

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Bernadette C. Bechta <Bernadette\_Bechta@hcpss.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 9:29 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** I oppose the appointment of Susan Garber to the Planning Board

Dear Members of the County Council,

Susan Garber's recent editorial describing teacher's request for a fair contract including a step and COLA as "greedy" offends me. I, like many other teachers, chose teaching for the opportunity to make a difference in children's lives. And we do. Her comment that the children and families are the reason Howard County Public Schools are successful reflects a limited understanding of classroom engagement. Teaching really is a vocation. Just because there are 6500 applicants for 356 jobs as she stated does not mean we shouldn't be selective. Just like selective colleges receive 19,000 plus applicants for a mere 1500 spots, we should be seeking teachers with the highest skills. Highly recruited teachers will consider the best offer, both financially and environmentally.

Ms. Garber's editorial reflects a negative attitude towards teachers and we do not need another combative personality in a County Education position. Teacher morale is at an all time low and many are looking at other counties. I am very worried about the future of Howard County schools. Please reconsider this appointment of Susan Garber. I ask you to choose an open minded person who will advocate for all citizens, be open to discussions, and try to learn more about the issue before vocalizing such negative comments.

By the way, those 192 10-hour days allow me to spend a summer filled with curriculum writing, generating ideas for better lessons, long lunchtime discussions with my colleagues to plan for the next year and some needed hours vacationing with my family.

I am so tired of defending such a noble profession. Who will even want to be a teacher if this attitude in Howard County is allowed to continue?

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy for teachers. It really is a hard, yet rewarding job and many of us do it right!

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