

From: [Alecia Smith](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Help for Budget
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:19:20 PM

[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,

Dear X,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Alecia Smith

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Alex Gaspar](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Funding Environmental Education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:18:38 PM

[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,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

As a resident of Howard County and attending university to study environmental issues and sustainability it is imperative to me that my home puts an emphasis on not only protecting the environment but also ensuring the next generation will know how to act as stewards for our community. Cutting funding for this aspect of environmental education will only hurt our community in both our standing among quality of education and the number of students who learn to love our surroundings and the potential careers that are tied into our local habitats. As someone who has learned through the classroom and having school nurture my love for the outdoors, I only hope that the funding for the Environmental Educator position isn't cut so that others can share in the same outdoors that I have grown to love and cherish.

Sincerely,

Joseph Gaspar

Resident of Columbia, Howard County

From: [Alice Arcieri Bonner](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Do Not Vote to Cut Budget for Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:18:19 AM

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

Good morning Councilman,

As a mother of two Hollifield Station Elementary students, I am writing to vote against budget cuts on May 24th. This is critical funding for the environment and Howard County community, your constituents. Any cuts will gut environmental education programs for Howard County School students as well as important support for our hard-working teachers.

My children have attended camps at the Conservancy. My son's second grade class has a field trip in June to the Conservancy. This is a part of our community. Through a decades-long partnership with HCPSS, the Conservancy has developed award-winning programs like the Watershed Report Card, middle school climate curriculum and the Youth Climate Institute that reach more than 20,000 students each year. These are groundbreaking programs that you have seen in action, that our children have benefited from and that have built generations of environmental stewards.

Please do not cut the budget for these necessary and important programs at the Howard County Conservancy.

--

Alice Arcieri Bonner, Esq.
FutureCare Health
8028 Ritchie Highway, Suite 210
Pasadena, MD 21122
(410) 766-1995

From: [Allison Anderson](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Can HCPSS meet MD State Environmental Literacy Graduation Requirements with HCPSS budget cuts???? No!
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 5:56:36 PM

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

>> I understand the BOE is considering cutting the HCPSS Environmental Educator positions at HCPSS. Given the national recognition the programs by Ann Strozyk's teaching has brought to the County including federal grants, this move makes no sense to me. She has also been on the County Environmental Sustainability Board guiding the County as a community leader.

>>

>> With Maryland having the Environmental Literacy graduation requirement, the educational field experiences that she leads are one of the main reasons HCPSS is meeting this requirement. If you cut these positions, HCPSS will have to incur additional expenses to find other ways to meet this MSDE mandate.

>>

>> I do hope you will reconsider and keep this award winning teacher who works with thousands of students in the field, supports dozens of secondary science teachers in the classroom and works with hundreds of students in afterschool programs.

>

> Many of you have personally participated in these award-winning environmental educational programs, including the Watershed Report Card program. These student programs that would be cut if you lose the environmental educators at HCPSS.

>

> We encourage you to work with HCPSS to find cuts in other ways, and keep on these amazing educators.

>>

>> Thank you !

>> Allison Anderson

>> Ellicott City

From: [Ashok Sahu](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#); [Ball, Calvin](#); boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Request to continue critical funding for environmental education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:35:00 PM

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

Dear all respected members,

Thank you for representing us and doing a wonderful job that you are doing. Thank you for taking care of important decisions regarding the community and supporting the community.

I am a parent of a 8 year old and a 13 year old and a resident of Howard county. I learned a budget cut is being voted this week tomorrow and thursday regarding funding for environmental education for HCPSS students.

I just wanted to request to please vote to continue funding for environmental education for our kids. This gives our kids enormous benefits and help them be connected to the nature and mother earth.

Thank you so much for you time.
Ashok Sahu

Sent from Yahoo Mail. [Get the app](#)

From: [Audrey Suhr](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: URGENT - don't cut Environ. Educator from budget tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 1:57:40 PM

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

Dear County Council Members -

In this week's budget decision, please reconsider and do not cut funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy!

This position is essential for our public school system's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Ann Strozyk is acclaimed nationally for her leadership and extraordinary programs for our County's youth - which reach 20,000 students each year.

Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students.

It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader.

Howard County is one of the few counties in Maryland that does not have a school system funded environmental education center. Most school systems spend millions of dollars every year to own and operate their own centers. The cost effective partnership with the Howard County Conservancy (a private nonprofit) not only provides 20,000 county students with hands-on environmental and outdoor education each year, but has also led to the development of award winning and groundbreaking programs.

