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**From:** Brett Taylor <bdtaylor8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:14 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two music-loving students at Glenelg High School, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children have both participated in music in HCPSS since starting General Music at Dayton Oaks and joined band in 4th grade. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

As a former music educator, I can speak first hand about the high quality music programs that my kids have been a part of and witnessed across the county. These high school programs are among the best in the country and I would hate to see budget cuts negatively impact these outstanding programs.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brett Taylor  
bdtaylor8@gmail.com  
301.442.5839

**From:** [Claire](#)  
**To:** [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** HCPSS Budget Concerns  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:24:41 PM

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[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, members of the County Council, members of the Board of Education and Acting Superintendent Barnes,

Thank you for your service to our community throughout the years. As a product of HCPSS music programs and as your constituent, I am writing to express that it is of the upmost importance to me that we prioritize the funding of education overall and particularly the music programs. It is incredibly concerning that your solution to a state and federal roll back in our budget is to cut essential and popular music programs that teach students vital life skills that are transferable to all parts of life.

As someone who was fortunate to have experienced so many of these music programs in my childhood, I can say I would not be who I am today without them. I can say for myself participating in music programs vastly improved my mental health and overall connection to the school, while also teaching me how to persevere, to manage my time, to act as a leader, and to work together in a team.

As an educators in a different school system (BCPS), in my professional opinion, the impact that music programs can have on a child is so astronomical. I have seen students whose lives have been changed by deciding to participate in a music activity. Those students who participate in these programs are also some of the most successful students academically.

It would be a mistake to remove funding and cut staffing for these programs, leading to devastating impacts for years to come. We expect the highest quality of education in HCPSS, and that includes music. Thank you in advanced for addressing this issue. Please consider other solutions than cutting music programs and the staffing required to maintain them.

Sincerely,  
Claire Segala

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**From:** emaccubbin@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:09 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elise Maccubbin (Mother of 4th grade violinist at DOES and 7th grade trumpet player at LKMS)

703-819-9597

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**From:** Ellen Suh <ellensuh28@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:49 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, and also as a pianist, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen Suh

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**From:** dalbi <dalbi.lee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:26 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

My name is HJ Park.

As a concerned parent, I'm alarmed by the reported program cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Increased class sizes and potential staff reductions are deeply troubling.

I urge elected officials to collaborate with HCPSS to address this crisis and find solutions. Music education is pivotal for well-rounded development, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. **Please reconsider proposed cuts to music funding and support essential programs.**

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
\*Hyun J. Park\*  
([dalbi.lee@gmail.com](mailto:dalbi.lee@gmail.com))  
phone: (201) 249-3448



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**From:** John Zwarich <zwarich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 5:52 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

I've got two children in marching band, one cis and one trans. It is the best social support network possible for both of them. I'm certain that music education has improved mental health for both. Cuts to music will lead to more costs for

mental health crisis intervention.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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**From:** Kobey DeVale <kdevale@devale.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:28 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding - Music

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kobey DeVale

[kdevale@devale.net](mailto:kdevale@devale.net)

512.785.8933

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**From:** Madhu S Vankayalapati <vmsrao@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:19 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Madhu Vankayalapati

**From:** [Ryan Berry](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Music Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:24:54 AM

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope that you are all safe and sound during this snow event. I'm reaching out to you in support of funding music education in Howard County schools. I'm not using the pre-formed letter that was sent to me, but rather speaking from the heart about the impact that music education has had in my son's life.

I believe that the impact of music education on every student is crucial and irreplaceable and of the utmost importance when it comes to allocating funding to programs for our school system. For students who struggle socially, mentally, intellectually, physically or otherwise, it is of even greater importance. My daughter, who was significantly physically disabled, was empowered and bright when she was in music class or participating in any music program. My son, who struggles with mental health issues, has relied heavily on the music program to maintain a stable place for himself in high school. All of my 3 children have benefitted in numerous ways from participating in the music programs, from elementary through high school.

I don't need to attach articles from reputable websites for you to know how crucial and important music education is in the life of a child. Please continue to fund music education in our county, for my one remaining student, and for all of the current and future students to pass through HCPSS's doors, at or above the current level of funding. I recognize how difficult it is to allocate money for all of the important programs throughout the school system, but I believe that music education is rightfully near the top of the list when it comes to hierarchy of importance.

Thank you for your time,

Marisa Berry

Parent of MHHS Choir Member, under the incomparable tutelage of Mr. Nicholas Dogas  
410-499-9136

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**From:** Meredith Kulikowski <mlk0407@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:05 AM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

[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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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sincerely,

Meredith Kulikowski  
[MIk0407@gmail.com](mailto:MIk0407@gmail.com)

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**From:** Rasheedah Sanders <bayinnah1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:16 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Re: hcpss funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rasheedah Bilal Sanders and family  
2403531264

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**From:** Ying-Shu Sheu <yingshu8@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 12:54 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr, Ying-Shu Kathleen Sheu  
(301)-498-0886

**From:** [Amanda G](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Music is Essential!  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:08:46 AM

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

Dear HCPSS Members of the Board,

If you look at the highest academic achieving students within our school system, you will find that a majority of them are in our schools music programs. They fill our orchestras, bands, and choirs. They tend to find that when the academic classes have been stressful and, sometimes, overwhelming, their music classes are where they are able to release their creative and more emotional energy. Taking more from the music program within our schools will hurt not only the school system overall, but it will hurt those students that need that class for their negative-energy release and respite from difficult academics.

Music is Essential to so many of our students, and to the future of our world! When covid hit, what were people turning to during quarantine? Music! Art! Theater/movies!

For years we have seen school systems cut funding within their music departments, because it's easy to do so. Parents outside of music don't understand why a school needs \$5000 for instrument repairs when that could easily be given to the technology department for more chromebooks. Or why the choir needs new risers when the football players are more popular than the vocalists. Stripping more funds from the music departments causes a lack of equity within our non-academics.

Our middle school and elementary school music programs do not have. band booster associations and, aside from a single pie fundraiser, or candy-bar raffle, cannot make money for their programs. When a new, young 4th grader drops their clarinet, because they are young and inexperienced, it causes \$250+ in damage, but rather than punishing that child, we repair the instruments and get them back in their hands. This goes for sports and academics, as well!, instruments just happen to cost a bit more than deflated footballs or broken chromebook chargers.

Please do not cut funding from music. I am a music teacher because of my school music programs. So many of our students will go on to play in college, and possibly into the professional world. Isn't it a wonderful thought to know that you supported them in getting there?

