

Sayers, Margery

From: Chair <hongling.zhou@capa-pac.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2021 10:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: board@capa-pac.org
Subject: CAPA PAC request for school funding

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

Dear Council Members,

The Chinese American Political Association (CAPA) PAC is formed by a group of concerned parents who care deeply about our children's public education and the future of Howard County and HCPSS. The majority of our members are first generation immigrants as well as HCPSS parents. We choose to live in Howard County for its excellent schools and diverse and inclusive environment.

We were disappointed to see that there is again a funding gap between the HCPSS board requested 2022 operating budget and the County Executive proposed funding. The school has experienced in last few years repeated class size increases, staff reduction and program cutting. With ever growing budget constraints, the school would not be able to keep the high education standard that is the foundation for the reputation of HCPSS. CAPA PAC strongly supports the amendments introduced by Council members Jung and Yungmann (Amendment 5, Amendment 17 and Amendment 18) that deal with increasing the school's capital systemic program (for deferred maintenance) and operating budget (including for health fund deficit). We sincerely hope that the Council will pass these amendments and provide much needed additional funding to the school system.

Our school system is the greatest asset for Howard County. The school system's reputation is the single most important factor that Howard County is able to keep attracting more families to come and stay here. The two leading revenue sources for the County are property taxes and income taxes which are 43% and 26% of the total revenue respectively. If these two revenue sources were to incur a significant decrease due to the deterioration of the school system, it would be detrimental to the future of the Howard County.

We firmly believe the county budget needs to shift its priority to the education of our children. The county needs to shrink its spending in some other areas and increase the share of spending for HCPSS. The investment in education will in turn bring more prosperity to Howard County.

In addition to the budget, the quality of our school system is also closely associated with laws and regulations of the County. We request the County Council to consider enacting a Moratorium to any housing development under the condition that Portables would not have to be added in the school with the respective development. Not only Children should not be in the substandard environment such as portables during the school days, but also such a Moratorium will help eliminating the Line item in the school budget for portables and the expenses could then be used for items that would improve education in the classrooms.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hongling Zhou, Ph.D.

Chair, CAPA PAC

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Stephanie Mummert; BoE Email; Stephanie and Mai; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Cc: Student Board Member
Subject: RE: [External] Please find a way to support special education

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

Dear Ms. Mummert:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board's FY 2022 Requested Operating and Capital Budgets. We will save your email as written testimony for the public hearing process. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing. The public is able to submit written testimony at BOE@hcpss.org until 48 hours prior to the vote. The Board is scheduled to have an additional work session on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. All Board meetings are televised and live streamed.

Once again, thank you for your valuable input.

Kind regards,

Kathy Hanks
Administrator
Board of Education of Howard County
Phone: 410-313-7194
Email: khanks@hcpss.org

From: Stephanie Mummert <skmummert@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 8:12 AM
To: BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Stephanie and Mai <secacchair@gmail.com>; Superintendent <superintendent@hcpss.org>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: [External] Please find a way to support special education

! 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, Superintendent and Councilmembers,

I am writing to all of you at once because all of you play a critical role in supporting special education students, and the educators that support them, and I know we are in crunch time for finalizing the budgets. We all know how much this pandemic has affected all of us and that it's hit these students with disabilities disproportionately, especially during the early days of school shut down and during virtual learning. I am a parent of a student who receives special education services at the elementary level and as hard as everyone worked, there's absolutely nothing like being in school, in person.

I know how dedicated our special educators are, how hard they all work and how overworked (and overwhelmed) they are right now as more and more is piled on their plates at the end of the year. They need help, desperately.

