders, the decision-making could be more efficient, functioning more as an oversight rather than management role, and board members could be confident that it was based on the latest science and educational guidance.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I am including the county council and Dr. Ball as I know there is continued coordination between the county and the school system.

Sincerely,
Alison Hickman
6454 Red Keel
Columbia, MD 21044
301-580-5442

Sayers, Margery

From: Brian & Janet Pate <patefamily@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 7:19 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: in support of busing for parochial schools

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

Dear Howard County Council members:

I am a parent of children who attend St. Louis School. I am writing to express my support for the renewed funding of busing for our schoolchildren. This funding has historically had a profound impact for many families and enabled children from diverse backgrounds to attend our school. Parochial schools help reduce the significant cost and space burdens that our county schools continue to face. School busing is a small cost to pay for the safe transit of our children while reducing traffic on our congested roadways, especially the Route 108 corridor. As a taxpayer, I believe it is only right that funding for busing be available for parochial schools, and not just for those who wish to make use of the public schools. I appreciate your consideration of this very important issue.

Janet & Brian Pate

Sayers, Margery

From: Agheigh Lankerani <alankerani@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 7:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: St Louis buses

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

Good evening,

I am writing to request that you consider funding for St Louis Catholic School buses for next school year. One of the reasons we initially chose this school was the bus option for our two kids. My husband and I work regular hours and it's hard to drop off and pick up. Thanks for your consideration.

Nicky Lankerani

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Douglas Iannarino <djiannarino@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 2:55 PM
To: CouncilMail; Yungmann, David
Subject: School Buses canceled

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

Well, so much for it's all about the children! While lamenting over public school students in Howard county and elsewhere it is obvious the feeling is not equal for the Catholic students of Maryland and Howard County. Terrible disappointment for the treatment of the institution that founded America's educational system! Tax dollars belong to the people of this county and I would wager that if you asked them about stopping buses for these schools they would not support it. While we are willing to support immigrants of all types, and some pay no taxes, we do not support the people that do pay taxes and have lived in the community for years or a lifetime! This is a shameful day in Howard county! Nothing to be proud of. There are plenty of resources to fund this if you WORK to find them.

Sayers, Margery

From: Margaret D. Metcalf <margaret.d.metcalf@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Support Bus Funding for Parochial School Children

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

County Executive Ball,

I am writing to you as a St. Louis parent to express my support for the renewed funding of busing for our schoolchildren. This funding has historically had a profound impact for many families and enabled children from diverse backgrounds to attend our school. Parochial schools help reduce the significant cost and space burdens that our county schools continue to face. School busing is a small cost to pay for the safe transit of our children while reducing traffic on our congested roadways, especially the Route 108 corridor. I appreciate your consideration of this very important issue.

Thank you,
Margaret Metcalf

Sayers, Margery

From: Eileen Forrestel <eforrestel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 11:29 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Bus service for St Louis School

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

Dear County Council

I am very disappointed that bus service for St Louis School in Clarksville was not approved for the budget.

You have to know how much more congested the traffic will be in that area twice a day. Our students take a lot of educational burden off the county.

Providing simple bus service to our families is a small price to pay for those spots you would have to accommodate in the local schools.

Please consider approving bus service to our school.

Thank you,

Eileen Forrestel

Sayers, Margery

From: hildon.mathieu@starpower.net
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 11:45 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: School Buses for St Louis

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

As a county **TAX PAYER** and a St. Louis parishioner I want you to provide to continue the busing for ALL schoolchildren to include those enrolled at St Louis School in Clarksville. The funding for this busing has historically had a profound impact for many families and enabled children from diverse backgrounds to attend our school. Parochial schools help reduce the significant cost and space burdens that our county schools continue to face. School busing is a small cost to pay for the safe transit of our children while reducing traffic on our congested roadways, especially the Route 108 corridor.

You want a "green county", this would be a definite step to reduce carbon footprint! A few buses vs 400+ cars twice a day just for our school's children.

You want to be able to offer outstanding education for the children of Howard County! St Louis School does that and beyond! As do the other private schools which have remained open.

It should be obvious to you that it is not in the best interest of the environment, the citizens and our children for the Howard County School Board to eliminate funding for buses to our school and other Catholic schools in the county. Their decision needs to be reversed and we request you do so.

I appreciate your serious consideration of this very important issue.

Hilda Mathieu

13180 Clarksville Pike

Highland MD 20777

301-854-3028

Sayers, Margery

From: C O'Connor <coconnor89@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:06 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fw: Reinstate funding for buses immediately to Parochial schools!