Music is Essential!  
Amanda Goeke  
Music Teacher- hcpss

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**From:** Dor Eze <DorEze@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 3:56 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Doris Eze



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**From:** RHS Music Foundation <musicfoundationrhs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 4:22 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C Hair  
President  
RHS Music Boosters  
202-271-8380

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**From:** Gina McIntyre <reginute@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 2:58 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting Superintendent Barnes,

Greetings and a Happy New Year to you all! I am a proud music parent of two students who previously graduated from the Howard County Public School System. I am very concerned about the potential program and staffing cuts that are being considered, especially in the area of music. Our school system is known for being high achieving and in the world of music, we are well known for our excellence. As a parent who was very much involved for many years with the student orchestra programs in this county, I can tell you that music educators all across the nation know who we are because of our music programs and the accomplished student musicians that come from those programs. Our music programs set the bar of achievement for other school music programs, especially at the high school level. That all starts at the elementary school level. The fundamental and foundational music skills learned at the elementary school level determine the ability of students to move through and excel in their middle school and high school music programs. Students need strong elementary school music programs at the ground level. Our middle school and high school programs rely heavily upon those early and important lessons learned at the elementary school level. Young musicians benefit greatly from those accumulative lessons. Music educators at the middle school and high school levels also greatly benefit from that accumulative learning. They can then move their students forward in realizing their full musical potential. All of our music educators on all levels are very important. Not many school systems have taken that as seriously as Howard County has and I hope will continue doing.

Our 3rd grade Strings program is incredibly important. I am a pianist. I know that when I hit a particular key on my piano, not matter how I hit that key, whether it be with my finger, elbow or toe, I will play the note that was intended every single time. Most band instruments deliver the intended note through finger positions. String musicians have only 4 strings on their instruments and no frets. Every single note is played on those 4 strings and every octave and position needs to be learned by memory of where each note is positioned on a string and how that note sounds. Bowing techniques are equally as important and for a beginning string student it's a big accomplishment just getting sound out of a string. **String instruments require additional learning and guidance and so our 3rd grade Strings programs are VITAL to students being successful.** Compared to their band counterparts beginning in 4th grade, string students need that additional year to learn their instrument so that they can be successful musicians and have the wonderful extracurricular music opportunities that this county offers our students. Many people do not realize how difficult it is to play a string instrument and that is understandable when you witness how effortlessly

our advanced string students play. That is attributed to the excellent music instruction they have received at every level since the 3rd grade.

We have an excellent reputation here in the Howard County School System for everything, especially music because this county has always gone the extra mile to make that possible and to provide those opportunities. Both of my now adult children became accomplished student orchestra musicians while they were attending school in this county and that brought them many opportunities to perform at prestigious music events. We often speak of the importance of sports and the ability to receive scholarships from colleges and universities. Both of my children received substantial scholarships because of their musicianship that was fostered in Howard County schools. Many of our outstanding Howard County student musicians do not go on to study music; however, colleges and universities value their great music ability for their own orchestras, bands, choirs, and performing ensembles and offer scholarship awards for those music skills. They look for well rounded students with many capabilities. That all starts right here in our Howard County Schools.

I am a big proponent of music for many reasons. Students learning music develop important analytical skills crucial to success in math and science. Every musician in an orchestra, band, choir or performing ensemble of any kind learns the importance of working together to produce music. Every musician is an integral part of an ensemble and has a responsibility to their fellow musicians. Students get a true sense of satisfaction and accomplishment from working together to create music. Valuable and important life lessons. In the wider scope of things, music is the international language that anyone, anywhere in the world can learn and understand. One of my children performed with a Chinese Youth Orchestra while in the Howard County Middle School G/T Orchestra many years ago. Neither party could speak each others language, but they could all read and play the same music together. It is stunning to me how music bridges the gap between so many societies and so many different kinds of people who may not be able to verbally communicate with each other, but they can communicate through reading and playing music together. There is a special joy and connection that musicians share regardless of who they are, their age, or where they live.

The Howard County Public School System is a school system of excellence and is the gold standard in every way. This county offers its students so many educational programs that are taught by the best teachers in the state. While I advocate for music programs, I support ALL of our programs and ALL of the teachers in this school system because they are very important and our students truly thrive in an environment that gives them so much opportunity with incredible guidance from the very qualified teaching staff here in Howard County. I hope that you will consider the many things I have said here. I realize that you all have a very difficult job to do and I know that you will do that job with the utmost consideration and respect for everyone involved. Many people, including my own family moved to this county almost 25 years ago because of the schools. We continue to stay here even though our children are young adults. We wish for every student now to have the top notch education and numerous opportunities that our children had years back. We have always taken great pride in having had our children educated in the Howard County Public School System.

Thank you very much for your time today,  
Gina McIntyre

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**From:** Gina McIntyre <reginute@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:22 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting Superintendent Barnes,

Greetings and a Happy New Year to you all! I am a proud music parent of two students who previously graduated from the Howard County Public School System. I am very concerned about the potential program and staffing cuts that are being considered, especially in the area of music. Our school system is known for being high achieving and in the world of music, we are well known for our excellence. As a parent who was very much involved for many years with the student orchestra programs in this county, I can tell you that music educators all across the nation know who we are because of our music programs and the accomplished student musicians that come from those programs. Our music programs set the bar of achievement for other school music programs, especially at the high school level. That all starts at the elementary school level. The fundamental and foundational music skills learned at the elementary school level determine the ability of students to move through and excel in their middle school and high school music programs. Students need strong elementary school music programs at the ground level. Our middle school and high school programs rely heavily upon those early and important lessons learned at the elementary school level. Young musicians benefit greatly from those accumulative lessons. Music educators at the middle school and high school levels also greatly benefit from that accumulative learning. They can then move their students forward in realizing their full musical potential. All of our music educators on all levels are very important. Not many school systems have taken that as seriously as Howard County has and I hope will continue doing.

Our 3rd grade Strings program is incredibly important. I am a pianist. I know that when I hit a particular key on my piano, no matter how I hit that key, whether it be with my finger, elbow or toe, I will play the note that was intended every single time without error. Band instruments deliver the intended note through valves or placement of fingers on holes or keys. String musicians have only 4 strings on their instruments and no frets. Every single note is played on those 4 strings and every octave and position needs to be learned by memory and where each note is found on a particular string. A great deal of that is done by ear and by recognizing the notes by their sound. Bowing techniques are equally as important and for a beginning string student it's a big accomplishment just getting sound out of a string. **String instruments require additional learning and guidance and so our 3rd grade Strings programs are VITAL to students being successful.** Compared to their band counterparts beginning in 4th grade, string students need that additional year to learn their instrument to be successful musicians. Eliminating that first year can be detrimental to the entire orchestra program leaving young string students behind a year with their crucial development. Many

people do not realize how difficult it is to play a string instrument and that is understandable when you witness how effortlessly our advanced string students play. That is attributed to the excellent music instruction they have received at every level beginning in the 3rd grade.