The best way, long term, to help them is to ensure they have sufficient funding now so that they can have more hands on deck to help to meet the tremendous needs of students with disabilities as we all begin to recover what they lost during the pandemic. Let me be clear, as one of our board members reminded us during a SECAC meeting, while the budget line item ask may seem large today, it's not a windfall. Every single year that I've been paying attention, the superintendent asks for a budget that attempts to "invest in special education" which is really an attempt at recovery from chronic underfunding year over year. To make an analogy, in capital budget work sessions HCPSS often discusses deferred maintenance of our physical facilities - HVAC, building maintenance, parking lots, etc.. The special education department is in need in much the same way, and has suffered from deferred funding and maintenance of what they need to function, year after year. The funding you deliver to them now not only meets the existing needs of our students and staff but also must meet the growing needs of our special education students as many will return for the first time next fall. They need more staff to do the job.

Our team is simply amazing but I know just from our case how much work goes into a meeting. For in person/hybrid kids, this is the first time in 14+ months they are seeing their team and there is a lot of data collection involved. They use this data of observation and testing to try to establish what students have gained and what they have lost. For every student, for every team, in every school. While also completing mountains of paperwork and training and countless other responsibilities. This existing burden is not sustainable without help. Particularly not as we face determining compensatory services for services not delivered for 14+ months, for every student.

Just because these dedicated professionals always seem to find a way to make it work without enough money or time or staff, expecting these educators to pull a rabbit out of a hat will eventually stop working. Then, it's the students that suffer. It's the mental health of your valuable educators that suffers and they will leave the profession. It has already happened. I will never, ever forget the special educators that begged, in tears, that they were at a breaking point. That was back in November of 2019. Before the pandemic. Before this unprecedented time that has hit our special education kids so hard. Their pleas weren't heard in the finalized budget that year. Please, please, listen to them now, they need you.

Thank you,
Stephanie Mummert

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathleen V. Hanks <Kathleen_Hanks@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:03 PM
To: Marcia Morales; CouncilMail; BoE Email; superintendent@hcpss.org
Cc: Stephanie and Mai; Student Board Member
Subject: RE: [External] Special Education is in need

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Dear Ms. Morales:

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education regarding the Board's FY 2022 Requested Operating and Capital Budgets. We will save your email as written testimony for the public hearing process. Please note that written testimony is part of the public record and is uploaded online to BoardDocs as part of the public hearing. The public is able to submit written testimony at BOE@hcpss.org until 48 hours prior to the vote. The Board is scheduled to have an additional work session on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. All Board meetings are televised and live streamed.

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Administrator
Board of Education of Howard County
Phone: 410-313-7194
Email: khanks@hcpss.org

From: Marcia Morales <marciamoralesbutler@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 3:48 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Superintendent <superintendent@hcpss.org>
Cc: Stephanie and Mai <secacchair@gmail.com>
Subject: [External] Special Education is in need

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Dear County Council, Board of Education & Superintendent Martirano,

Currently the majority of our special educators are being hit hardest by the school system. You see this time of year is typically busy for them but now on top of the number of annual IEP reviews, IEP meetings, general reports, Assessments, balancing hybrid & virtual students, plan lessons, collaborate with other educators regarding students & services, on going professional development, legal timelines they must keep, too many students on their case loads (because of already existing under staffing issues in special education), covering in person students for other teachers that are still virtual, they are also reviewing which students qualify for ESY or Academic Intervention Summer School services.

Now they are also expected to review ALL student data going back to March 2020 for compensatory services & the guidelines that are being given to both educators & parents is maddening... Now also add the number of Special Education students that have signed up for the DEC & having to incorporate (at least think about) all the what if's because there has literally been no guidance & again this is the time of year they are working on annuals 🙄

There is absolutely no way that they can do ALL of this while still teaching & providing services to our kids 😞 Some schools all pulling general education teachers to help give our special educators time to work on reports, but having general educators provide services is NOT what is supposed to be happening. We need more licensed Special Education Teachers & only adding 2 positions to the budget is ridiculous.

This is so far beyond unacceptable especially given that so many were shouting that we needed to support our special education students by getting the buildings open... yet not actually putting needed funding or adding the needed licensed special education staff is doing nothing but making everything worse.