I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Audrey Suhr

6021 Old Lawyers Hill Road

Elkridge, MD 21075

410 796 4792

From: [Bess Caplan](#)
To: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Don't cut Environmental Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:00:18 AM

[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 decision makers,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Bess Caplan

From: [BONNIE JONES](#)
To: [Ball, Calvin](#)
Cc: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Howard County Conservancy Environmental Educator Position
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 1:23:57 PM

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

Dear Mr. Ball,

I am writing to ask for your support for continued funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy so that HCPSS can continue to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements and to educate the next generation of environmental stewards in Howard County.

Sincerely,
Bonnie K Jones

Sent from my iPad

From: [Brittany Conklin](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Budget Cuts
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 6:28:18 PM

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

Hi,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Thank you!
Brittany Conklin

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Casey Dyson](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Budget - Environmental Educator
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:06:39 PM

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

As a proud resident of District 3 in Howard County for 20 years, I have seen the impact of our environmental education curriculum on the children and neighborhoods of Howard County. I implore you to keep the position of the Howard County Public School System Environmental Educator. The position is crucial to inspiring our youth to care for the planet and is mandatory to help meet local, state and federal environmental and stewardship laws and regulations. As a shared position with the Howard County Conservancy, it is a brilliant example of how public private partnerships can work effectively.

Ann Strozyk, the current Environmental Educator, has been educating 20,000 young minds for over 13 years in Howard County, receiving many awards including the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators from the EPA, the Above and Beyond Award from MD DNR, the Carl Weber Award, the Crystal Flame Award from HCPSS, the STEM Educator of the Year from Tech Council of Maryland, and the Robinson Foundation Green Footprint Award from Robinson Foundation. Ann initiated programs in the county including schoolyard Assessments and Stream Surveys, the Howard County Watershed Report Card (WRC) and developed lessons that aligned with the Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards, and Environmental Literacy. She has helped secure DNR, NOAA, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation grants which have allowed for expanded programs such as the Youth Climate Institute. When taken together, these facts show that one educator position elevated our school system nationally and put it on the cutting edge of environmental education and climate conservation.

The position also has a huge impact on our local children and the future of our planet. My personal story is that our two children grew up in the environmental education program. They helped Atholton Elementary become a certified Green School https://aesisgreen.weebly.com/uploads/5/0/5/9/5059777/dscn0038_781.mp4 Our children continued their love of the environment in all aspects of their lives, and one now brings environmental education to others, including Baltimore school children, via the Outward Bound program.

“I alone can’t change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” — Mother Teresa

Casey Dyson
443-562-7127

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.” – Vincent van Gogh

From: [Cassie Felch](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Protect Environmental Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:48:19 PM

[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,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state-mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students.

Environmental literacy is of utmost importance worldwide, and Howard County prides itself on being at the forefront of both education and environmental awareness. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader.

I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Thank you,

Cassie Felch



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Charles Stirrat](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Funding for the Environmental Educator Position at Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:54:16 PM

[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 Member,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. This seems like a very cost effective partnership that should be preserved. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Stirrat

Ellicott City, MD

stirrer1@gmail.com

From: [Cheryl Arney](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#); [Cheryl Arney](#); [Ball, Calvin](#)
Subject: Keep funding for Environmental Education program at Howard County Conservancy!
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:21:37 PM

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

Dear County Executive Ball and Members of the Howard County Council,

I am quite frankly astounded that you are considering cutting funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy AFTER SIXTEEN YEARS! Since the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) is also party to this decision, I will be sure to let them know my feelings on this as well.

You must savor something before you can save it. Knowledge, appreciation and love of nature is what these programs at the Conservancy give our Howard County students. They emerge from these programs "savoring" nature. Because these programs are experiential, they make a huge impact on students. When climate change is the signature challenge facing our entire planet, environmental education is what we MOST need to provide for our students. Cutting the award winning program at the Conservancy makes no sense to me.

Furthermore, these programs are necessary for the County to meet its state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirement. That's a big deal!

And what a bargain our County is getting by having the Conservancy provide these environmental education programs for 20,000 of our students each year, with the County only providing funding for one environmental education teacher. We are so lucky to have this partnership between Howard County Conservancy and the HCPSS. The last thing we should be doing is ending these award winning and innovative programs. Don't break something that works!