We have an excellent reputation here in the Howard County School System for everything, especially music. This county has always gone the extra mile to make that possible and to provide those music opportunities. Both of my now adult children became accomplished student orchestra musicians while they were attending school in this county and that brought them many opportunities to perform at prestigious music events. We often speak of the importance of sports and the ability to receive scholarships from colleges and universities. Both of my children received substantial scholarships because of their musicianship that was fostered in Howard County schools. Some of our outstanding Howard County student musicians may not go on to study music; however, colleges and universities value their great music ability for their own orchestras, bands, choirs, and performing ensembles and offer scholarship awards for those music skills. Well rounded and accomplished students are very desirable to colleges and universities and can make the difference in being accepted to a particular school. That all starts right here in our Howard County Schools.

I am a big proponent of music for many reasons. Students learning music develop important analytical skills crucial to success in math and science. Every musician in an orchestra, band, choir or performing ensemble of any kind learns the importance of working together to produce music. Every musician is an integral part of an ensemble and has a responsibility to their fellow musicians. Students gain a true sense of satisfaction and accomplishment from working together to create music. Valuable and important life lessons. In the wider scope of things, music is the international language that anyone, anywhere in the world can learn and understand. One of my children performed with a Chinese Youth Orchestra from Beijing while in the Howard County High School G/T Orchestra many years ago. Neither party could speak each others language, but they could all read and play the same music together. It is amazing to me how music bridges the gap between so many societies and so many different kinds of people who may not be able to verbally communicate with each other, but they can communicate through reading and playing music together. There is a special joy and connection that musicians share regardless of who they are, their age, or where they live.

The Howard County Public School System is a school system of excellence and is the gold standard in every way. This county offers its students so many educational programs that are taught by the best teachers in the state. While I advocate for music programs, I support ALL of our programs and ALL of the teachers in this school system because they are very important and our students truly thrive in an environment that gives them so much opportunity with incredible guidance from the very qualified teaching staff here in Howard County. I hope that you will consider the many things I have said here. I realize that you all have a very difficult job to do and I know that you will do that job with the utmost consideration and respect for everyone involved. Many people, including my own family moved to this county almost 25 years ago because of the schools. We continue to stay here even though our children are young adults. We wish for every student now to always have the top notch education and numerous opportunities that our children had years back. We have always taken great pride in having had our children educated in the Howard County Public School System.

Thank you very much for your time today,  
Gina McIntyre

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**From:** Heather Wilkerson <heather@seanandheather.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 6:35 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Cc:** Sean Wilkerson  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Music funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

We hope this letter finds you well. As proud parents of music-loving and heavily involved musical students, we are writing to express our sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

We wanted to bring attention to our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. Our children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Our daughter, Autumn is a junior at Wilde Lake High School and has been heavily involved in the band and choral music program since elementary school. She currently participates in the most elite choirs at Wilde Lake and loves the daily creative challenge. Music helps to bring balance in her life, and helps to ground her amongst her otherwise academically rigorous course load. She would not be as successful and a whole individual, were it not for the amazing musical opportunities she is afforded throughout the year.

Furthermore, in her college search, Autumn is seeking out colleges where she can achieve a double major in both pre-law and voice performance and composition to continue balance and creativity into adulthood.

We have no doubt that Autumn would not be seeking this out for a career and for her future were it not for the amazing opportunities that she's had not only in the music curriculum she has taken over the years, but also in the musical community and county opportunities she has participated in as well.

Our son Wesley is in 7th grade at Dunloggin Middle School and has also been participating in the music program since elementary. In addition to playing percussion in band, this year he has added choir to his schedule as well. As a learning challenged individual, we have seen how drastically music has influenced his life, not only in giving him additional confidence in reading, but stimulating him in a different way that other subjects can't.

The exposure to two music classes in Wesley's course load, has absolutely influenced him in an extremely positive way and is giving him the creativity and gained confidence which in turn is helping him succeed in all his classes better than

we've ever seen in previous years.

We understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but we sincerely urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our and the world community.

We kindly request that you work together to solve and remove any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** musical and otherwise, that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and support of music and the arts.

Sincerely,

Heather and Sean Wilkerson

Parents of Autumn Wilkerson (11th grd) and Wesley Wilkerson (7th grd)

4036 Wildwood Way

Ellicott City, MD 21042

301-254-7377



## Respass, Charity

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**From:** Katy Clemens <katyclemens@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 11:35 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Subject: Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

I know that the below is a form letter, but every word of it is true. I am in the Columbia Concert Band, and the effect of our music education on the personal and professional achievements of so many members of the band is obvious to us every day. Our children - including my children at Atholton High and Talbott Springs Elementary, who play percussion and trombone respectively - deserve at least as much. Music education is CRUCIAL to kids' academic, mental, emotional, and even physical development.

I have no idea what is going on with the budget, but Howard County feels like one of the richest counties in the nation, so I do not get it. We all moved here and pay the taxes that have been asked of us so that our kids can get some of the best public schools this country has to offer. That simply has to stay. That's why so many of us are here. Music is included in that. Thank you.

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork,

discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katy Clemens  
[katyclemens@gmail.com](mailto:katyclemens@gmail.com)  
410-564-6981

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**From:** Lucia Lin <lucia12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:27 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lucia

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## Respass, Charity

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**From:** Angela Stark <stark.angela@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 8:35 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Please Ensure Music is Fully Funded in the HCPSS Budget

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear all,

I am a parent of two Howard County students who are in the band programs i elementary and middle school respectively. I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the recent report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many proposed cuts to positions in HCPSS. Students and teachers have already endured so much the last few years. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

As this work takes place, I implore you to remember that **music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork.** My child's involvement in the band program in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experiences but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. **Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.**

Participation in music programs like band, marching band, orchestra, jazz band, solo & ensemble contests, honor bands, etc. not only enhance students' lives, but also their chances of getting into college, which I know is a major priority for HCPSS. Without these programs, our students are missing out on opportunities to enrich their lives and their college applications.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. **The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.**

As a former band student myself I can unequivocally attribute much of my current life and career success to the leadership, teamwork, discipline and social skills I learned in the public school music programs I was involved in.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable

contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, teachers, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to **avoid any cuts to music funding** and continue to support *all programs* that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Stark  
Parent  
Columbia, MD

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**From:** Dana La Rosa <dana.m.larosa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 8:34 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dana La Rosa  
Howard County Parent and Music Teacher  
9450 Ridgeview Dr.  
Columbia, MD 21046  
908-489-0754



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**From:** Meghna Lipcon <meghna@lipcon.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 1:24 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Scott Lipcon  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

We hope this letter finds you well. As proud parents of music-loving students, and as musicians ourselves, we are writing to express our sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year. Teachers cannot meaningfully engage all students and meet the varying needs of students if class sizes continue to increase. In addition, students who have a variety of neurodivergent needs will continue to fall through the cracks because they don't get the attention they need to work to their potential because teachers have large classes.