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

From: C O'Connor
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 8:04 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountygov.md <councilmail@howardcountygov.md>
Subject: Reinstate funding for buses immediately to Parochial schools!

Dear County Council,

I was very, very disappointed to read that the budget approved by the Howard County School Board recently eliminated funding for buses to St. Louis School and other Catholic schools in the county. I will continue to advocate for the bus program!

The families that are receiving the bus service are full-time taxpayers to the county. Instead of paying more than \$6,000 per student to educate each of these children in public schools, the county just pays \$316 per parochial school pupil for bus transportation.

It results in a savings to county taxpayers, because without the bus service, many of St. Louis families would have to send their children to public schools. In this age with both parents working, the public transportation is crucial in getting students to school.

Parochial school parents also argue that public buses ferrying their children do not represent a breach of the separation of church and state. We say we're also taxpayers -- who just want to see a fair share of their tax dollars going toward busing their children to school.

Please reinstate funding for buses immediately to Parochial schools!

Sincerely,
Mary O'Connor
Clarksville, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: GERALDINE MADDEN <mikegeri@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Jung, Deb; CouncilMail
Subject: school bus funding for parochial schools in Howard County

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

Mr. Ball, Ms Jung,

We are writing to you as both voting constituents and as members of St. Louis parish in Clarksville. We are dismayed, to understate it, at the decision to not provide financial support for the continuation of the school bus service to St. Louis and other parochial schools. Our grandchildren attend county public schools, and we are thankful for the high quality of education our tax dollars make available. And we are quite happy to have our tax dollars provide transportation support for the parochial schools. This is an investment in the future of the country and county as you are well acquainted with the high quality education that the schools provide. Providing them with transportation has a real impact on reducing automobile traffic congestion and related other undesirable effects. We both urge you to undo the ill-considered decision being offered to cancel support going forward.

As constituents, we will consider your decisions.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Madden
6409 Silent Moon Run
Clarksville, MD 21029
240-755-0303

Sayers, Margery

From: Carol DUNN <cdunn806@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: all county council

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

TO each and every one who is thinking of stopping all buses to the Catholic, Charter and Private schools. Please think again ---the children and their parents need this service. We all want to get back to running our lives normally. The schools need this help in planning and making their budgets. The parents are right now stretching to make their budgets. Please don't take the children transportation away. I am a member of St. Louis Church in Clarksville --and I have no children in the school.

Please help to keep the buses rolling for the children

Thank You

Carol Dunnl

Sayers, Margery

From: Kelly Gribbin Gleason <kelly.gribbin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Ball, Calvin
Cc: CouncilMail; Jung, Deb
Subject: Support Bus Funding for Parochial School Children

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

County Executive Ball and Howard County Council Members,

I am writing to you as the parent of a student at St. Louis School, to express my support for the renewed funding of busing for our schoolchildren. This funding has historically had a profound impact for many families and enabled children from diverse backgrounds to attend our school. Parochial schools help reduce the significant cost and space burdens that our county schools continue to face. School busing is a small cost to pay for the safe transit of our children while reducing traffic on our congested roadways, especially the Route 108 corridor. I appreciate your consideration of this very important issue.

Thank you,
Kelly Gleason

--

Kelly Gribbin Gleason
773-677-6075

Sayers, Margery

From: Carmen Fritz <carmenafritz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Jung, Deb
Subject: Busing to Catholic 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,

With great disappointment I have learned that the Board of Education has refused to support busing to Catholic Schools, especially while we continue to struggle with the consequences of this pandemic and when so many families are facing issues that they have never had to face in other times. Now the Board of Education wants to add to these challenges of these tax paying families by refusing to bus their children to their respective schools when they have done this in the past. Forgive me for thinking this is cruel behavior on their part when these families are supporting them through their taxes even if they do not get salaries. I am asking you to support these families, many of whom have supported and voted for you. Please consider my plea by advocating fairly for these children and their families who depend on this transportation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Carmen Fritz

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: DocketMasters- Lisa Kim <lfenton72@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:27 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Subject: Please restore bus service to private schools. It is a win-win for everyone. Remember government is for the people. Private school parents are also "the people" who also pay full taxes into the public school system.

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Private Listing <johannaklema@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:21 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: School buses

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

Good day,

I am writing in support of county bus service for nonpublic schools in Howard County.