I have a personal friend, a retired PhD physicist, who volunteers to work with the middle school environmental education programs at the Conservancy. He says, "I can tell you from first hand experience that (these programs) have a huge impact on making kids aware of climate change and what they can do about it." We are lucky to have people like my friend helping provide these educational programs at absolutely no cost to our school system. I wonder if the Council, the County Executive, and the HPCSS have given adequate weight to the value the volunteers add to these programs. When you cut the Environmental Educator funding, you will also lose the intangible value that the many volunteers have provided to the school system through the programs the Environmental Educator has set up. This seems foolish to me.

Please vote against cutting the Environmental Educator funding. I'm convinced it would be a huge mistake to cut funding for this position.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Arney
4361 Wild Filly Ct.
Ellicott City MD 21042

410-480-9609

cherylarney@gmail.com

From: [Cheryl Griffin](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Enviromental Education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:28:25 PM

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

Council Members,

With the current climate issues that we face now and issues that future generations face, I hope the important funding for the environmental position at the Howard County Conservancy will not be cut.

Thank you,
Cheryl Griffin

From: [Cindy McNemar](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: HoCo Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 8:21:01 PM

[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 express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,
Cindy McNemar, Ellicott City

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Clayton Koonce](#)
To: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Educator position, Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 1:25:10 PM

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

To County Executive Calvin Ball and members of the Howard County Council:

I have been informed that the county is considering cutting the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy and you will be voting on this issue soon. I am urging you not to cut this position, because it fills a vital gap in the Howard County education system. Indeed, the entire Conservancy and its mission form one of the county's greatest assets, and we must take full advantage of it. As a birdwatcher and participant in other volunteer wildlife monitoring projects, I visit the Conservancy regularly and can see for myself the role it plays in preserving a space for nature in the county. I can imagine that it serves as a wonderful outdoor lab for students taking part in programs administered by the Environmental Educator, and in this day and age of dire ecological crises that is an aspect of the Conservancy that must not be interrupted. More students should see this place!

Please vote to continue the Environmental Educator position at the Conservancy. And if any of you have never been there, please visit it soon and walk around and enjoy it.

Thanks for your attention.

Clayton Koonce
Vantage Point Rd., Columbia

From: [Cliff Strawitch](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Please reconsider the proposed cut to the Environmental Educator position at Howard County Conservancy!
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:49:03 PM

[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 member,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

I volunteer with the part of the program geared for Middle School kids and I can attest to the effectiveness of this program in making kids aware to the reality of climate change and mitigation strategies. The way to protect students from Climate disinformation, and there is plenty of that in the world, is to educate them as early as possible about the scientific facts about climate change. The program developed by the full time educator at the Conservancy does an admirable job of this, and we need more of this not less!

The County, under your leadership, has done an excellent job of addressing climate change and adopting strategies that reduce the Counties carbon footprint. Part of that job needs to be educating students since the burden of addressing climate change will mainly fall on their shoulders and they need to develop an educated voice demanding change as early as possible.

Sincerely,
Dr. Clifford Strawitch
3927 White Rose Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042

From: [Corinne Happel](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Re: Howard County Conservancy
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:52:53 PM

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

Sincere apologies for the typo, the last sentence should read: “ Please do what you can to help the Board of Education reconsider this decision.”

On Tue, May 23, 2023 at 11:44 PM Corinne Happel <corinne.happel@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Howard County Council,

My children have received great benefit from the educational programs at the Howard County Conservancy. This resource is a gem to our community and I was shocked to learn that a senior educator there is suddenly being cut out of the education budget for next year. Once educators are cut out of the budget, it will be hard to convince them to come back. Please do what you can to help the Boars of Education reconsider this decision.

Thank you,
Corinne Happel

From: [Danielle Clifford](#)
To: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Cc: [Jung, Deb](#)
Subject: Please continued critical funding for environmental education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:17:03 PM

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

To Calvin Ball and the Howard County Council:

It has come to my attention that the Howard County Board of Education is proposing to cut a crucial educational position (Environmental Educator) from the Howard County Conservancy. As a Howard County constituent and mother of two young children, who will inherit the dire and accelerated effects of the climate crisis, I am appalled that any cut to environmental education would be considered. The educators and passionate staff at the Howard County Conservancy dedicate their careers to preparing our young people to be responsible stewards of our environment, to understand the complexity and intersectionality of climate impact and to learn real world solutions and to apply them. When you cut a groundbreaking and innovative role designed to educate and uplift our children and empower them to use their voice, you display a blatant lack of concern for their future.