We also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. Our children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development, self-esteem, self-efficacy and leadership skills.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

We have seen this first hand with our two children, who have been playing or singing in HCPSS ensembles since 3rd grade (we have a 7th and 10th grader). Music has played a major role in our children's mental health, sense of belonging to a community within school and pride in mastering and presenting music to the community. Our middle schooler loves playing the cello, but was also thrilled that his teacher started a jazz band this year. He plays saxophone in that ensemble and music brings him a lot of joy and focus as well as a sense of accomplishment. Our high school aged daughter is active in the music department at Reservoir HS, through the Chamber Orchestra and Tri-M. After spending much of middle school at home due to the pandemic, this has been an invaluable outlet for her socially and emotionally. In addition, leading the MSOA which is held at RHS every year has allowed her to gain leadership skills and a sense of pride at her ability to give back to the county music program. We are so thankful for all the teachers who work tirelessly to make this possible.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Meghna Lipcon, NBCT and Scott Lipcon

HCPSS Substitute Teacher

240-354-2339

[megandscott@gmail.com](mailto:megandscott@gmail.com)

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**From:** Aor W <ptwiriya@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 11:39 AM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pornruedee Wiriyakonkasem

301-275-5741

[ptwiriya@gmail.com](mailto:ptwiriya@gmail.com)

---

**From:** Amy Hairston <ahairston.mcea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 19, 2024 3:36 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Hello Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I am writing to you as a music parent in the Oakland Mills cluster at Jeffers Hill ES and Lake Elkhorn MS, as well as the President-Elect of the Maryland Music Educators Association (MMEA) and member of Howard County Parents for School Music (HCPSM).

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With appreciation,

Amy Hairston

[ahairston.mcea@gmail.com](mailto:ahairston.mcea@gmail.com)

[amyhairston10@gmail.com](mailto:amyhairston10@gmail.com)

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**Amy T. Hairston**

MMEA President-Elect

She/Her

[Maryland Music Educators Association](http://www.mmea.org)

10482 Baltimore Ave, #348

**Beltsville, MD 20705**  
[ahairston.mcea@gmail.com](mailto:ahairston.mcea@gmail.com)  
[Support MMEA](#)



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**From:** Biswanath Roy <bnr242003@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 19, 2024 7:06 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, and fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our student's lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Biswa, Roy

Parent of Sachika Roy  
410-869-2799

**From:** [Jim Wilkinson](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Elkridge Elementary third grade beginning orchestra  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 7:28:14 PM

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

I was disappointed to hear from the principal of EES that Howard County may not fund the beginning orchestra in the future. All my grandchildren have participated in this group and two are still involved in Middle School.

I attended the Winter Concert on 18 January 2024 (for my youngest granddaughter) and there were around **90** students in the beginning orchestra. If this is not the mark of a successful program I don't know what is. The crowded auditorium at this concert and all others I've attended show that parents support these orchestras.

Loss of the beginning orchestra will impact the remaining years of orchestra at all Elementary Schools in Howard County. I assume it will also affect Middle and High School music. The teachers involved will leave Howard County and some other school districts will gain from our loss.

Music not only teaches art but also the discipline of practice, rehearsal, and following a director. There is also the valuable fellowship of joining in a common endeavor. Not all students are talented in athletics or sciences and a wealthy county like Howard should be able to meet their needs.

Please reconsider this decision. Thank you.

James Wilkinson  
9255 Brush Run  
Columbia, MD 21045

## Respass, Charity

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**From:** Matt Antes <mantes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 19, 2024 9:00 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Please support music programs in the HCPSS budget

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Board Members, Council Members, and Superintendent Barnes,

I know budgets involve difficult decisions and tradeoffs, and I understand the upcoming budget cycle may be especially difficult. As a parent of musicians in HCPSS and a supporter of the Arts, I am concerned about potential cuts to the music programs in our schools. Music is essential for our kids' education and well being, and further cuts could be devastating to our music programs. I urge you to please prioritize funding - without cuts - to the music programs.

Respectfully  
Matt Antes

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**From:** Rachael Horvath <rlhorvath1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 19, 2024 7:20 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

My daughter is a howard county middle schooler who loves her band. In a time of great turmoil where many kids are seeking their identities and subject to assault on their mental health from all sides. I believe that music programs can be a very supportive environment and often create a safe haven for those who may not have it in other areas.

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rachael Horvath

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**From:** Angela Lores <adlores34@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 10:41 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Angela Lores  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Mr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Lores  
30 year Howard County Resident  
parent of 2 HCPSS students  
[adlores34@gmail.com](mailto:adlores34@gmail.com)

---

**From:** Christa Bucks Camacho <cyjcamacho@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 7:04 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christa Bucks Camacho

---

**From:** Colin Kejing Chen <kejing.c@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 9:35 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding from a parent

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). About myself, I am a resident of Howard County and my two children are currently studying in HCPSS.