Bussing a child to school in this county should be considered a basic human service. We talk a lot these days about issues of human rights or discrimination or privileges, but I have to ask why it is so hard to see that dynamic in play in this situation of educating our youth without double burdening them to pay for bus service— they and their supporters are already double paying for the education itself. It is not an undue burden to offer that child a seat on the bus. Civil rights started in 1955 with debates about riding buses, and here we are over 60 years later still playing around with people's rights to sit on a publicly funded bus. Shame on you in 2021 if you cannot see helping a wee child get to school as a basic human decency that we can afford. If the issue is balancing the budget, look for frivolous spending , not necessary spending. If the issue is not balancing the budget, then I have to ask Why in heaven's name are you doing this? As a punishment to families who don't further burden the public school system? For heaven's sake, help them help the county. If it costs you 50 cents a day for them to save you 50 dollars a day, spend the 50 cents. We should be nothing if not practical, pragmatic, and sensible.

The cost per student to bus children is less than to educate them. I am paying my property tax for both , and if a family can reduce the cost burden on the county by keeping a child in private school, it helps keep costs down for the county. They deserve bus service. Otherwise it is tantamount to being charged for a public bus that you are discriminated against riding. That is worse than being told you cannot buy a bus ticket.

Each family supporting a parochial school still pays their Howard County tax bill. They have an honest need for an equal right for access to that bus, especially important if they cannot afford to pay twice for transporting their child to school, once in the taxes and once again if you cancel their right to bus their child to school,, a school in which a lot of families cannot afford the full tuition. That is no platitude or puffery or whatever the right word is — it is true. There are many students who are there only through the assistance of others' support, who would be crowding their local public schools without that support, and who pay their Howard County taxes but could not afford tuition or even the bus service on top of their Howard County taxes. That is the reality for many families. It is not a rare exceptional situation, it is a commonplace issue. I support allowing that child to step on a county funded ride to school to become educated. I consent also to my taxes being used to pay for bussing all Howard County children to daily schooling, no matter what days of the week they have school and no matter what school they attend in Howard.

Thank you for your time.

Johanna Klema

Sayers, Margery

From: Kim S <kimscanio@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 6:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Parochial School Busing-Plea

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

I am writing to you as a St. Louis parent to express my support for the renewed funding of busing for our schoolchildren. This funding has historically had a profound impact for many families and enabled children from diverse backgrounds to attend our school. Parochial schools help reduce the significant cost and space burdens that our county schools continue to face. School busing is a small cost to pay for the safe transit of our children while reducing traffic on our congested roadways, especially the Route 108 corridor. I appreciate your consideration of this very important issue.

Thank you,

Kim and Jim Scanio

Sayers, Margery

From: Amy Martin <amymartin14@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 9:27 AM
To: ball@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Support Bus Funding for Parochial School Children

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

County Executive Ball and Council Members,

I am writing to you as a St. Louis parent to express my support for the renewed funding of busing for our schoolchildren. This funding has historically had a profound impact for many families and enabled children from diverse backgrounds to attend our school. Parochial schools help reduce the significant cost and space burdens that our county schools continue to face. School busing is a small cost to pay for the safe transit of our children while reducing traffic on our congested roadways, especially the Route 108 corridor. I appreciate your consideration of this very important issue.

Thank you,

Amy Martin
Parent

Sayers, Margery

From: Karin Mortensen <kmort99@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: John Mortensen
Subject: Support school bus funding for parochial school children

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*I am writing to you as a St. Louis parent **and District 1 resident** to express my support for the renewed funding of busing for our schoolchildren. This funding has historically had a profound impact for many families and enabled children from diverse backgrounds to attend our school. Parochial schools help reduce the significant cost and space burdens that our county schools continue to face. School busing is a small cost to pay for the safe transit of our children while reducing traffic on our congested roadways, especially the Route 108 corridor. I appreciate your consideration of this very important issue.*

Thank you,

John and Karin Mortensen

Sayers, Margery

From: Beth Stolte <elizabeth.stolte@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:17 PM
To: Chao Wu
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Budget Work Sessions

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

Dear Dr. Wu,

The Howard County Public School System's Operating Budget is close to a billion dollars – funded from our tax dollars. Citizens have a right to know how that money is being allocated and the Board of Education's budget work sessions are an important way for us to gain this information. Therefore, we strongly request that Board members are not limited in the number of questions, nor a 5-minute time limit, for questions they can ask during work sessions.

Keep in mind that HCPSS has had a multi-million-dollar deficit since 2016, which has had a significant impact on our children's education. HCPSS increased class sizes twice since 2016, cut reading and math support teachers, reduced teacher's materials of instruction by \$7.2M, reduced the special education budget request that the Superintendent called "debilitating", and much more. It is very important that parents have a good understanding of how our tax dollars are proposed to be spent.

You ran for office to represent us, so please allow Board members to ask the questions and be provided the answers that tax payers and parents deserve to hear.

Very truly yours,

Beth Stolte