For a county that prides itself on our educational reputation, it is disheartening that you do not see how imperative environmental education is to our children. Our school system lacks a funded environmental education center, and we rely on the talented team at the Conservancy to fill this gap. Pulling funding that focuses on environmental literacy is nothing more than a shortsighted mistake.

Environmental education is absolutely crucial. The climate crisis interrupts our supply chain, threatens food systems, accelerates the erosion of infrastructure, and it is a public health concern. It disproportionately impacts our communities of color, further creating disparities in an already unjust and inequitable society. We need our children to understand climate justice and the importance of our environment so they can be prepared to create solutions. We cannot fail to educate our children.

If you do not reconsider this cut, you limit access to education that improves lives in the long term and will disrupt the ability of Howard County Public School students to meet state mandated environmental literacy requirements. It is essential we support the educational journey and growth of the next generation.

I ask you to please reconsider this budgetary cut and continue funding a position instrumental to programs that help shape a cleaner, greener tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Danielle (Howard County Council District 4)

--

Danielle N. Clifford-Earles
MPS, Community Leadership
UMBC | 2023
Pronouns: she/her/hers

Alternate Email: dcliff01@umbc.edu
Phone: 443-340-4095

From: [Deb Souleyrette](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Educator Vote
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:14:52 PM

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

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Deb Souleyrette

410-375-3644

“Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and transparent anyway.”—
Mother Teresa

“Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books.” —Sir John Lubbock

From: [Debra Ricigliano](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: budget cuts to environmental education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:24:12 AM

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

Dear County Council,

Please do not cut the funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy. The youth are the future caregivers of our environment and natural resources. In order to care, they need to be educated about this important mission.

Being outside and learning about nature is important for the well-being of our youth. They are suffering from mental illness at an alarming rate. Please let them be outside instead of glued to their phones and social media.

This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state-mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge, and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Debra Ricigliano

9740 Knowledge Drive
Laurel, MD 20723



Virus-free www.avast.com

From: ereineck@verizon.net
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Please DO NOT CUT our environmental educators!!!
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:45:28 PM

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

Dear Ms. Walsh and County Council.

I am a District 1 resident and have heard some very distressing news, that the Howard County Board of Education is considering cutting the environmental educator position working from the Howard County Conservancy.

Cutting this position would be a big mistake and a huge step backwards for education in Howard County. I have worked directly with Ann Strozyk, the HCPSS educator at the Howard County Conservancy for many years. I have been a partner with her in many highly effective efforts to provide hands-on, meaningful education, including the Watershed Report Card and the Youth Climate Institute. Ann also supports the teachers inside the schools. The team at the Conservancy has created award winning programming and built these programs that are national models. They also provide numerous field trips.

Only last month, I witnessed busloads of 10th grade students attending the Watershed Report Card Summit, where Superintendent Matirano, County Executive Ball and other local leaders, spoke glowingly about the work being done through this program. This was created largely by Ann Strozyk and would not be possible without the support of HCPSS. Ann brings a solid teaching background to all of her educational programs. She is a joy to work with. She goes above and beyond, and contributes to bringing in grants to support her work. This past Saturday, Ann was there again, planting trees with a group of 30 student in the Youth Climate Institute. This tree planting and hands-on experience will not happen going forward without HCPSS support of this position.

Even considering cutting this position is extremely short sighted. Programs like Ann's are crucial to our students, particularly after COVID where students are really struggling. I have seen it on the student's faces while they are participating in these programs. They have hope. They are learning. They are happy.

PLEASE DO NOT CUT THIS POSITION. It really is against what we all strive for in Howard County – excellence in education and building strong communities.

Thank you,
Elissa Reineck
Ellicott City

From: [Emily Rudo](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Urgent Appeal to Preserve Funding for Environmental Education
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 10:37:18 PM

[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,

I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the proposed budget cuts that would result in the elimination of the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy. These cuts, while intended to address budgetary constraints, fail to recognize the invaluable impact that these programs have had on the students and teachers of HCPSS for the past 16 years.