Baltimore Sun recently reported regarding many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Colin Kejing Chen  
Woodstock, MD  
443-798-1961

---

**From:** Glenda Tittle <glendahtittle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 5:03 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools, Mount View Middle and West Friendship, has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenda Hernandez Tittle  
Parent of MVMS and West Friendship students

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**-Glenda Hernandez Tittle**

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

## Respass, Charity

---

**From:** hymanjani dronavalli <hymanjani@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 9:47 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Subject: Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Please do reconsider the funding because it affects all the kids who has interest towards music.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Hymanjani Dronavalli]  
[443-802-4850]

---

**From:** Joseph R. <jmreninger1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 9:02 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Budget for School Music

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph Reninger  
443-472-2389 (cell)  
[jmreninger1@gmail.com](mailto:jmreninger1@gmail.com)

---

**From:** Kate Craft <lovenstars@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 7:51 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Michael (personal) Craft  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of **3 music-loving students** from 3rd grade to HS aged, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to **music funding** and continue to support *all programs* that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

I hope to express to you, our elected officials, that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate and Michael Craft  
[lovenstars@gmail.com](mailto:lovenstars@gmail.com)  
Savage, MD

--

"Looking at the stars always makes me dream"

-Vincent VanGogh

**From:** [Lilia Kaplan-Robbins](#)  
**To:** [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [Ball, Calvin](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Music is Essential!!  
**Date:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 7:33:51 PM

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their

academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lilia Kaplan-Robbins  
443-538-4044

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**From:** [clmrhayden@netzero.com](mailto:clmrhayden@netzero.com)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](mailto:Ball_Calvin); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](mailto:CouncilMail); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** HCPSS funding- Music Education  
**Date:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 9:19:06 AM

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

**We have amazing music educators who offer so much to our children, above and beyond what is required! We have teachers who make repairs to instruments on the spot rather than send the student to the music store for repairs. I have a daughter who can play music by sound. How else could she have learned this but through the wonderful instruction she received.**

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Hayden

[clmrhayden@netzero.com](mailto:clmrhayden@netzero.com)

## Respass, Charity

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**From:** Stephanie Green <stephigreen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 5:07 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Please Do Not Cut Music Budget

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Board of Ed,

I lived in Baltimore County for 10 years with 3 gifted children and have now lived in Howard County for 6 years. Living in Baltimore County, we spent a lot of time and resources to provide our children with music lessons. We are a one income family and this was not easy. When our eldest was starting middle school, we used all of our available resources to move into Howard County to get our children a better education and an unbelievable opportunity in the music program.

The education my children received in Baltimore County was nowhere near comparable to what it is here in Howard County. I am seeing a trend that started when I sent an almost identical letter to the Board of Ed 4 years ago. The same types of cuts that happened in Baltimore County years earlier are now happening here. Howard County has an exceptional school system, but having experienced these types of cuts before, the education program will end up just being acceptable, not exceptional.

Cutting the music budget will hurt every student in Howard county by eliminating the opportunities that a huge portion of our student population needs to thrive. I believe music is one of the most beneficial programs for students. You can look at any of the inner city youth orchestra and band programs around the country, including our own OrchKids program in Baltimore city. Learning to play an instrument at a young age can be life changing for at risk youth. It builds community, helps children better follow directions, improves academic grades and success, increases self worth, develops language, facilitates emotional regulation and problem solving, and improves memory and creative expression. I'm not sure how cutting music could possibly be up for discussion when the board of education is so focused on helping our county's neediest students. This cut would be a huge detriment to these kids. I would actually prefer some of the elementary GT resources be cut (with grade skipping opportunities put in place as a replacement) than have the music program cut (this is coming from a mom of 3 GT kids who have all loved and thrived with the resources they've had available here). The music program, however, truly benefits everyone.

Things I would not mind cutting: testing (it's useful, but not necessary), AP testing for kids who can afford it, print services (let's allow people to sign up to receive materials electronically through canvas), anything that many families can voluntarily afford to pay for (sports, field trips, after school programs, supplies, etc).

Lastly, I would much rather have my taxes increase than cut any of these programs. The quality of education Howard County offers is worth every penny. We experienced budget cuts in Baltimore County and the result was that we moved.

Please do not cut funding for the music program. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Stephanie Green  
Woodstock, MD



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**From:** XiaoLong Luo <xiaolongluo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 8:16 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of four music-loving students from elementary school to high school to a recent HCPSS graduate, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in HCPSS.

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the HCPSS. Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Xiaolong

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**From:** Xuhui "Sunny" Zhao <zhaoxuhui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 11:18 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Xuhui Zhao

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**From:** Eu Jene KIM <kimeujene@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 8:49 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

YooJin Kim  
Kimeujene@gmail.com

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Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Chuck and Alicia Bridges <candabridges@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 6:57 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Chuck and Alicia Bridges  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alicia & Charles Bridges

Alicia's cell: 410-258-4232

Charles' cell: 443-622-5022

[CandABridges@gmail.com](mailto:CandABridges@gmail.com)

## Respass, Charity

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**From:** Brandon Lawton <lawton.brandon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 6:02 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Subject: Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandon Lawton, Ph.D.

[lawton.brandon@gmail.com](mailto:lawton.brandon@gmail.com)

443-683-0446

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**From:** Caroline Ly <carolinety@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:11 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two students who have benefited immensely from the extraordinary music program at both Dayton Oaks Elementary and Lime Kiln Middle, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

I was disappointed to see that so many cuts to personnel and programs are being proposed. Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Caroline Ly  
202-256-9511

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**From:** Guonjian-pettit, Hart J <Hart\_J\_Guonjian-pettit@mcpsmd.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 2:07 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Appeal for HCPSS Funding from an MCPS Teacher

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a currently-employed public school instrumental music teacher in the state of Maryland, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. Music education in the entire state of Maryland helps to enrich students' academic experiences and contribute to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to all students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

Additionally, this is not the first time that budget cuts have been brought to the table with music specifically on the chopping block in Howard County. I wrote to the HCPSS board several times throughout many school years from 2018-2021 when similar issues were presented. I have never been employed by the Howard County Public School System, yet as a public school music teacher in the state of Maryland, I have a direct interest in preserving and promoting high-quality music education in our state. Why is it that you all cannot balance your budget? Regardless of what cuts are or are not made to manage the county's finances in Howard County, I for one am thankful that I do not work in a county that is continuing to

threaten the very existence of my job year after year. These decisions that you all are making to prioritize certain programs for budget cuts will drive out high-quality teachers from your school system, and at the end of the day, your student population will suffer.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hart Guonjian-Pettit  
Band and Orchestra teacher  
Montgomery County Public Schools

---

**From:** Hui-I Tom <hiktom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 10:08 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork,

discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hui-I Tom, PhD

13213 Westmeath Lane

Clarksville, MD 21029

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**From:** Irina Moore <irinamoore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 9:37 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.