Everyone kept saying that they were focused on our kids that receive special education services, but time & time again the system has done nothing but undermine our kids ability to access the quality of education & services they are legally entitled to & things are just made worse by continuing to increase the demands on a specific staff group that was already overburdened & struggling 🙄

So, please find a way to increase the funding of special education and also fund the hiring of more licensed special educators.

Thank you,
Marcia Morales

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephanie Mummert <skmummert@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 8:12 AM
To: BoE Email; Stephanie and Mai; superintendent@hcpss.org; CouncilMail
Subject: Please find a way to support special education

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Thank you,

Sayers, Margery

From: Marcia Morales <marciamoralesbutler@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 3:48 PM
To: CouncilMail; BoE Email; superintendent@hcpss.org
Cc: Stephanie and Mai
Subject: Special Education is in need

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

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So, please find a way to increase the funding of special education and also fund the hiring of more licensed special educators.

Thank you,
Marcia Morales

Sayers, Margery

From: bombick@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 8:21 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Calculations

[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 was interested to hear council members Mercer-Rigby and Yungmann discussing the need for business plans for new Capital projects. This sounds like a great idea for determining the anticipated cost to fully fund a project in perpetuity. Please consider requesting that plans for capital projects include associated costs such as leasing office space, moving/storage costs, operational and facilities costs, and additional staffing required.

Below please find the calculation shared with you in Budget Work Session by Dr. Wu to explain the costs of enrollment growth to the school system. I found this a very clear and valuable explanation of education costs for a layperson. As you make decisions about capital and operating budgets, it would be helpful for similar calculations for other services/departments in order to determine the cost of proposed services in the county per housing unit or resident and explore how the county will address funding needs.

Growth in the school system is about 1,000 students annually above the previous year. This rate of growth is among the highest in the state of Maryland. Because funding is based on student calculations using the previous year's student numbers, \$10-12M of the budget request each year is to pay for this growth. In order to maintain services (no COLAs, no additional programming, etc.), HCPSS would require at least this funding annually beyond MOE.

There is some question this year about whether the student projections will be accurate due to the effects of the pandemic. Howard County has the lowest number of students in non-public among peer counties, making it likely that many students will return ([MSDE Enrollment Projections](#)). Additionally, it is likely that a good deal of enrollment loss last year was due to deferred kindergarten enrollment. It is likely that in the early grades will return to pre-pandemic levels when schools resume normal operations.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Cate Bombick

[Calculations shared by Dr. Wu:](#)

FUNDING NEEDS BECAUSE OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH

1. We have been seeing an average of 1000 new students per year for HCPSS in the past 10 years. Assuming 10% of the growth are students with special needs.
2. The increased cost is : $900 \times 10,000$ per student for general education from county funding
 $+100 \times 30000$ per student for special education from county funding =12 million dollars
3. Another calculation using average (16k per student) $16k \times 1000=16$ million dollars. County funds 2/3 of those, which is equivalent 10.6 million dollars.
4. So in general, we need more than **10 million extra dollars each year** to accommodate student growth in order not to increase class size or cut service.

Does housing development pay the cost?

1. Assuming a house has two students over 30 years staying at HCPSS, ignoring inflation.
 2. The property tax for a 400k house is $4k \times 30 = 120$ K dollars in total.
 3. The cost for 2 new students for HCPSS: $50k$ (per student per seat in capital budget) $\times 2 + 10000 \times 13$ (years) $\times 2 = 360$ K dollars
 4. The gap of funding is **240 K** per house.
 5. If the house keeps generating students continuously (*the family moves in only when students attending HCPSS, assuming 20 years for two students*), the tax will be $4k \times 20 = 80k$. The gap will be **280k**. Every forty year, the funding gap will be **560K**, more than **half million dollars**.
 6. There are also many other costs (infrastructure, county government etc) beyond school system.
<https://chaowu.org/2021/05/10/some-math-about-hcpss-funding-needs-and-gaps/>
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