The groundbreaking environmental education programs provided by the Environmental Educator have been instrumental in shaping the minds of countless students, including myself. These programs, such as the watershed report card, have not only imparted knowledge but have also fostered leadership skills, public speaking abilities, and a passion for environmental issues. As a result, I had the privilege of representing Howard County at the county and state watershed summit. In addition, I had the opportunity to testify on a panel about the significance of Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) as a learner-centered framework at the NOAA conference, emphasizing the importance of informed action in addressing local environmental concerns.

These programs have not only taught me about the environment but have also played a crucial role in my personal development. I started as a student with a desire to become a history teacher, but through these experiences, I discovered my true passion for environmental policy. Inspired by the Environmental Educator programs, I pursued a degree in environmental studies and political science, graduating Summa cum laude just two weeks ago. I am now preparing to embark on my journey to law school, driven by the knowledge and self-discovery these programs facilitated.

The proposed budget cuts would not only hinder the environmental education of future generations but also hinder the cultivation of future environmental leaders and advocates. The Environmental Educator position is vital in providing students with the necessary tools, knowledge, and inspiration to make a difference in our community and beyond. Cutting funding for this program would have far-reaching consequences, undermining the environmental literacy graduation requirements and jeopardizing the hands-on STEM learning opportunities offered to all students across Howard County.

I stand as a testament to the transformative impact it has on students, having grown from a passionate learner to a dedicated advocate and scholar in the environment. I implore you to reconsider these proposed budget cuts and recognize the immeasurable value that the Environmental Educator program brings to our county students. By preserving and supporting this critically important program, we can continue to foster a generation of environmentally conscious individuals who will be equipped to address the pressing environmental challenges we face.

If you would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me at 410-440-3591 or

emily.rae523@gmail.com

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Emily Rudo

From: [Frankie Miller](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: environmental education programs for HCPSS students
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:01:59 PM

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

Please do not cut funding for the environmental education programs for HCPSS students.

Environmental issues are going to affect young people throughout their lives. This generation will need to make important choices to save this planet. Please help to give them the needed knowledge and passion.

Frankie Miller

From: [Hannah Maia Frishberg](#)
To: [Ball, Calvin](#)
Cc: boe@hcpss.org; [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: URGENT: Former Student's dissent on the proposed budget cuts eliminating Environmental Educator position
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 6:48:13 PM

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

Dear Rep Calvin Ball, and members of the Board of Education,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students.

As a former HCPSS student for my entire Primary and Secondary education, I know first hand how these types of programs deeply enriched my experience with and understanding of the natural environment. It is essential that this position is kept, the role is a low cost but high impact staff role that creates programs that have not just individual, but community and even national consequences.

We must support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and continue to position Howard County as a leader in this work. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Hannah Maia Frishberg

Centennial High School Class of 2011, Ellicott Mills Middle School Class of 2007, Attendee to Waterloo and Worthington Elementary Schools, Daughter of a HCPSS Teacher

From: [Heather Johannes](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Education Funding Cuts
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:49:02 PM

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

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Heather Johannes

From: [Heather Stiltner](#)
To: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Proposed Environmental Education Cuts
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:55:17 PM

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

Executive Calvin Ball, members of the Howard County Council and the Howard County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut.

This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. Ann Strozky has provided invaluable leadership in this position.

Given the current state of our environment and the climate emergency, this is NOT the time to be cutting environmental education - if anything, it must be expanded. We must educate and prepare our students and community for a rapidly changing world.

It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Heather Stiltner
concerned citizen and parent
member of the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board

From: [Holly Learmouth](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Education Programs
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:21:22 AM

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

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Holly Learmouth

Parent of HCPSS student

From: [Howard Quinn](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Howard County Conservancy Funding
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:48:29 PM

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

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a retired HCPSS middle school teacher and four year volunteer at HCC, I ask you to continue funding and support for there school-based programs. I have committed funds in support of their programs and continue a legacy fund in my late wife's honor.

The work established and broadened under the leadership of Ann Strozyk, Meg Boyd and others has touched the lives of so many students. Please help this to continue for our kids and our world.

Sincerely,
Howard R. Quinn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jaime Lennon](#)
To: boe@hcpss.org; [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT CUTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:08:08 AM

[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 express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

I am an active and engaged voter and this issue is a top priority for me. I will be watching this vote closely.

Sincerely,

Jaime Lennon
11143 Willow Green Way
Marriottsville, Maryland