I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Irina Moore

[irinamoore@gmail.com](mailto:irinamoore@gmail.com)

---

**From:** Joshua Kalivretenos <jkaliv1640@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 2:13 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a former Howard County music program student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched my academic experience but has also contributed to my overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joshua Kalivretenos

---

**From:** Katie Garrett <kjgarrett2011@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 9:07 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork,

discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Garrett

Kjgarrett2011@gmail.com

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**From:** One D <oneveram@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 4:08 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Oanh Dang  
[oneveram@gmail.com]

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**From:** sarah whitfield <swhitfield18@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitfield  
Concerned Parent and Supporter of Music Education-HCPSS  
(423) 718-4014



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**From:** Simona Suciu <simobeeep@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 10:09 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and

Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Simona Suciu

Reflections Chair

Dayton Oaks PTA

443-808-9404

Sent from my iPhone

---

**From:** Sunshine Melhuish <sunshinepharmd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 11:35 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin  
**Cc:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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**From:** Vineet Sandhia <vineetandsandhia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 8:21 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vineet and Sandhia Rajan

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**From:** Yuka Tachikawa Newell <ytachikawa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 10:15 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS fundin

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. Through being involved in the music programs, I can see my sons are learning how to be patient and working-hard is an essential element to succeed.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yuka Newell

(808) 741-1119



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**From:** A B. <eabolisay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 5:26 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding. Start looking into the budget set aside for kids with special needs being sent to private schools, and all the legal fees when those families bring in advocates. If we have well-fitted programs that can meet these children's needs by at the very least having enough staff members, we would not be needing that particular budget as much.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
A HCPSS Parent

---

**From:** Ale Montoya <ale\_coleta@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 3:34 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Montoya Cazarez

Mother of Eduardo and Alina Munoz who love being part of the music, orchestra and band programs every year.

ale\_coleta@hotmail.com

443-860-1351

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** AMIT SINGH <amit\_singh10@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 4:56 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amit Singh  
amit\_singh10@hotmail.com  
HCPSS Music student concerned parent

**From:** [Angela McMellen Brannigan](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#); [bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:bill_barnes@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** HCPSS Funding for Music Education  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 8:46:57 PM

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

Dear Dr. Ball, Members of the Howard County Council Members, Board of Education Members, and Acting Superintendent Barnes,

I am writing to you today as the proud parent of TWO music-loving students with sincere concerns regarding the potential programmatic and staffing cuts in the proposed budget for next school year. The elimination of 12 music educators will result in the loss of the strings program for 3rd graders and the elimination of sectionals for middle school students. Both of these actions will disproportionately impact low income students. Students with means can always take private lessons to start an instrument early or advance skills in middle school.

Music education may seem like an easy cut to make, but these cuts would undermine a music program that has a stellar reputation across the state and recruits extremely talented and qualified music teachers because of it. Ms. Lahan at Swansfield holds a Master's degree in violin performance! What other school system has teachers that qualified? Over 60% of students in the All State Orchestra come from Howard County! That is an amazing statistic and shows how successful the program is at developing musical talent.

Personally, orchestra helped my 6th grader navigate a very challenging 3rd grade year. Virtual school during the height of the pandemic was made more bearable as she learned to play viola virtually. She looked forward to being online when she was playing viola. This year it is helping my third grader, who was diagnosed with dysgraphia last year, to gain confidence in the classroom and in life. It is empowering to put the time and effort into learning an instrument and finally be able to play a song others recognize. I have never seen a kid more excited to go to school than last Thursday. He was so afraid his first orchestra concert would be cancelled because of the snow.

Music education may seem like an easy cut, but there is so much research documenting the positive benefits of music education. Music education extends beyond the orchestra classroom and has been linked with better concentration, improved math performance, and better classroom behavior. Music education builds community and future leaders.

I understand the situation HCPSS faces and tough choices will have to be made. I employ the County Executive and the County Council to find ways to better support the school system which has been a huge driver of population growth in the county. I ask the Acting-Superintendent and the Board of Education to make budgetary decisions that will not destroy a wonderful music program.

Sincerely,  
Angela McMellen Brannigan  
[mcmellen@gmail.com](mailto:mcmellen@gmail.com)  
240-247-7039

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\*\*\*\*\*

Angela McMellen Brannigan, Ph.D.

"I used to think freedom meant doing whatever you want. It means knowing who you are, what you are supposed to be doing on this earth, and then simply doing it." -Natalie Goldberg

\*\*\*\*\*

## Respass, Charity

---

**From:** Bonnie Zeitler <bonniezeitler@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 4:23 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** school budget- 3rd grade orchestra

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Good afternoon! Thank you for reading my email and for your hard work to do what is best for children in Howard County Schools. I am writing to you to implore you not to wipe out the 3rd grade orchestra program. Many families have chosen to live here because string education is a very important part of culture. We have many choices of where to live and one of the draws to living here is what is offered to 3rd grade children learning music. The way people learn music is similar to the way they learn language, meaning that the younger they are when they learn, the easier the process. Children who are involved in music exhibit better test scores and mental health as they are part of a group achieving something together. This program benefits so many children in so many ways, including the scholarships they have abilities to win because of their early start in music. Please find a way to meet the budget needs without completely eliminating a program for all the thousands of third graders.

Thank you again for listening and representing the voices of the community, Bonnie Zeitler

## Respass, Charity

---

**From:** Brian R <bro1999@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 7:27 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Please protect HCPSS music programs from budget cuts!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is very shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding the drastic cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. Without the HCPSS music program, our daughter would not have been given the chances to cultivate her passion in viola and seek higher learning opportunities such as the National Youth Orchestra.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers. One big factor in moving to Howard county was its commitment to music education for the children.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support *all programs* that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Ro, Howard County resident since 2009



---

**From:** chandan Jethwani <chandan.jethwani@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 8:56 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Subject: Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding**

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

Furthermore, our Gold Standard music programs contribute to building a sense of community within our schools. The collaborative nature of musical ensembles teaches students the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These qualities are essential not only in their academic journey but also in their future careers.

I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and **essential** in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Chandan Jethwani  
410-370-4239

---

**From:** Clare Bradburne <clare.bradburne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:14 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Clare Bradburne

## Respass, Charity

---

**From:** Cynth Sokolow <cynthsok@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:49 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Please do not cut funds for HCPSS music education. Thank you

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Cynthia Sokolow  
21042

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**From:** Erin Wegner Brooks <erin@erinwegner.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 1:38 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; Bill Barnes  
**Subject:** URGENT - Please do not Eliminate 3rd Grade Strings in HCPSS

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I was shocked and disheartened to learn of your plan to eliminate all 3rd grade strings programs in Howard County. How does this make sense? I am a proud HCPSS parent who started playing the cello in public school in 3rd grade. My daughter started the viola in 3rd grade and my son who is currently in kindergarten, looks forward to joining the orchestra in 3rd grade. My children attend Dayton Oaks which has the largest elementary school orchestra in the county and the students love it and have so much pride in their school orchestra! I am terribly upset to learn that you believe this is a program that can be cut and urge you to reconsider.

