

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathi Livas <Kathi_Livas@hcpss.org>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 11:44 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: I oppose the appointment of Susan Garber to the Planning Board

Dear Members of the County Council,

I strongly oppose the appointment of Susan Garber to the Planning Board.

Ms. Garber's rhetoric describing educators' negotiations as "greedy, manipulative, and rather like blackmail" is inflammatory and unfair. Ms. Garber's statement that "The average Howard county educator's salary is \$70,000 for 192 days of work" grossly misrepresents the untold hours that teachers work beyond their contractual time. (I seriously doubt that most salaried professionals would work 10+ hour days and even more on weekends for that compensation, but teachers do it routinely!) For example, parents complain that tests and assignments aren't graded quickly and returned but when during the school day are teachers supposed to do it? While they are teaching or preparing lessons for the next day? No, it happens during the evenings and weekends when other people are at home relaxing. Teachers are certainly not in the profession for the money. We only ask for fair compensation. Ms. Garber's statement that "only 28 percent of county residents have children who attend Howard County public schools" merely supports the case that our teachers do not earn enough money to afford to live in Howard County! It is not by choice but by financial circumstance that more HCPSS teachers do not live in Howard County.

In short, the Association has serious doubts that Ms. Garber will treat the people of our county with the kindness, dignity, and respect they deserve. Howard County has more than enough residents with the skills and temperament for public service. Regardless of the appointed position, it is imperative that you find and support the people who are willing to lead by example. The Howard County Education Association stands ready to assist.

Kathi Livas
Mathematics Educator
Hammond High School

Think before you ink.

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