Music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

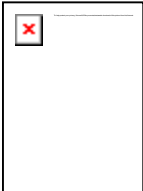
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin Books

Parent to a 5th grader and Kindergartener at Dayton Oaks Elementary School

--  
Erin Wegner Brooks  
443.676.4075  
[www.erinwegner.com](http://www.erinwegner.com)



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**From:** Fang Tian <f3tian@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 12:58 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of two music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sincerely,

Fang Tian

Tel: 443-824-3466

Email: f3tian@gmail.com

Address: 9931 Rose Trl, Ellicott City, MD, 21042

## Respass, Charity

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**From:** glen smith <glensmith21@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 5:09 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Glen Smith

Proud parent of a student musician

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**From:** gukaegbu@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 4:39 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Ukaegbu  
(410) 868-5829

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**From:** Jenn Hawthorne <jennifer.r.hawthorne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 4:03 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. All three of my children's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development. I have twin third graders currently and watching them learn strings has been amazing for their sense of accomplishment and confidence.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to

support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hawthorne  
5105 Brady Ct.  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
240-731-8272

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**From:** Jill Porter <jillporter.mail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 1:32 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student (my Son Josiah is in 7th grade and plays trumpet/loves to sing), I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Porter

410-588-6582

[Jillporter.mail@gmail.com](mailto:Jillporter.mail@gmail.com)

---

**From:** Jill Smulson <ajillity81@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 5:35 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jill Smulson  
[Ajillity81@gmail.com](mailto:Ajillity81@gmail.com)

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**From:** Kimberly Pietropola <kim.a.whipple@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 5:38 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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**It saddened me so to hear this news. In 3rd grade, I saw a drive and determination in my daughter that I hadn't seen before as she progressed through the different belts (learning and performing with minimal mistakes new songs). It was amazing! My daughter adores Ms Murray and the dedication shown by her to the students and music is exemplary.**

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Pietropola

570-713-8824

---

**From:** Laura Cometa <cometa.laura@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 8:33 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Sincerely,  
Laura Cometa

---

**From:** Lauren Frey <ladybug4656@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 9:55 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; BoE Email; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

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

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

Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a 4th grade Orchestra, music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lauren Frey

Parent of Current 4th Grade Orchestra Student

Parent of 1st Grade Student that would like to play Orchestra in 3rd Grade and not have to explain that budget cuts are the reason that she can not play but her older brother could.

---

**From:** Lori Levine <lorishelle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 1:03 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lori Levine

---

**From:** Adeline <adelinefanmarc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 5:14 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marc Abram, daughter in 1st grade at Dayton Oaks Elem.

Highland, MD

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**From:** Meng Wang <mengwang2010@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 9:25 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meng Wang  
Mengwang2010@gmail.com  
919-260-8827

## Respass, Charity

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**From:** Michelle Lee <mhong3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 6:17 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Proposed BoE budget cuts

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

I am appalled with the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) budget.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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**From:** Mila Chavez <mrlchavez8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:28 PM  
**To:** bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Urgent appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to

support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mila Rose L. Chavez

443-962-5358

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**From:** Naiya Bhavsar <naiyab@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 6:07 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeals for HCPSS funding-signed

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

**Subject: Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding**

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Naiya Bhavsar

410-446-5470

[Click here to reply to message](#)



*This is an automated email. Please do not respond to this message.*

**From:** [Nana Vaughn](#)  
**To:** [BoE Email](#); [Ball, Calvin](#); [Bill\\_barnes@hcpss.org](mailto:Bill_barnes@hcpss.org); [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 11:47:50 PM

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

Dear Superintendent Barnes, County Executive Ball, Members of the HCPSS Board of Education, and County Council,

My name is Nana Vaughn. I would like to explain what I do and how I am connected to HCPSS.

- Professor of Viola at George Mason University (2023-present), and Gettysburg College (2022-present); previously at Elizabethtown College (2019-2021)
- Professor of Music Education, UMBC, 2012-2019 (I taught and supervised many student teachers who are now employed by HCPSS)
- Freelance Musician (have played for BSO, the Kennedy Center Honors, numerous shows and concerts in the region).
- Private violin and viola teacher (my HCPSS students have been selected for National Youth Orchestra, Tanglewood, Interlochen, and more)
- Resident of Howard County 2009-present.

Before my current positions, I was a new, unknown person in Maryland and I got my start working for HCPSS.

- Strings teacher at Veterans Elementary School, 2012-2016 (I had several student teachers who are now employed by HCPSS)
- Member of HCPSS Music Leadership Team
- Music Educator Grammy's Quarterfinalist, 2016 (nominated by one of my students at Veterans Elementary, who I'm still regularly in touch with and attends Yale)
- Honoree, Howard County Gifted and Talented Educator Award, 2015 (nominated by another dear VES student)

In addition to the ways I'm professionally connected to HCPSS, my husband and I are the proud parents of three Centennial High School graduates (2016, 2018, 2019).

When we first moved to Maryland from Indiana for my husband's job as an Asst Dean at Johns Hopkins, we didn't know anyone here or know anything about the schools. But the most important things for us in identifying a place to live were in this order: an area with schools with good music programs and good academics. Academics were easy to research by looking up test scores but we also wanted to make sure our kids were nurtured artistically. By chance, I performed in a concert in Delaware shortly before we moved here and met a young woman from Maryland. I was so impressed by Robin Massie, a fantastic viola player. I asked her where she thought the best school music programs in Maryland were. She proudly and confidently told me, "Howard County, without a doubt!" She had grown up in Howard County herself, graduated from Howard High School, and was now a successful musician, serving as Assistant Principal Viola in Delaware and many other places. With that, we directed our focus on Howard County. Returning home after the concert, I pored over YouTube videos of school concerts posted by proud Howard County parents and soon discovered that Robin had given us

exactly what we were looking for. There are many things we love about Howard County: its diversity, the strong academics, but most of all, we love the music program. Confident in our choice, we soon bought a house in Ellicott City. Perhaps not everyone is as intense in their desire for a strong school music program as we were, but I would not underestimate the value it has for many, many families. It sets HCPSS apart from others. Our realtor tried to talk us into cheaper areas and we wouldn't even consider it.

At the time we moved here, our daughter was a third grader. She was able to immediately start playing in the school strings program. She is now a senior at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and recently was one of ten violists in the nation who was selected to play in the Chautauqua Institution School of Music orchestra program last summer. My son is not a string player, but he is currently a graduate percussion student at Juilliard and has recently been an extra musician for the NY Metropolitan Opera. A big part of the credit for their emerging musical successes, as well as the success of my private students, goes back to the strong start they received in their school music program in Howard County.

Howard County's music program is the envy of the nation. Regularly selected for prestigious conferences like the Midwest Clinic, the students here excel in their music studies. IT STARTS WITH THE THIRD GRADE STRINGS PROGRAM.

You might recall that during the pandemic, what brought the world together? People playing musical instruments from their balconies. People singing to the first responders and thanking them. We watched online concerts. We desperately tried to connect by splicing together recordings from click tracks.

Today, when we are so separated by screens and too many are absorbed by conspiracy theories they read on the internet from strangers, what we need is more human connection, not less. We need the arts and music \*more than ever.\* If anything, we should be boosting the program and expanding it, not thinking of cutting it.

I'm sure the HCPSS budget issues are real, however, **the solution should not be borne by third grade string players and their teachers**, my colleagues. Among them are National Board Certified Teachers who have put their hearts and souls into creating a program that should make any Howard County resident proud. Among those kids are the future scholars and creative thinkers who will change the world and make Howard County the envy of the nation.

A different solution must be found.

---

Nana 那奈 - rhymes with Donna

317 490 7768

[www.nanavaughn.com](http://www.nanavaughn.com)

[www.violin2viola.com](http://www.violin2viola.com)

she/her

---

**From:** Mrs. Barzey <blairn02@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 7:01 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support *all programs* that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Blair Barzey

---

**From:** O. Adeyemi <bukolafakunle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 1:19 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Olubukola Adeyemi, PharmD

[Email:bukolafakunle@gmail.com](mailto:bukolafakunle@gmail.com)

Phone: 571-275-6677

## Respass, Charity

---

**From:** Nancy McAllister <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 3:19 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Subject: Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of three music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

I am particularly concerned about the potential cuts of 3rd grade strings. My daughter was a part of the HCPSS GT Orchestra program for years and decided to play in college as a result of the world class experience she had here in the strings programs starting in 3rd grade. Words cannot express the positive impact the strings programs and her strings teachers had on her life!

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul & Nancy McAllister  
12234 Etchison Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

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**From:** rajy email <rajyaemail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 5:59 PM  
**To:** boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rajyalakshmi  
[rajyaemail@gmail.com](mailto:rajyaemail@gmail.com)

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**From:** Robin McClave <robin.mcclave@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 8:00 AM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin L. McClave

410-900-3600

13983 Triadelphia Mill Rd, Dayton Md 21036

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**From:** Sarah P. Castrillon <sarah\_pohl@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 12:31 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Carlos Castrillon  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Music Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I understand the budgetary challenges that HCPSS faces, but I urge you to consider the invaluable contribution that music programs make to our students' lives. By investing more in HCPSS overall as a county, we are investing in the future leaders, artists, and innovators of our community.

I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Pohl Castrillon

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**From:** Sarah Morad <sarah.morad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 4:04 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving students, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the report in the Baltimore Sun regarding so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help during this crisis and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

I also want to email to remind our elected officials that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched their academic experience but has also contributed to their overall personal development.

Research consistently highlights the positive impact of music education on academic performance. Students engaged in music often show improved cognitive skills, better concentration, and enhanced problem-solving abilities. These benefits extend beyond the music room and positively influence their academic achievements.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Sarah Morad  
4104631489

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**From:** Sherbert <sherbert.shani@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 7:54 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Concerns Regarding HCPSS Budget Cuts

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I jfwf... fsi  
Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere disappointment and alarm regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

It is shocking to see the reports describing so many cuts to positions in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Students and teachers have already endured increased class sizes over the last few years. This news is devastating to our entire county. We urge all of our elected officials to work together with HCPSS to help ensure these cuts do not occur and continue to solve the funding issues that seem to plague the system every year.

My family chose Howard County as our home because of the excellent school reputation, including the curriculum, HCPSS teachers and small class size. These potential cuts will severely impact the high standards expect from the Howard County Public School System.

I also want to remind you, our elected officials, that music education, in all of its forms, plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork. My child's involvement in music in Howard County schools has not only enriched her academic experience but has also contributed to her overall personal development.

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support all programs that are considered well-managed and essential in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shani Cohen-Herbert  
Dayton Oaks Elementary School Parent

[Sherbert.Shani@gmail.com](mailto:Sherbert.Shani@gmail.com)

610-742-1683

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**From:** shruti pandey <shrutipandey14@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 4:53 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Dr. Ball, members of the Howard County Council, members of the Howard County Board of Education, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a proud parent of a music-loving student, I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the potential program and staffing cuts in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).

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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support **all programs** that are considered well-managed and **essential** in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shruti Pandey

[shrutipandey14@gmail.com](mailto:shrutipandey14@gmail.com)

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**From:** Trent Urquhart <mavtrpt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 3:39 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Cc:** Lauren Urquhart  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS Funding

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

Dear Dr. Ball, Council Members, Board of Education Members, and Acting-Superintendent Barnes,

As a concerned parent deeply invested in the well-being of the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), I am writing to address the pressing issue of potential cuts in our ES GT and music programs.

The recent report in the Baltimore Sun highlighting reductions in HCPSS positions is disconcerting, particularly in the context of increased class sizes. I implore officials to collaboratively engage with HCPSS to develop effective solutions to the funding challenges.

GT and music education hold significant importance, contributing to developing well-rounded individuals and fostering creativity. My children's active participation in Howard County's Gifted and Talented, and music programs has not only enriched their academic experience but has also played a pivotal role in their personal development.

Research consistently underscores the positive impact of music education on academic performance, enhancing cognitive skills and concentration. The Gold Standard music programs within HCPSS additionally cultivate a sense of community, instilling vital lessons in teamwork. The supportive functions that our music programs provide indisputably tie into the successes of our GT programs, especially at the ES level.

On a personal note, as a former professional musician, the fabric of music is interwoven into the very essence of my family. Our deliberate choice of HCPSS over a local private school was significantly influenced by the robust and enriching music programs the district offers. Once we weighed the benefits of the expansive GT program, moving from the private school was an easy decision.

While acknowledging the budget constraints, I urge you to recognize the invaluable contribution of our GT and music programs. Investing in HCPSS is not just an investment in education; it's an investment in the future of our community.

I kindly request your collective effort to prevent the proposed cuts to quality educators and budget resources supporting these essential programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Trent Urquhart



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**From:** Wendy Neiderer <wneidererpt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 4:17 PM  
**To:** Ball, Calvin; boe@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; bill\_barnes@hcpss.org  
**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for HCPSS funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I kindly request that you work together to solve any proposed cuts to music funding and continue to support ***all programs*** that are considered well-managed and *essential* in our county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy Ricourt



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Sent from my iPhone